



**SOCIOLOG 2206A**

**570**

**Fall/Winter 2019-2020**

**Research Methods in Sociology**

**Instructor Information:**

**Professor:** Prof. Don Kerr

**Office #:** LH 208

**Email:** dkerr@uwo.ca

**Ext:**

**Office Hours:** Thursday: 2:30 to 3:30 p.m.

*If you would like to meet with me during office hours at a location on campus other than my office, please let me know and we will make arrangements.*

**Class Times and Location(s):**

Thursdays 11:30 am – 2:30 pm in LH 101

**Course Description:**

An introduction to the research process and ethical dilemmas faced by sociologists, as well as a survey of the essential procedures used to collect sociological data, e.g. sampling, questionnaire design, and observational field research techniques.

**Antirequisites:** Social Work 2206A/B, Health Sciences 2801A/B, or Political Science 3324F/G.

**Prerequisites:** At least 60% in 1.0 from Sociology courses at the 1000 level.

*Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.*

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**RESEARCH METHODS IN SOCIOLOGY  
SOCIOLOGY 2206A 570 Fall 2019  
THURSDAY 11:30-2:30 LH101**

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**CALENDAR DESCRIPTION**

An introduction to the research process and ethical dilemmas faced by sociologists, as well as a survey of the essential procedures used to collect sociological data, e.g. sampling, questionnaire design and observational field research techniques.

**Antirequisite(s):** Social Work 2206A/B or the former 2205, Health Sciences 2801A/B or the former Health Sciences 2800

**Prerequisite(s):** At least 60% in 1.0 from Sociology courses at the 1000 level.\*

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**INSTRUCTOR**

**Prof. Don Kerr**

**Phone:** 433-3491

**E-mail:** [dkerr@uwo.ca](mailto:dkerr@uwo.ca) (respond within 24 hours, typically)

**Office:** LH 208

**Office Hours:** Thursday: 230 to 330 p.m.

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**REQUIRED TEXTBOOK**

Bryman, Alan and Edward Bell. 2016. **Social Research Methods: Fourth Canadian edition.** Toronto: Oxford University Press.

*\*Please note that the (2012) Third Canadian Edition is also very acceptable.*

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**WEBSITE:** <http://dkerr.kingsfaculty.ca/>

The course webpage is used to post part of your lecture notes (I do not post the full lectures as attendance is required for this course). I also use it to periodically post announcements and assignments relating to this course. Also your grades will be

posted on this website (password protected) as soon as they are available. Note: I do not use OWL.

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## SPSS CONSULTANT and COMPUTING LAB

We have an SPSS software consultant available for students in this and similar courses. You may wish to talk to the consultant at some point regarding assignment 2, which will involve using a statistical software package.

You can find the consultant in the public student computing lab on a regular basis (in Wemple building near the student cafeteria W022), starting close to the beginning of the term. Hours are usually posted around the college, but detailed information will also be included when I post Assignment 2. The consultant operates on an in-person drop-in basis. No emails, phone calls or appointments ... just show up with your work/questions.

The lab is available to students needing computers or space to work for any and all classes – not just this one. You may want to pop in at some point and see what is there.

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## COURSE REQUIREMENTS

**ATTENDANCE/PARTICIPATION 10%**

**2 CLASS TESTS 30% (15% each)**

**2 ASSIGNMENTS 30% (15% each)**

**FINAL EXAMINATION 30%**

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## DETAILED COURSE SCHEDULE

<b>Date</b>	<b>Course Plan</b>	<b>Assigned Reading</b>
September 5	Introduction: Course logistics Lecture 1	Chapter 1: <i>General Research Orientations</i>
September 12	Lecture 2	Chapter 1 (continued) Chapter 2: <i>Research Designs</i>
September 19	Lecture 3	Chapter 4: <i>The Nature of Quantitative Research</i>
September 26	Lecture 4	Chapter 5: <i>Survey Research</i>
October 03	<b>In-class Test 1</b> Assignment 1 discussion and tutorial	Assignment 1 to be posted'
October 10	Lecture 5	Chapter 6: <i>Asking Questions</i>
October 17	Lecture 6 <b>Assignment 1 Due</b>	Chapter 7: <i>Structured Observation</i>

