

APPLIED ARTS DIVISION
School of Liberal Arts
Fall, 2015



COURSE OUTLINE

SOCI 227

RESEARCH METHODS IN SOCIAL SCIENCES

**45 HOURS
3 CREDITS**

PREPARED BY: James McClelland DATE: May, 2015

APPROVED BY: DATE:

APPROVED BY ACADEMIC COUNCIL: (date)

RENEWED BY ACADEMIC COUNCIL: (date)

APPLIED ARTS DIVISION
Soci 227
3 Credit Course
Fall Term, 2015

RESEARCH METHODS IN SOCIAL SCIENCES

INSTRUCTOR: R. James McClelland, Ph.D. **OFFICE HOURS:** Tu/Th 2:30 -3:30
OFFICE LOCATION: A2911A **CLASSROOM:** C1440
E-MAIL: jmcclelland@yukoncollege.yk.ca **TIME:** 10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
TELEPHONE: (867) 668-8867 **DATES:** Tuesday & Thursday

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Research Methods in Psychology is designed to introduce students to social science research and to develop student research and analytical skills. Students are introduced to the theory and logic of research, the ethics that guide the research process, and to the range of research methods generally employed in the social sciences. Attention will be paid to research design, data collection, elementary data analysis, and report writing. The course includes discussion of specific methodological approaches.

The emphasis is on providing practical knowledge of the research process and in preparing students to conduct their own basic research projects. Students will leave the course with a better understanding of how to conduct their own research in various fields (criminology, psychology, sociology, political science, social work, etc.) as well as a better understanding of how to evaluate the research of others. The course is aimed at those who plan to pursue their education in the social or applied sciences and those employed in such fields as social work, health care, policy analysis, and related fields who wish to enhance their understanding of psychological research. The course will prepare students for advanced research methods courses in their chosen fields.

PREREQUISITES

Admission to the School of Liberal Arts, at least one 100 level social science course (e.g. Criminology 101, Sociology 100, Anthropology 100, Psychology 100) or permission of the instructor. It is recommended that students complete at least 24 credit hours before taking this course. Completion of an introductory statistics course would be an

asset; although it is expected students will not have a statistics background.

EQUIVALENCY OR TRANSFERABILITY

AU SOSC 366 (3)	CAMO SOC 280 (3)	KPU SOCI 1260 (3)
SFU CRIM 220 (3) - Q. Students may request credit for SFU Crim 220 (3) - Q instead.		
TRU SOCI 2xx0 (3)	TRU-OL PSYC 2101 (3)	
TWU SOCI 200 lev (3). Waive SOCI 360		UBC SOCI 2 nd (3)
UNBC ENPL 319 (3)	uvic soci 211 (1.5)	VIU SOCI 250 (3)

For more information about transferability please contact the Liberal Arts Office.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon successful completion of the course, which includes timely submission of *all* assignments, students will demonstrate the following knowledge, skills, and attitudes:

- an understanding of various research techniques employed in the social sciences, as well as an appreciation of the strengths, limitations, and ethical concerns of each research strategy
- practical experience in research techniques through conducting a research assignment and developing a research proposal
- an understanding of the opportunities and challenges faced by social scientists in their attempts to understand human behaviour
- basic research, writing, analytical, and critical thinking skills

COURSE FORMAT

Class content is presented through a lecture/seminar format. Students are responsible for discussion of the required readings and for completion of individual exercises assigned by the instructor. Emphasis is on participatory learning, and students are required to actively participate in class discussions and take part in a number of research activities throughout the course.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Students are expected to attend regularly, complete all assignments, and to participate actively in class discussions. Since a large portion of the examinable material will be based on classroom information, attendance is critical. If you miss a class, please arrange with another student to take notes and to inform you of in-class experiences. Students are responsible for obtaining handouts and completing assignments for any classes missed. Class discussion is an important element in this course. Students will be responsible for the readings assigned and should be prepared to discuss these readings and share their insights in class.

All written assignment must be handed in by 1:30 p.m. on the due date. There is a penalty for late assignments of 5% per day, including weekends. Only in extreme, unforeseen circumstances will a late assignment be accepted without penalty.

ASSESSMENTS

Attendance 5%

Regular attendance and in class participation. Missed classes and non-participation will result in a reduction of the attendance mark.

Midterm Exam Due: October 22nd 20%

The mid-term is scheduled for October 2nd and will be a multiple choice exam.

Critique of Article Due: November 12th 10%

Students will be provided with a scholarly journal article pertaining to psychological research that they will review. The review will critically evaluate the quantitative research, discussing applicability, question, sampling, methods, evaluation and other relevant content.

