

**BRESCIA UNIVERSITY COLLEGE
SOCIOLOGY DEPARTMENT**

**SOCIOLOGY 2206a Sec530
RESEARCH METHODS FOR SOCIOLOGY**

Fall, 2013

Instructor: Professor Patricia Pakvis
Office: TBA
E-mail: pakvis@uwo.ca
Web Page: <http://publish.uwo.ca/~pakvis/>
Day/Times: Tuesday, 11:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.
Location: BR 302
Office Hours: Wed. 2:30 – 4:30 p.m. (no hours Wed. Oct. 16)

Tutors are available for this course if needed. The cost for tutoring is your responsibility. For tutoring, please contact: **Catherine Gelin** cpgelina@uwo.ca

Antirequisite(s): [Social Work 2206A/B](#) or the former 2205, [Health Sciences 2801A/B](#) or the former Health Sciences 2800.

Prerequisite(s): At least 60% in 1.0 from Sociology courses at the 1000 level.

Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enrol in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

Drop Date: Nov. 5, 2013

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Soc 2206a is an introductory course to the research process and ethical dilemmas faced by sociologists, as well as a survey of the essential procedures used to collect sociological data, e.g. sampling, questionnaire design, and observational field research techniques. The course will introduce students to basic social research methodology through the use of lectures, hands-on in-class practice and video. Methods topics include theory and hypothesis formation, measurement, data collection, data analysis procedures, research ethics, and reporting of results. Both qualitative and quantitative methods will be discussed. Evaluation in the course will consist of a brief research assignment, a midterm and a final exam. Regular attendance at lectures is highly recommended.

REQUIRED READING:

Neuman, W. Lawrence and Karen Robson. 2012. Basics of Social Research: Qualitative and Quantitative Approaches (ISBN: 978-0-205-76740-3) 2nd Can. Edition.

COURSE EVALUATION:

Midterm Ch. 1-7 (Tues. Oct. 22):	40%
Research Assignment (Tues. Nov. 12):	15%
Final Exam Ch. 8-16 (Dec. Exam Period):	45%

LECTURE DATE AND READING SCHEDULE:

(see <http://publish.uwo.ca/~pakvis/> for detailed schedule and lecture powerpoint slides)

Sept. 10	Ch 1 Introduction to Research Methods
Sept. 17	Ch 2 Theory and Research
Sept. 24	Ch 3 Ethics and video "Quiet Rage"
Oct. 1	Ch 4 and 5 Planning and Designing a Research Study
Oct. 8	Ch. 6 Measurement and Ch 7 Sampling
Oct. 15	Study/Library Day: no class
Oct. 22	Midterm (90 minutes)
Oct. 29	Ch 8 Survey Research and video "Ask a Silly Question"
Nov. 5	Video "The Experiment" and Ch 9 Experimental Research
Nov. 12	Ass't due. Ch 10 Non-Reactive Research, video "Getting People to Talk"
Nov. 19	Ch 12 and 13 Interviewing and Field Research (omit Ch 11)
Nov. 26	Ch 14 Historical-Comparative Research and Ch. 15 Qualitative Analysis
Dec. 3	Ch 16 Mixed Methods and review.

MIDTERM TEST:

The midterm is worth 40% of the final mark and will be held on Tuesday, Oct. 22 at the beginning of class. The test will be a multiple choice quiz of approximately 60 – 70 questions. It will cover only the material from the beginning of the semester until the midterm. The materials will be drawn from the assigned readings and all material covered in class. The use of electronic devices is not permitted during exams.

If a student is absent from the midterm for legitimate medical (i.e. illness) or non-medical (i.e. funeral) reasons, an email should be sent to me immediately to explain the absence and documentation must be provided to the Academic Dean' office as soon as possible. The student will be allowed to write a makeup midterm on the next Brescia makeup day immediately following the missed exam. If the absence is undocumented, the missed midterm will be given a mark of "0."

FINAL EXAM:

The final exam, worth 45% of the final mark, will be held during the December examination period (date and location TBA.) The final exam will focus on the last half of the semester, although some questions may be cumulative. The format will be approximately 80 m/c questions and is similar to that of the midterm. Accommodation for a missed final examination will be provided once documentation for legitimate medical or non-medical reasons is provided to the Academic Dean's office. See further information on accommodation below.

RESEARCH ASSIGNMENT:

A brief research assignment (5-6 pages in total), worth 15%, is required for this course. The assignment consists of a problem statement for an interesting sociological topic, identification of your main variables and possible hypothesis, locating 3 relevant research articles and writing annotations for them (annotated bibliography) followed by a paragraph to summarize your "literature." You will then suggest a possible sample and research design, noting any ethical considerations. This assignment can be viewed as a first step in a future research project.

