University of Guelph  
College of Social and Applied Human Sciences  
Department of Sociology and Anthropology  
SOAN 2120: Introductory Methods

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Office: TBD  
Office Hours: TBA in class

Course Prerequisites: ANTH 1150, SOC 1100, or SOC 1500

Learning Objectives:

By the end of this course, students should be able to:

1. Analyze and evaluate qualitative and quantitative research in sociology and anthropology, and the social sciences generally.
2. Apply appropriate research methodologies to address contemporary, historical, social and global issues.
3. Develop and practice intellectual curiosity, analytic, problem-solving, decision-making and listening skills.

This course will also provide students with an overview of research methodology and the process of conducting research in the social sciences. Thus, by the end of the course, students are expected to demonstrate an understanding of social research, both qualitative and quantitative. Students will learn a variety of topics relating to research methods including qualitative interviews, field research (also known as participant observation), ethical issues in social research, experimental designs, survey research, qualitative and quantitative sampling, measures of central tendency and dispersion, hypothesis testing, and inferential statistics.

Students in SOAN 2120 will gain practical experience conducting social research. The research projects provide an opportunity for students to put into practice the writing and research related skills they learned in the course.

1. For the first project, students will write an effective literature review using software that helps to organize and manage qualitative data.
2. For the second project, students will create a journal article style report consisting of an abstract, literature review, methods section, results section, conclusion, and bibliography.

Please note: Due to the complex nature of the second research project, this class is not recommended for students in first year. Attending class is extremely important, almost vital, for understanding how to complete both research projects. While we aim to assist everyone in SOAN 2120 as much as possible, PLEASE do your best to attend all classes.
The evaluation for this course is as follows:

Midterm test #1: 15%
Midterm test #2: 15%
Research Project #1: 20%
Research Project #2: 25%
Final exam: 25%

Required Textbook:

Course Software:
The qualitative methods software that we will be explored in this class is NVivo. The statistical software package that we will be using is called SPSS (statistical package for the social sciences). The course software is available in the library (Windows only) and in the computing labs throughout the University of Guelph (e.g., Mack 028). All versions of the software used in this course are available to be downloaded through the university with a valid university email account at: https://guelph.onthehub.com/WebStore/Welcome.aspx
Instructions on how to download the software will also be provided on CourseLink.