Research Proposal Due: November 17th 25%

The research proposal is a comprehensive project on a topic of interest to the student. The sections/chapters will include an Introduction, Identification of the Problem, Review of Literature, Research Procedure(s), Ethical Considerations and an estimate of the resources required to undertake the research. Each student will present an abstract of their proposal during class and submit the written proposal to the instructor.

Research Experience Due: November 24th
10%

In this assignment, students will work in groups or individually to design and implement a “mini quantitative research project”. Students must obtain the approval of the instructor for each project. The findings will be presented in class and a written report submitted to the instructor.

Final Exam Due: Exam Week 30%

The final exam will be comprehensive and take place during the regularly scheduled exam period (Dec. 7 - 18). It will be 3 hours in duration and will contain multiple choice, short answer, and essay questions. Students must achieve a passing grade of

50% on the final examination in order to pass the course. A failed final exam will result in a failed course.

Alternate arrangements will not be made for students unable to write the final examination at the scheduled time/date unless exceptional circumstances prevail and the instructor has given approval in advance.

All evaluative components for this course are compulsory, and must be completed in order to pass the course.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS AND MATERIALS

Neuman, W., & Robson, K. (2015). *Basics of social research qualitative and quantitative approaches (Third Canadian ed.)*. Toronto: Pearson Canada. Purchase ISBN 9780205991709 which provides access to MySearchLab.

ACADEMIC AND STUDENT CONDUCT

Information on academic standing and student rights and responsibilities can be found in the Academic Regulations:

http://www.yukoncollege.yk.ca//downloads/Yukon_College_Academic_Regulations_and_Procedures_-_August_2013_final_v1.pdf

PLAGIARISM

Plagiarism is a serious academic offence. Plagiarism occurs when students present the words of someone else as their own. Plagiarism can be the deliberate use of a whole piece of another person's writing, but more frequently it occurs when students fail to acknowledge and document sources from which they have taken material. Whenever the words, research or ideas of others are directly quoted or paraphrased, they must be documented according to an accepted manuscript style (e.g., APA, CSE, MLA, etc.). Resubmitting a paper which has previously received credit is also considered plagiarism. Students who plagiarize material for assignments will receive a mark of zero (F) on the assignment and may fail the course. Plagiarism may also result in dismissal from a program of study or the College.

YUKON FIRST NATIONS CORE COMPETENCY

Yukon College recognizes that a greater understanding and awareness of Yukon First Nations history, culture and journey towards self-determination will help to build positive relationships among all Yukon citizens. As a result, to graduate from ANY Yukon College program, you will be required to achieve core competency in knowledge of Yukon First Nations. For details, please see www.yukoncollege.yk.ca/yfnccr.

ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION

Reasonable accommodations are available for students requiring an academic accommodation to fully participate in this class. These accommodations are available for students with a documented disability, chronic condition or any other grounds specified in section 8.0 of the Yukon College Academic Regulations (available on the Yukon College website). It is the student's responsibility to seek these accommodations. If a student requires an academic accommodation, he/she should contact the Learning Assistance Centre (LAC) at (867) 668-8785 or lassist@yukoncollege.yk.ca.

TOPIC OUTLINE

PSYC 201 - Fall 2015 - Syllabus

Dr. R. James McClelland

Note:

- All scheduled readings must be done ahead of time, i.e., before they are discussed in class.
- The following schedule of readings is tentative; specified texts may be dropped and others added depending on the pace of the class.
- For extra help with any writing make an appointment (online or in person) with the Writing Centre.
- For help with any learning problems make an appointment (online or in-person) with the Learning Assistance Centre.

September 10

- WELCOME
 - Introductions
 - Course outline and Syllabus
 - Critique, Research Proposal, Research Experience
 - Use of textbook and supplemental materials
- DOING SOCIAL RESEARCH (CHAPTER 1)
 - The scientific method: approaches to inquiry
 - Alternatives to social research
 - How science works
 - Steps in the research process
 - Dimensions of research
 - Conclusions: remember the n-ray

September 15

- EVALUATING WEBSITES AND DATA-BASE SEARCHING, FINDING, & USING BACKGROUND LITERATURE

September 17

- WISPR WORKSHOP (WEB-BASED INFORMATION SEARCH PROCESS FOR RESEARCH)
 - The research process and getting started

September 22

- THEORY AND SOCIAL RESEARCH(CHAPTER 2)
 - What is theory?
 - The parts of theory
 - The aspects of theory
 - The three major approaches to social science
 - The dynamic duo