The research assignment is due at the beginning of class on Tuesday, Nov. 12, 2013.

Instructions for the research assignment:

1. Choose an interesting sociological topic. Write an **introduction** (a paragraph) and a **problem statement** (1-2 sentences) according to class guidelines. Clearly identify your main dependent variable and your most important independent variable(s) and state them as a proper hypothesis.
2. Use journals found in the library or on the library database **to locate and read three (3) full journal articles** (not books) that pertain directly to your topic. The articles you select should be recent (less than 10 years old) and should provide a variety of perspectives on the topic (i.e. should not all be by the same author(s.)) You can use your variables from step 1 above as your "key words" in a library search.
3. Write a **concise (1-2 paragraph) annotation** for each of your 3 articles (three annotations in all.) This is known as an **annotated bibliography**. According to the authors of your *includes full citation information, a summary of the article (including research methods employed) and its findings, as well as evaluative comments about the quality of the research*" (Neuman, W. L. and K. Robson, 2012, p. 74). You can find a detailed example of an annotated bibliography on p. 74 in Chapter 4 of Neuman and Robson's Basics of Social Research, 2nd Canadian edition.
4. Finally, **summarize** the above material in a paragraph and outline briefly **how you would proceed with the proposed research** at a future date (no more than a page or two for this section.) For example, what type of sample would you use? What type of research design (survey, experiment, interviewing, observation, etc.) would be most suitable to study the problem? Are there any ethical considerations related to studying this problem? Why is this problem important, from a sociological point-of-view?

Please use ASA style (see <http://www.lib.uwo.ca/files/styleguides/ASA.pdf>) for your citations and bibliographic entries. The assignment should be on 8.5x11" paper, double-spaced and stapled, and have a cover page with a title, course name, my name, your name and student #. The assignment must be your own work. Plagiarism is a serious academic offence. Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following Web site: http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf

A late penalty of 5%/day will be applied to late papers unless appropriate documentation has been submitted to the Academic Dean's office (see Accommodation section for more detail.) Late assignments may be dropped off at the Registrar's Office in an envelope addressed to me.

ACCOMMODATION FOR MISSED EXAMS AND LATE ASSIGNMENTS:

The UWO Handbook at <http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/> has the Medical Accommodation Policy. A form can be found at <http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/medicalform.pdf>. Accommodation for religious reasons may also be granted. For more detail on this policy, please see <http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/>. Please be advised that students **must** give proper written notice for such an accommodation in accordance with UWO directives.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES/SERVICES FOR STUDENTS:

Students who are in emotional/mental health distress should refer to Mental Health@Western: <http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for a complete list of options. University Students Council provides many valuable support services for students (including the health insurance plan) <http://westernusc.ca/services/>.

USE OF ELECTRONIC DEVICES IN THE CLASSROOM:

Note that the use of electronic devices such as a cell phone, computer, etc. is not permitted during the midterm or final exam. Cell phones must be turned off or muted during class time. Please refrain from texting, etc. during lectures as it is disruptive to those seated around you. Laptop use during lectures is permitted but shall be for matters related to the course at hand only. For the safety of others in the classroom, the use of battery power rather than power cords is recommended. Students using laptops for purposes not directly related to the class may be subject to sanctions under the Student Code of Conduct.

BRESCIA UNIVERSITY COLLEGE ACADEMIC POLICIES AND REGULATIONS

1. POLICY REGARDING MAKEUP EXAMS AND EXTENSIONS OF DEADLINES

When a student requests academic accommodation (e.g., extension of a deadline, a makeup exam) for work representing 10% or more of the student's overall grade in the course, it is the responsibility of the student to provide acceptable documentation to support a medical or compassionate claim. All such requests for academic accommodation **must** be made through an Academic Advisor and include supporting documentation. Academic accommodation on medical grounds will be granted only if the documentation indicates that the onset, duration and severity of the illness are such that the student could not reasonably be expected to complete her academic responsibilities. Appropriate academic accommodation will be determined by the Dean's Office in consultation with the student's instructor(s). Please note that personal commitments (e.g., vacation flight bookings, work schedule) which conflict with a scheduled test, exam or course requirement are not grounds for academic accommodation.

A UWO Student Medical Certificate (SMC) is **required** if a student is seeking academic accommodation on medical grounds. This documentation should be obtained at the time of the initial consultation with the physician/nurse practitioner or walk-in clinic. A SMC can be downloaded under the Medical Documentation heading of the following website: <https://studentservices.uwo.ca/secure/index.cfm> . If it is not possible to have an SMC completed by the attending physician/nurse practitioner, the student must request documentation sufficient to demonstrate that her ability to meet academic responsibilities was seriously affected. Please note that under University Senate regulations documentation stating simply that the student "was seen for a medical reason" or "was ill" is **not** adequate to support a request for academic accommodation. All documentation is to be submitted to an Academic Advisor.

