

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

Instructor: David Walters
Email: dwalters@uoguelph.ca
Web Page: www.sociology.ca
Office: MacKinnon (MAC) 614
Office Hours: TBD

Teaching Associates:

Time and Location: TBD

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

Learning Objectives:

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

Analyze and evaluate qualitative and quantitative research in sociology and anthropology, and the social sciences generally.

Apply appropriate research methodologies to address contemporary, historical, social and global issues.

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. Specific learning objectives relating to each topic will be provided at the beginning of each lecture.

Students in SOAN 2120 also gain practical experience conducting social research. The research project provides an opportunity for students to demonstrate the writing and research related skills they learned in the course. For this project, students will create a journal article style report consisting of an abstract, literature review, methods section, results section, a conclusion, and bibliography. For the research project, students will gain practical experience using computer software for both qualitative (NVivo) and quantitative (SPSS) data analyses.

Please note: Due to the complex nature of the research project, this class is not recommended for students in first year. Attending class is extremely important, almost vital, in order to understand how to complete the research project. We aim to assist everyone in SOAN 2120 as much as possible; however, as there are many students enrolled in this course, we are unable to re-teach an entire lecture to students who miss class. So please do your best to attend all classes. If you plan to take this course and not attend class: May the Force be with you!

Details regarding the NVivo and SPSS assignments will be provided in class and on CourseLink

Required Textbook:

TBA

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 (Windows only) in the library and in the computing labs throughout the University of Guelph. Mac and Windows 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.

In-Class Participation: SOAN 2120 will make use of the Learning Catalytics In-Classroom Response System to improve your learning experience and evaluate your in-class participation. This software will be used to poll the class for student understanding or opinions relating to course material. You can use your laptop or access the mobile interface using a tablet or cell phone. Participation is required and will account for 10% of your final grade in SOAN 2120. Your grade will be based on the percentage of questions you answer, and not on whether you answer those questions correctly.

Details regarding how to register and use Learning Catalytics will be provided during the first lecture.