September 24

- ETHICS IN SOCIAL RESEARCH (CHAPTER 3)
 - Introduction
 - Why be ethical?
 - Ethical issues involving research participants
 - Ethics and the scientific community
 - Ethics and the sponsors of research
 - Politics of research
 - Value-free and objective research

September 29

- REVIEWING THE SCHOLARLY LITERATURE AND PLANNING A STUDY (CHAPTER 4)
 - Introduction
 - Literature review
 - Using the internet for social research

October 1

- DESIGNING A STUDY (CHAPTER 5)
 - Qualitative and quantitative orientations toward research
 - Qualitative design issues
 - Quantitative design issues

October 6

- QUALITATIVE AND QUANTITATIVE MEASUREMENT (CHAPTER 6)
 - Why measure?
 - Quantitative and qualitative measurement
 - Reliability and validity

October 8

- QUALITATIVE AND QUANTITATIVE MEASUREMENT (CHAPTER 6 CONTINUED)
 - A guide to quantitative measurement
 - Index construction
 - Scales

October 13

- QUALITATIVE AND QUANTITATIVE SAMPLING (CHAPTER 7)
 - Non probability sampling
 - Probability sampling

October 15

- SURVEY RESEARCH (CHAPTER 8)
 - Introduction
 - The logic of survey research
 - Constructing the questionnaire

- Types of surveys: advantages and disadvantages

October 20

- SURVEY RESEARCH (CHAPTER 8 CONTINUED)
 - Interviewing
 - The ethical survey
 - Conclusion
- RECAP AND REVIEW FOR MID TERM EXAM

October 22

- MID TERM EXAM

October 27

- EXPERIMENTAL RESEARCH (CHAPTER 9)
 - Introduction
 - Random assignment
 - Experimental design logic
 - Internal and external validity
 - Results of experimental research: making comparisons
 - A work of ethics

October 29

- NON REACTIVE QUANTITATIVE RESEARCH AND SECONDARY ANALYSIS (CHAPTER 10)
 - Introduction
 - Non reactive measurement
 - Quantitative content analysis

November 3

- NON REACTIVE QUANTITATIVE RESEARCH AND SECONDARY ANALYSIS (CHAPTER 10 CONTINUED)
 - Existing statistics/documents and secondary analysis
 - Issues of inference and theory testing
 - Ethical concerns

November 5

- ANALYSIS OF QUANTITATIVE DATA (CHAPTER 11)
 - Introduction
 - Dealing with data
 - Results with one variable
 - Results with two variables

November 10

- ANALYSIS OF QUANTITATIVE DATA (CHAPTER 11 CONTINUED)
 - More than two variables
 - Multiple regression analysis
 - Inferential statistics

November 12

- QUALITATIVE INTERVIEWING (CHAPTER 12)
 - Introduction
 - The procedure of qualitative interviewing
 - Asking questions in qualitative interviews
 - Advantages and limitations of qualitative interviews
 - Focus groups
 - Qualitative data resources
 - Qualitative research resources
- CRITIQUE OF ARTICLE DUE

November 17

- FIELD RESEARCH (CHAPTER 13)
 - Questions appropriate for field research
 - Ethnography
 - The logic of field research
 - Steps in a field research project
- RESEARCH PROPOSAL DUE

November 19

- FIELD RESEARCH (CHAPTER 13 CONTINUED)
 - Relations in the field
 - Observing and collecting data
 - Leaving the field
 - Ethical dilemmas of field research

November 24

- NON REACTIVE QUALITATIVE RESEARCH (CHAPTER 14)
 - Historical - comparative research
 - The logic of historical - comparative research
 - Steps in a historical - comparative research project
- RESEARCH EXPERIENCE DUE
 - Historical - comparative research
 - The logic of historical - comparative research

November 26

- NON REACTIVE QUALITATIVE RESEARCH (CHAPTER 14 CONTINUED)
 - Data evidence in historical context
 - Equivalence in historical - comparative research
 - Qualitative content analysis
 - Ethical concerns and trustworthiness in historical - comparative and qualitative content analysis

December 1

- ANALYSIS OF QUALITATIVE DATA (CHAPTER 15)
 - Comparing methods of data analysis
 - Coding and concept formation
 - Analytical strategies for qualitative data
 - Other techniques
 - Software for qualitative data

December 3

- COMBINING METHODS IN SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH(CHAPTER 16)
 - Introduction
 - Mixing methods in qualitative - only and quantitative - only analyses
 - Mixing quantitative and qualitative methods
 - Argument against mixing methods

December 7 - 18

- EXAM PERIOD
 - PSYC 201 Exam Date and Time TBA