

SOCIOLOGY 455H1S
RESEARCHING FROM A SOCIAL NETWORK PERSPECTIVE

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Class Time: T11-1
Location: FE36
Office Hours: M: 1-3
Web Page: portal.utoronto.ca

COURSE DESCRIPTION

In *Introduction to Social Network Analysis* you learned that social network analysts study patterns of relations and the sources and consequences of these patterns. You also learned what researchers have found when applying a social network perspective to a variety of sociological topics such as community, health, immigration, and crime.

In this course *you* will be the social network analyst. You will learn what social network data looks like, you will learn how to describe the properties of social networks and positions within social networks, and most importantly you will learn how to use these skills to answer your own sociological questions.

The **prerequisites** to take this course is SOC202H1, SOC355H1 **and** at least .5 more FCEs at the SOC300 level. These prerequisites will be enforced without exception. Students not having the prerequisites can be removed at any time without notice.

COURSE GOALS

After completing this course, students should be able to:

- i) Describe, read, and enter social network data.
- ii) Distinguish between different kinds of social networks and network ties
- iii) Demonstrate knowledge of social network data collection methods
- iv) Understand and calculate simple ego network measures by hand and with software
- v) Analyze ego network data to show relationships between network properties, their causes and their consequences
- vi) Relate network properties to their causes and consequences

REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING

Short Form Proposal	15%
Interviews	15%
Presentations	15%
Online Literature Diary	15%
Peer Review	10%
Final Paper	20%
In-Class Assignments	10%
Total	100%

SOFTWARE AND READINGS

Readings are available the University of Toronto Libraries. I recommend that you install the myaccess bookmarklet for easiest access to the readings when working off campus. In addition, you will need to have access to the following software:

- Microsoft Excel
- SPSS (Student version is fine!)

Both programs are available in the classroom where this class is taught, which is also available for use as a computer lab at particular times. These may also be available at other computer labs in the University.

COURSE OUTLINE

1	Jan 7	Course Introduction	No Reading
2	Jan 14	Introduction to SPSS and Network Data Reading Network Literature	Due: Short Form Proposal Marsden, Peter. 2011. "Survey Methods for Network Data." Pp. 370-388 in <i>The Sage Handbook of Social Network Analysis</i> , edited by J. Scott and P. Carrington. London: Sage. You will be assigned one additional reading.
3	Jan 21	Aggregating and Merging Data	Extension Due Date: Short Form Proposal Marsden, Peter V. 1987. "Core Discussion Networks of Americans." <i>American Sociological Review</i> 52:122-31.
4	Jan 28	Categorical Independent Variables	Receive Surveys Moore, Gwen. 1990. "Structural Determinants of Men's and Women's Personal Networks." <i>American Sociological Review</i> 55: 726-35.
5	Feb 4	Continuous Independent Variables	Lin, Nan. 1999. "Social Networks and Status Attainment" <i>Annual Review of Sociology</i> . 22:467-87. (Note: Find research paper, not annual review article)
6	Feb 11	Data Entry Tutorial	No Readings
7	Feb 25	Dichotomous Dependent Variables	Due: Uploaded Interview Data Lai, Gina and Odalia Wong. 2002. "The Tie Effect on Information Dissemination: The Spread of a Commercial Rumor in Hong Kong." <i>Social Networks</i> . 24:49-75.
8	March 4	Data Analysis Tutorial	No Readings Start your data analysis before class and bring your work in progress so you can get help with both the analyses and figuring out what the results mean.
9	March 11	Writing Workshop	Due: Final Paper Drafts Reading TBA
10	March 18	Network Data Quality	Due: Peer Reviews Marin, Alexandra. 2004. "Are Respondents More Likely to List Alters with Certain Characteristics? Implications for Name Generator Data." <i>Social Networks</i> 26: 289-307. Campbell, Karen E. and Barrett A. Lee. 1991. "Name Generators in Surveys of Personal Networks." <i>Social Networks</i> 13:203-221.
11	March 25	Qualitative Network Analysis	Smith, Sandra S. "'Don't Put My Name on it': Social Capital Activation and Job Finding Assistance among the Black Urban Poor". <i>American Journal of Sociology</i> . 111:1-57
12	April 1	Network Olympics	Due: Final Papers No Readings

COURSE POLICIES

ATTENDANCE AND PREPARATION

Attendance is required. Students are responsible for all material presented in class. Students who are unable to attend class on a given day are responsible for obtaining from their classmates notes on all material covered as well as information regarding any administrative announcements that may have been made. Students are expected to complete all assigned readings in advance of the class period for which they are assigned.

