

Sociology 200H1F LEC0201 2016
The Logic of Social Inquiry

Prof. La Touche
725 Spadina Avenue, Rm. 270
Office Hours: Tuesdays 1:00-3:00pm and by appt.
Email: rachel.latouche@utoronto.ca

Location: Sidney Smith Hall 2135
Class Time: Thursday 10am-12pm
Web Page: portal.utoronto.ca

TAs: Samia Teclé (samia.tecle@gmail.com)
Office Hours: Wednesdays 12-1pm (725 Spadina Avenue, Room 225e)
Tutorial: Wednesday 1-2pm (Bancroft Building, 323)

Lance Stewart (lance.stewart@mail.utoronto.ca)
Office Hours: Wednesday 2-3pm, by appointment only
Tutorials: Tuesday 10-11am (University College, 256)
Tuesday 11am-12pm (University College, 152)

Course Description

In this course, you will become familiar with how and why social research is done, enabling you to both evaluate and design scientific research studies. In the first part of the course, you will confront issues regarding the nature of knowledge and learn how to ask good research questions. In the second part, you will learn how to answer those questions ethically, rigorously and systematically. As with any skill, learning how to conduct social research requires practice, and this course will give you plenty of hands-on experience so you will gain competence in the logic and conduct of research.

The prerequisite to take this course is SOC101Y or SOC102H + SOC103H. Students lacking this prerequisite can be removed at any time without notice.

Course Goals

After completing this course, students should be able to:

- create empirically testable questions and hypotheses
- describe, develop and evaluate research methodologies and sampling techniques
- employ different methods of collecting sociological data

Requirements and Grading

Test 1 (Thursday October 20 th)	23%
Assignment 1 (Due Thursday October 13 th)	27%
Assignment 2 (Due Thursday November 17 th)	27%
Test 2 (Thursday December 1 st)	23%
TOTAL	100%

Required Readings

Available from the U of T bookstore or your preferred online retailer:
 Babbie and Benaquisto, Fundamentals of Social Research, 3rd Canadian Edition

Week #	Date	Course Outline	
1	Sept 15	Introduction	Readings: No Tutorials: No
2	Sept 22	Epistemology/Asking Sociological Questions	Readings: B&B, Chapters 1-2 Tutorials: Yes
3	Sept 29	Research Design/Thinking about Causation	Readings: B&B, Chapter 4 Tutorials: Yes
4	Oct 6	Concepts and Measurement	Readings: B&B, Chapter 5 Tutorials: Yes
5	Oct 13	Sampling	Assignment #1 Due Readings: B&B, Chapter 6 Tutorials: Yes
6	Oct 20	Test #1	Readings: No Tutorials: Optional
7	Oct 27	Surveys	Readings: B&B, Chapter 8 Tutorials: Yes
8	Nov 3	Experiments	Readings: B&B, Chapter 7 Tutorials: Yes
9	Nov 10	Interviews	Readings: B&B, Chapter 11 Tutorials: Yes
10	Nov 17	Ethnography	Assignment #2 Due Readings: B&B, Chapter 10 Tutorials: Yes
11	Nov 24	Ethics	Readings: B&B Chapter 3 Tutorials: Yes
12	Dec 1	Test #2	Readings: No Tutorials: Optional

Course Policies

Attendance and Preparation

Attendance is mandatory. Students are responsible for all material presented in class. Students who are unable to attend class on a given day are responsible for obtaining notes on all material covered, including lecture material and course announcements. In addition, students are expected to complete all assigned readings in advance of the class period for which they are assigned.

Tutorials

Students are required to participate in one of the mandatory tutorials associated with this course: TUT0201, TUT0202, TUT0203. Tutorial sessions are designed to help you practice methodological skills and will prepare you for the two assignments in the course (worth more than half of your grade). Two additional tutorial sessions will be designated for exam review.

Course Website

The course website on Blackboard is available at portal.utoronto.ca. The site will contain the course syllabus, all handouts, links of interest and course announcements. Students are responsible for the content of all course materials. Discussion boards have been enabled on the course website.

