

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: TBA

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

This is a required course for students in CJPP, SOC, and ANTH

Learning Outcomes:

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

- Analyze and evaluate qualitative and quantitative research in sociology, criminal justice and public policy, 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.
- Develop time management skills and demonstrate the writing and research related skills that they learned in the course.

This course will also provide students with an overview of research methodology and the process of conducting research, testing theories and writing a research report 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), indigenous methods, 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.

The final research report provides students with the opportunity to conduct research on social issues of their choice, including criminal justice, diversity and inclusion, health, education, and inequality. They gain hands-on experience analyzing real data and develop skills required for testing theories and evaluating policies. 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.

Required Textbook:

Neuman, Lawrence W. and Karen Robson [Revel for Basics of Social Research](#), 4e 9780135334614

Recommended Textbook (softcover available at the bookstore):

Einmann, Trisha, Dylan Reynolds, David Walters, Laura Wright. *Data Analyses for Qualitative and Quantitative Research* 9780137286379

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 (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.