October 24	Lecture 7	Chapter 8: <i>Other Sources of Data</i> Chapter 3: <i>Research Ethics</i>
October 31	<b>In-class Test 2</b> Assignment 2 discussion and tutorial	'Assignment 2' (to be posted)
November 07	Reading Week	No readings
November 14	Lecture 8	Chapter 12: <i>Sampling</i>
November 21	Lecture 9	Chapter 13: <i>Quantitative Data Analysis</i>
Nov 28	Lecture 10 <b>Assignment 2 Due</b>	Chapter 9: <i>The Nature of Qualitative Research</i> Plus Parts of Chapters 10/11/14
Dec 5	<i>Final Exam Review</i>	
<b>Final Exam Period</b>	<b>FINAL EXAM</b>	<b>All assigned reading and lecture notes</b>

\* Note that the readings and lecture schedule may vary slightly from the above

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## IN-CLASS TESTS

There will be two tests (1.5 hours each) throughout the term. They will contain multiple choice and short answer questions. These tests will be held at the beginning of class during the regular classroom dates listed on the detailed syllabus below. The material covered between tests will be the major focus of each of the tests, although the exact details will be specified clearly in class the week before each test.

*There is no provision for make-up tests. For an unexcused absence from a test, a zero will be recorded. If you are seriously ill, I must be informed before the test and written documentation must be provided to the Academic Dean as soon as possible. In the interest of fairness to all students, and in particular, to those that adhere to these guidelines, no exceptions will be made.*

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## ASSIGNMENTS

An emphasis in the current course will be on the *application* of the many concepts and techniques covered in class and through the required readings in our textbooks. Through two assignments, students will have an opportunity to apply what they have learned and subsequently obtain some detailed feedback. The first assignment is geared toward helping students comprehensively find, review and evaluate existing research in their area of interest while assignment 2 is geared toward aspects of conducting and particularly organizing, managing and analyzing the products of their research (research data).

Tutorials covering expectations and specific techniques for each assignment will be provided well in advance of the due dates along with very detailed assignment outlines posted on my website. Each assignment will be marked and returned, with some parts discussed in class. Students can always meet with the instructor to discuss possible difficulties or concerns.

In submitting all assignments, no faxed or electronic copies will be accepted, The written portions of both assignments must be typed (10 cpi or maximum 300 words per page), double-spaced, on 8 ½ X 11 paper, stapled (no paper clips or plastic covering or binders), and handed in personally in class.

In the interest of fairness for all students, assignments are due at the beginning of class on the dates noted in the detailed course outline. Assignments received after the due date (or after class on the due date) will have their grade reduced by a rate of 5% daily. No papers will be accepted more than two weeks (14 days) after the due date. Please see each assignment outline for details.

*Only major illness and exceptional circumstances (with appropriate documentation) are acceptable reasons for handing in an assignment after the due date without late penalty. The professor must be contacted before the due date and appropriate documentation should be provided to the academic dean as soon as possible. This policy will be strictly enforced and no exceptions will be made.*

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## **FINAL EXAMINATION**

The final examination will be scheduled during the final examination period in December. It will be 3 hours in length and will have multiple choice, short answer and long essay questions. Students are responsible for the content from all lectures and readings for the full term (**it is cumulative**). The focus will be on both untested lecture material from the end of the course and broad course themes covered throughout the term. A course-end thematic review will be conducted to help you prepare for the cumulative portion.

*There is no provision for make-up examinations. For an unexcused absence from an exam, a zero will be recorded. If you are seriously ill, or have other extenuating circumstances, I must be informed before the exam and written documentation must be provided to the office of the academic dean.*

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## **CLASS ATTENDANCE**

Please note that it is the individual student's responsibility to seek out missed material and lecture notes from classmates, textbook etc. when a scheduled lecture has been missed in most cases. It should be noted that *I do not give out copies of my lecture notes to students who have missed a class* (except those granted by absences excused by the Academic Dean).

Attendance will be taken at the beginning of each class, and I will be keeping track of class participation (attentiveness, contributing to class discussion, etc.). Attendance & participation will be worth 10% your class mark.

## **ELECTRONICS USE**

Please don't use your hand-held devices during lectures for any reason. I'm fine with other computer use in the classroom in most circumstances. However, please don't use social media, play games, surf the web etc. during lecture time. A student who is found to be breaking these rules will be asked to stop and may be asked to leave since this can be very distracting to both the instructor and other students.



## Course Outline Policies 2019-2020

### Faculty Office Hours

Office hours will be noted on course outlines. By mid-September and mid-January, office hours are posted on the King's website: <https://www.kings.uwo.ca/current-students/courses-enrolment/course-information/>.

