

## SOCI 202: Research Practices and Principles

Fall Term, 2017

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AX111B

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Office hours: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday 9-10:30am

*"In any society there are certain mobilisations of people for expression or action. They are 'going concerns'... If we are to study human society, we must attend to the going concerns which are subject to moral, social and ecological contingencies."*

*Evert C. Hughes*

This course is about **how** social scientists go about studying "going concerns." It is where you will be given the tools to think about how social research is conducted and why. The ultimate objectives of the course are for students to demonstrate the ability to initiate a research project and to be able to critically evaluate social research.

### Course material

Students are asked to acquire a copy of Donileen R. Loseke's *Methodological thinking: Basic principles of social research design, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition*, by Sage Publishing. It is available at the Campus Store. This book will be used in multiple ways so please be sure to have a copy.

### Evaluation

*Midterm test (25%)*: This will be a multi-format test that takes place October 11<sup>th</sup>. It will cover all readings and lecture material to that date.

*Final test (30%)*: Using one of the articles in its entirety from the textbook, students will be required to do a critical evaluation of the study presented. It is imperative, therefore, that students obtain a copy of the textbook. Methods of evaluation will be presented throughout the term.

*Ethics assignment (35%)*: In this assignment, students are to demonstrate their ability to put together a piece of social research. Students will be provided an ethics application form, much like ones social researchers need to complete. Students will need to formulate a research question, provide a brief literature review (minimum of 4 empirical academic sources), arguments for methods of choice, and awareness of ethical consideration. This is due November 20<sup>th</sup>. There is a 5% per day penalty deduction (including weekends).

*Quizzes (10%)*: Five times throughout the term, quizzes will occur during class time. The dates are: September 18<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup>, October 23 & 30, November 20<sup>th</sup>. There are no make-up opportunities for the quizzes.

## Cautions

Plagiarism and cheating will not be tolerated in this class. If you are unsure what either of these entails and the penalties associated with them, please consult the universities Academic Calendar.

The classroom is one that embodies respect and dignity. Please be sure to give this to the professor, visitors and fellow students. This mean that disagreements and questions about ideas are welcome, but not personal attacks and slurs. Also, please put mobile technology away during class time. The “glow” of cell phones and the like is distracting to all around. If your friends, mother or grandfather don’t like the fact that that you didn’t answer their SnapChat right away, please let them know that they are more than welcome to contact Dr. Harling Stalker, and she will explain the classroom policy.

## Accommodation

If you require accommodation, please see Dr. Harling Stalker as soon as possible.

## Class Schedule

Date	Topic	Reading
September 6	Introduce Course	
September 11	What is social research?	Ch. 1
September 13	Methodological thinking	Ch. 1
September 18	Data, Concepts, Theory	Ch. 2 QUIZ
September 20	Logic of research	Ch. 2
September 25	Philosophies	Ch. 2
September 27	Research Questions	Ch. 3 QUIZ
October 2	Ethics	Ch. 3
October 4	Values	Ch. 3
October 11	TEST	TEST
October 16	Literature review	Ch. 4
October 18	Literature review	Ch. 4
October 23	Conceptualisation	Ch. 5 QUIZ
October 25	Measurement	Ch. 5
October 30	Surveys	Ch. 6 QUIZ
November 1	Statistics	Ch. 6
November 6	Interviews	Ch. 6
November 8	Documents	Ch. 6
November 15	Observation	Ch. 6
November 20	Sampling	Ch. 7 QUIZ ASSIGNMENT DUE
November 22	Evaluating: Quantitative	Ch. 8
November 27	Evaluating: Qualitative	Ch. 8
November 29	REVIEW	