Email

When emailing your professor or TAs, please use your utoronto.ca address. Please also include "SOC200" and a brief description in the subject line, so your email can be easily prioritized. Emails will typically be answered within 48 hours. Keep in mind that for simple questions, email is the preferred method of communication. However, for longer questions, students should attend office hours and/or schedule an appointment with a TA or the professor.

Late Assignments

Unless otherwise specified, all assignments are due online **before the beginning of class** on the due date provided and **MUST** be uploaded to turnitin.com by 5 pm on that date. Late assignments will be penalized 5 percentage points per day, including weekend days. **Late assignments will not be accepted via email.** Work handed in late should be put in the second-year mailbox in Room 225 in the Sociology Department (725 Spadina Avenue), Monday-Friday 9:00am-5:00pm, after it is date-stamped (date-stamp machine is located in Room 225).

Missed Tests

Students who miss a test will be assigned a grade of 0. However, students may have an absence excused with proper documentation in the case of illness or unforeseen personal circumstance. Proper documentation consists of an original (not a photocopy or scan) Verification of Student Illness or Injury form completed by a doctor **on or before the day of the test** (you may find the form at www.illnessverification.utoronto.ca). All documentation must be received via email or in a sealed envelope addressed to Prof. La Touche. If documentation is received and deemed sufficient **within one week of the test**, a

make-up test will be scheduled. Students who do not attend the scheduled make-up test will receive a grade of 0.

Re-Grading Tests/Assignments

All requests for re-grading the term tests or course assignments should be made to your TA within two weeks of the date when the tests/assignments are returned to the class. A short memo that clearly states specific reasons to justify the request and backs up these reasons with evidence from your assignment must be submitted to your TA. No re-grading requests will be considered if the request is submitted more than two weeks after the tests or assignments are returned to the class. This deadline applies to all students including those who missed the class when the tests/assignments were returned. It is the responsibility of the student to pick up their tests/assignments on time in class.

Turnitin.com

Normally, students will be required to submit their course essays to Turnitin.com for review of textual similarity and detection of possible plagiarism. In doing so, students will allow their essays to be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference database, where they will be used solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism. The terms that apply to the University's use of the Turnitin.com service are described at <http://www.teaching.utoronto.ca/teaching/academicintegrity/turnitin/conditions-use.htm>

Assignments not submitted through *Turnitin* will receive a grade of zero (0 %) **unless a student instead provides, along with their position paper**, sufficient secondary material (e.g., reading notes, outlines of the paper, rough drafts of the final draft, etc.) to establish that the paper they submit is truly their own. The alternative (not submitting via *Turnitin*) is in place because, strictly speaking, using *Turnitin* is voluntary for students at the University of Toronto.

Writing Centres

All students are encouraged to visit and make use of the available writing centres. Writing tutors may help you brainstorm ideas, develop a thesis, structure and organize your paper, present your evidence effectively, argue logically, cite appropriately and express yourself clearly and concisely. However, proofreading and copyediting for spelling, grammar, or format are not within the primary scope of the writing centres.

Accessibility

The University of Toronto is committed to accessibility. If you require accommodations or have any accessibility concerns, please visit <http://studentlife.utoronto.ca/accessibility> as soon as possible.

Academic Integrity/Academic Misconduct

The University of Toronto treats academic integrity and academic misconduct very seriously. To participate honestly, respectfully, responsibly, and fairly in the academic community at U of T, you should familiarize yourself with the University of Toronto's Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters (<http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/policies/behaveac.htm>).

In addition, students should acquaint themselves with the rules concerning plagiarism and other forms of academic misconduct, including but not limited to:

- Using someone else's ideas or words without appropriate acknowledgement.
- Copying material word-for-word from a source without quotation marks.
- Including references to sources that you did not use.
- Obtaining or providing unauthorized assistance on any assignment including (e.g.) working in groups on assignments that are supposed to be individual work
- Lending your work to a classmate who submits it as his/her own.
- Letting someone else look at your answers on a test.
- Falsifying or altering any documentation required by the University.

Student Contacts

You are responsible for all material presented in class, including announcements. If you are unable to attend class, you should obtain notes from a classmate. Write down the contact information for two of your classmates below in case you need notes.

Name: _____	Name: _____
E-mail: _____	E-mail: _____
Phone: _____	Phone: _____
Other: _____	Other: _____