### Academic Consideration for Tests/Examinations

Students are responsible for seeking consideration as noted in the Western University Calendar: [https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/exam/courseoutlines.pdf](https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/exam/courseoutlines.pdf)

### How to Request Academic Consideration

#### Self-Reported Absence

Students may use the Self-Reported Absence System (SRAS) for a maximum of two short-term absences affecting course components worth 30% or less of the overall course grade. The SRAS may not be used during the December and April exam periods, or for any course components worth more than 30% of the overall course grade.

#### Other Requests for Academic Consideration

King's students should refer to information on the Academic Dean's Office website regarding requests for academic consideration that fall outside of the Self-Reported Absence System (SRAS). (<https://www.kings.uwo.ca/current-students/courses-enrolment/exams-and-tests/medical-accommodation/>)

UWO Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness:

[http://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/accommodation\\_medical.pdf](http://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf)

Student Medical Certificate (SMC) - <https://www.eng.uwo.ca/files/undergraduate/student-medical-certificate.pdf>

### Support Services

Accessibility, Counselling and Student Development at King's University College  
<https://www.kings.uwo.ca/current-students/student-services/>

Students experiencing emotional or mental health distress can access services at King's University College  
<http://www.kings.uwo.ca/current-students/campus-services/student-support-services/personal-counselling/>

or Mental Health@Western for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.  
[https://www.uwo.ca/health/mental\\_wellbeing/](https://www.uwo.ca/health/mental_wellbeing/)

Academic Support Services at King's University College

<http://www.kings.uwo.ca/current-students/academic-support/>

University Students Council - many valuable support services for students, including the health insurance plan  
<http://westernusc.ca/services/>

### Accommodations for Religious Holidays

Students who have a Sabbath or Holy Day that conflicts with tests or exams must give written notice for accommodation by the deadlines noted in the policy above (minimum two weeks for term tests and examinations, and one week for mid-term tests). See

[https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/accommodation\\_religious.pdf](https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_religious.pdf)

<https://www.multiculturalcalendar.com/ecal/index.php?s=c-univwo>

## **Remembrance Day Policy**

Two minutes of silence observed on November 11 and 11:00 am throughout the university and that, where this is not possible, two minutes of silence be observed between 11:00 am and 12:00 noon.

Students are permitted to be absent from class to attend Remembrance Day Services, provided the instructor is informed in advance of the intended absence.

## **Statement on Use of Electronic Devices**

### *Use of Electronic Devices*

You are not allowed to have a cell phone, or any other electronic device, with you during tests or examinations.

### *Use of Laptops, Tablets, and Smartphones in the Classroom*

King's University College at Western University acknowledges the integration of new technologies and learning methods into the curriculum. The use of electronic devices – such as laptop computers, tablets, or smartphones – can contribute to student engagement and effective learning. At the same time, King's recognizes that instructors and students share jointly the responsibility to establish and maintain a respectful classroom environment conducive to learning.

The use of electronic devices by students during lectures, seminars, labs, etc., shall be for matters related to the course at hand only. Students found to be using electronic devices for purposes not directly related to the class may be subject to sanctions under the Student Code of Conduct; see <https://www.kings.uwo.ca/current-students/student-affairs/code-of-student-conduct1/>

Inappropriate use of electronics (e.g., laptops, tablets, smartphones) during lectures, seminars, labs, etc., creates a significant disruption. As a consequence, instructors may choose to limit the use of electronic devices in these settings. In addition, in order to provide a safe classroom environment, students are strongly advised to operate laptops with batteries rather than power cords.

## **Statement on Academic Offences**

King's is committed to Academic Integrity.

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, is posted at [http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/scholastic\\_discipline\\_undergrad.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf)

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system; see <http://elearningtoolkit.uwo.ca/terms/plagiarism.html>

Computer-marked multiple-choice tests and/or exams may be subject to submission for similarity review by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating.

## **Copyright re: Course Material**

Lectures and course materials, including PowerPoint presentations, tests, outlines, and similar materials are protected by copyright. Faculty members are the exclusive owner of copyright in those materials they create. Students may take notes and make copies for their own use. Students may not allow others to reproduce or distribute lecture notes and course materials publicly (whether or not a fee is charged) without the express written consent of a faculty member. Similarly, students own copyright in their own original papers and exam essays. If a faculty member is interested in posting a student's answers or papers on the course web site he/she should ask for the student's written permission.

## **Class Cancellations**

All reported class cancellations are posted at <https://www.kings.uwo.ca/current-students/campus-life/service-disruptions/>