

SOCI 202: Research Principles and Practices

Professor: Dr. Norine Verberg
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Office hours:
Wednesdays & Thursdays, 3:45-5:15
Fridays, 2:15-3:15
or by appointment

Course Description

This course addresses how various philosophic assumptions shape the aims and practices of research in Sociology. Students learn research design principles associated with qualitative and quantitative methods. In addition to learning about methods of data collection and analysis, students learn how to critically appraise these methods. Students also learn about how to approach writing a research proposal and ethics review applications. 3 credits

Required Reading

This course textbook is [An Introduction to Research Methods in Sociology](#) by Valerie A. Sheppard. Your textbook has been made available free of charge through Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike 4.0 International License.

<u>Evaluation method</u>	<u>Value</u>	<u>Date</u>
❖ Homework & Participation	20%	
❖ Test 1	25%	Friday, October 7, 12:45-2:00
❖ Test 2	25%	Friday, November 4, 12:45-2:00
❖ Final exam	30%	TBA by Registrar

Homework

You will be assigned short homework exercises weekly. The homework is introduced and taken up in class. Completing the homework will help you with exam preparation. For this reason, you are encouraged to attend and participate in class. I grade, but do not return, your weekly homework. Rather, students are encouraged to do a self-assessment when homework is taken up in class.

Class Attendance and Participation

Class attendance will be taken. Missing many classes will impact your performance on the homework and exams. If you miss class, you are responsible to find out what you missed (e.g., lectures, announcements, etc.) from a classmate or during office hours. Please do not notify me by email if you have to miss class or about what you missed.

Drop Date

Professors are asked to share the 'course drop date' with students. This year, students can drop a fall term course online (using Banner) by Wednesday, November 2.

Communication and Office Hours

You are encouraged to meet with me to discuss any aspect of the course during my scheduled office hours or by appointment. For email correspondence, please provide your student ID number and the course number below your signature. I do not answer questions on the course material by email.

The Tramble Centre for Accessible Learning

Students who have documented disabilities can access student-centred support at the Tramble Centre for Accessible Learning. <https://www.mystfx.ca/accessible-learning/>

Academic Integrity

Please familiarize yourself with the Academic Integrity Policy spelled out in the university calendar. https://www.mystfx.ca/sites/registrars-office/files/2022-04/Appendix%202_Offences%20Against%20Academic%20Integrity-Apr2022.pdf

Schedule of Reading

Sept 6/9	Section 1: Introduction to Research Methods
Sept 13/16	Section 2: Ethics in Research
Sept 20/23	Section 3: Developing a Research Question
Sept 27 September 30	Section 4: Measurement and Unit of Analysis No class on National Day for Truth and Reconciliation
Oct 4 October 7	Section 5: The Literature Review Test 1: Friday, October 7, 12:45-2:00
Oct 11/14	Section 6: Data Collection Strategies
Oct 18/21	Section 7: Sampling Techniques
Oct 25/28	Section 8: Data Collection Methods: Survey Research
Nov 1 November 4	Section 9: Analysis of Survey Data Test 2: Friday, November 4, 12:45-2:00
Nov 8/11	Fall Term Recess: No Classes
Nov 15/18	Section 10: Qualitative Data Collection and Analysis Methods
Nov 22/25	Section 12: Field Research: A Qualitative Research Technique
Nov 29, Dec 2	Section 13: Unobtrusive Research: Qltv and Qtve Approaches
Dec 6	Section 14: The Research Proposal

* The professor reserves the right to make alterations to the dates course material will be covered to best facilitate homework and class exercises.