



SOCI-210 – Introduction to Social Science Research Methods

University Arts and Science

Effective Term & Year: Fall 2022

Course Outline Review Date: 2027-03-01

Program Area: Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences

Description:

Introduction to Social Science Research Methods examines the scientific method applied to the understanding of behaviour, the recognition and posing of scientifically researchable questions, and the examination of different research designs. Students gain an interdisciplinary understanding of qualitative and quantitative methods and ethics in social science research. Students are introduced to relevant research questions, issues of interest, and how to communicate knowledge and information about their social world. This course also introduces Indigenous research methodologies.

Program Information:

This course can be used as a Sociology elective in several University Studies Programs. It is also a required course within the Criminal and Social Justice Diploma Program. Refer to the College Program Guide for additional information.

Delivery Methods: On-campus (Face-to-Face), Online

Credit Type: College of the Rockies Credits

Credits: 3

Course type/s: Social Sciences

Instructional Activity and Hours:

Activity

Hours

Classroom, Directed Studies or Online Instruction	45
Seminar/Tutorials	
Laboratory/Studio	
Practicum/Field Experience	
Co-op/Work Experience	
Other	
Total	45

Course Requisites:

- Complete all of the following
 - Earned a minimum grade of C- (55%) in each of the following:
 - ENGL100 – English Composition (3)
 - Completed at least 1 of the following:
 - CRIM101 – Introduction to Criminology (3)
 - CRIM103 – Psychological Explanations of Criminal And Deviant Behaviour (3)
 - CRIM104 – Sociological Explanations of Criminal And Deviant Behaviour (3)
 - CRIM131 – Introduction to the Criminal Justice System (3)
 - CRIM135 – Introduction to Canadian Law (3)
 - PSYC101 – Introduction to Psychology 1 (3)
 - PSYC102 – Introduction to Psychology 2 (3)
 - PSYC103 – Psychological Explanations of Criminal And Deviant Behaviour (3)
 - PSYC151 – Interpersonal Communications (3)
 - SOCI101 – Introduction to Sociology: The Individual and Society (3)
 - SOCI102 – Introduction to Sociology 2: Social Institutions (3)
- Recommended COMP 153, STAT 106

Flexible Assessment: Yes

In some cases students may be able to apply for recognition of prior learning outside the classroom. This flexible assessment process provides equivalent course credit. It is a rigorous process that may include external evaluation, worksite assessment, demonstration, standardized test, self-assessment, interview, products/portfolio, and challenge exam, or other measures as appropriate. Tuition fees apply. Contact an education advisor for more information.

Course Transfer Credit:

For information about receiving transfer credit for courses taken at either British Columbia or Alberta institutions, please see <https://www.bctransferguide.ca/> or <https://transferalberta.alberta.ca> . For more transfer credit information, please visit <https://www.cotr.bc.ca/Transfer>

All requests for course transfer credit from institutions in British Columbia or elsewhere should

go to the College of the Rockies Enrolment Services office.

Textbook Resources:

Textbook selection varies by instructor and may change from year to year. At the Course Outline Effective Date the following textbooks were in use:

Blackstone, A. (2019). *Principles of Sociological Inquiry, Qualitative and Quantitative Methods*.
<https://open.bccampus.ca/?s=sociological&x=0&y=0>

Davies, C. & Wales, C. (2020). *A Quick Guide to Quantitative Research in the Social Sciences*.
[A Quick Guide to Quantitative Research in the Social Sciences – Open Textbook Library \(umn.edu\)](#)

This textbook is only available online as an open source online textbook at the above link and is free of charge with unlimited access.

Course Reading Package available online in course page.

Please see the instructor's syllabus or check COTR's online text calculator

Learning Outcomes:

Upon the successful completion of this course, students will be able to

- recognize the interdisciplinary nature of research methodologies;
 - identify the ethical principles of research;
 - interpret the origin, development, and nature of science;
 - discuss and explain the nature of social scientific research;
 - develop insightful and practical research questions;
 - demonstrate the elements of research design;
 - demonstrate the strengths and limitations of various research designs;
 - demonstrate the collection and analysis of data;
 - engage in the scientific process by developing and presenting a research proposal;
 - demonstrate Indigenous research methodologies; and
 - distinguish and use qualitative and quantitative measures.
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Course Topics:

- Linking Methods with Theory
- Research Ethics
- Beginning a Research Project
- Research Design
- Developing a research proposal
- Defining and Measuring Concepts
- Sampling
- Quantitative Research techniques
- Interviews: Qualitative and Quantitative Approaches
- Field Research
- Unobtrusive Research
- Data Analysis
- Reading and Understanding Social Research
- Indigenous Research Methodologies
- Writing Research Reports

See instructor’s syllabus for the detailed outline of weekly readings, activities and assignments.

Evaluation and Assessments

Assessment Type: On-Campus (face-to-face) and Online, or Hybrid

Assessment Type	% of Total Grade
Assignments	20%
Research Proposal (Includes multiple components that assess the process and presentation of a Research Proposal)	45%
Midterm Exam	15%
Final Exam	20%
Total	100%

Grade Scheme

A+	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D	F
>=90	89-85	84-80	79-76	75-72	71-68	67-64	63-60	59-55	54-50	<50

Evaluation Notes: A grade of “D” grants credit, but may not be sufficient as a prerequisite for sequential courses.

Exam Attendance:

Students must attend all scheduled exams at the appointed time and place. Instructors may approve an alternate exam to accommodate an illness or personal crisis. Department heads will consider other written requests. Any student who misses a scheduled exam without prior

approval will receive a “0” on the exam.

Academic Policies:

College of the Rockies policies related to courses can be found at <https://cotr.bc.ca/about-us/college-policies/> and include the following:

- Policy 2.4.3 Students with Documented Disabilities
 - Policy 2.4.4 Student Conduct (plagiarism, other cheating, behavioral misconduct)
 - Policy 2.5.8 Academic Performance
 - Policy 2.5.3 Grade Appeal
 - Policy 2.4.9 Student Concerns Re Faculty
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Course Changes:

The College of the Rockies updates course outlines regularly to meet changing educational, employment and marketing needs. The instructor will notify students in writing of any updates to this outline during the semester. The instructor reserves the right to revise, add or delete material while meeting the learning outcomes of this course outline.