Whenever possible, requests for academic accommodation should be initiated in advance of due dates, examination dates, etc. Students must follow up with their professors and Academic Advisor in a timely manner.

The full statement of University policy regarding extensions of deadlines or makeup exams can be found at <http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/2013/pg117.html>

2. ACADEMIC CONCERNS

If you feel that you have a medical or personal problem that is interfering with your work, contact your instructor and Academic Advisor as soon as possible. Problems may then be documented and possible arrangements to assist you can be discussed at the time of occurrence rather than on a retroactive basis. Retroactive requests for academic accommodation on medical or compassionate grounds may not be considered.

If you think that you are too far behind to catch up or that your work load is not manageable, you should consult an Academic Advisor. If you consider reducing your workload by dropping one or more courses, this must be done by the appropriate deadlines (refer to the Registrar's website, www.registrar.uwo.ca, for official dates). You should consult with the course instructor and the Academic Advisor who can help you consider alternatives to dropping one or more courses. *Note that dropping a course may affect OSAP eligibility and/or Entrance Scholarship eligibility.*

The Dean may refuse permission to write the final examination in a course if the student has failed to maintain satisfactory academic standing throughout the year or for too frequent absence from the class or laboratory.

3. ABSENCES

Short Absences: If you miss a class due to a minor illness or other problems, check your course outline for information regarding attendance requirements and make sure you are not missing a test or assignment. Cover any readings and arrange to borrow notes from a classmate. Contact the course instructor if you have any questions.

Extended Absences: If you have an extended absence, you should contact the course instructor and an Academic Advisor. Your course instructor and Academic Advisor can discuss ways for you to catch up on missed work and arrange academic accommodations, if appropriate.

4. POLICY ON CHEATING & ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT

Students are responsible for understanding the nature of and avoiding the occurrence of plagiarism and other academic offences. Students are urged to read the section on Scholastic Offences in the Academic Calendar. Note that such offences include plagiarism, cheating on an examination, submitting false or fraudulent assignments or credentials, impersonating a candidate, or submitting for credit in any course without the knowledge and approval of the instructor to whom it is submitted, any academic work for which credit has previously been obtained or is being sought in another course in the University or elsewhere. Students are advised to consult the section on Academic Misconduct in the Western Academic Calendar.

If you are in doubt about whether what you are doing is inappropriate or not, consult your instructor, the Student Services Centre, or the Registrar. A claim that "you didn't know it was wrong" is not accepted as an excuse.

The penalties for a student guilty of a scholastic offence (including plagiarism) include refusal of a passing grade in the assignment, refusal of a passing grade in the course, suspension from the University, and expulsion from the University.

Plagiarism:

Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea or a passage from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offence (see Scholastic Offence Policy in the Western Academic Calendar).

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com.

Computer-marked Tests/exams:

Computer-marked multiple-choice tests and/or exams may be subject to submission for similarity review by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating. Software currently in use to score computer-marked multiple-choice tests and exams performs a similarity review as part of standard exam analysis.

5. PROCEDURES FOR APPEALING ACADEMIC EVALUATIONS

All appeals of a grade must be directed first to the course instructor. If the student is not satisfied with the decision of the course instructor, a written appeal signed by the student must be sent to the Department Chair. If the response of the department is considered unsatisfactory to the student, she may then submit a signed, written appeal to the Office of the Dean. Only after receiving a final decision from the Dean may a student appeal to the Senate Review Board Academic. A Guide to Appeals is available from the Ombudsperson's Office, or you can consult an Academic Advisor. Students are advised to consult the section on Academic Rights and Responsibilities in the Western Academic Calendar.

6. PREREQUISITES AND ANTIREQUISITES

Unless you have either the prerequisites for a course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you will be removed from the course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

Similarly, you will also be deleted from a class list if you have previously taken an antirequisite course unless this has the approval of the Dean. These decisions may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course because you have taken an antirequisite course.

7. SUPPORT SERVICES

The Brescia University College Registrar's website, with a link to Academic Advisors, is at http://www.brescia.uwo.ca/academics/registrar_services/index.html . The Western Registrar's website is at <http://www.registrar.uwo.ca/index.cfm> . The website for the Student Development Centre at Western is at

<http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/> . Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health @ Western <http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

Portions of this document were taken from the Academic Calendar, the Handbook of Academic and Scholarship Policy and the Academic Handbook of Senate Regulations. This document is a summary of relevant regulations and does not supersede the academic policies and regulations of the Senate of the University of Western Ontario.