COURSE WEB SITE

The course website prepared on the Blackboard system will contain the course syllabus, all handouts, links of interest, and course announcements. In addition files required for completion of the final paper will be available for download and each student will be required to upload interview data to the blackboard web site.

EMAIL

When emailing me, you must use your utoronto.ca address, as this is the only address I can be sure is yours. Please also be sure to include "SOC455" in the subject line. All students are responsible for checking their official utoronto.ca email addresses regularly, including the evening before class.

USE OF WRITING CENTRES

All students are encouraged to use their available writing centres. Writing tutors provide help you to think through your ideas, develop a thesis, organize your paper, present your evidence effectively, argue logically, and express yourself more clearly and concisely. Proofreading and copyediting for spelling, grammar, or format are *not* within the primary scope of the writing centres' services.

LATE ASSIGNMENTS

Unless otherwise specified, all assignments are due in hard copy at the beginning of class on due date provided. Final papers will be penalized 5% per day, including weekend or holiday days. Late short form proposals will be penalized 15% per day and will not be accepted more than 2 days late. Late interview data will be penalized 10% in total and will not be accepted more than 2 days late. Students who do not submit drafts on time for any reason will not have the opportunity to do the peer review assignment and will receive a 0. Late peer reviews will be penalized 10% in total and will not be accepted more than 2 days late. Students who do not attend class on their scheduled presentation date will be penalized 10% and will be assigned an alternative date and topic on which to do their own presentation.

IN-CLASS ASSIGNMENTS

Students will complete short in class assignments each week, typically based on the readings for the week. Students not in class or not in class on time will receive a 0 for these assignments. To account for the possibility that students may miss class due to illness, the lowest two marks from these assignments will be dropped.

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.

TURNITIN.COM

Normally, students will be required to submit their course essays to Turnitin.com for a 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 on the Turnitin.com web site. Turnitin can now be accessed via Blackboard and no course id or password are necessary.

ACADEMIC OFFENCES

Academic integrity is fundamental to learning and scholarship at the University of Toronto. Participating honestly, respectfully, responsibly, and fairly in this academic community ensures that the U of T degree that you earn will be valued as a true indication of your individual academic achievement, and will continue to receive the respect and recognition it deserves.

Familiarize yourself with the University of Toronto's *Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters* (<http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/policies/behaveac.htm>). It is the rule book for academic behaviour at the U of T, and you are expected to know the rules. Potential offences include, but are not limited to:

In papers and assignments:

- Using someone else's ideas or words without appropriate acknowledgement.
- Copying material word-for-word from a source (including lecture and study group notes) and not placing the words within quotation marks.
- Submitting your own work in more than one course without the permission of the instructor.
- Making up sources or facts.
- Including references to sources that you did not use.
- Obtaining or providing unauthorized assistance on any assignment including
 - working in groups on assignments that are supposed to be individual work,
 - having someone rewrite or add material to your work while "editing".
- Lending your work to a classmate who submits it as his/her own without your permission.

On tests and exams:

- Using or possessing any unauthorized aid, including a cell phone.
- Looking at someone else's answers
- Letting someone else look at your answers.
- Misrepresenting your identity.
- Submitting an altered test for re-grading.

Misrepresentation:

- Falsifying or altering any documentation required by the University, including doctor's notes.
- Falsifying institutional documents or grades.

To remind you of these expectations, and help you avoid accidental offences, I will ask you to complete an online Academic Integrity Checklist for your presentation and final paper. These will be available on Blackboard. There will be a 10% penalty for students who do not complete the checklist.

The University of Toronto treats cases of academic misconduct very seriously. All suspected cases of academic dishonesty will be investigated following the procedures outlined in the *Code*. The consequences for academic misconduct can be severe, including a failure in the course and a notation on your transcript. If you have any questions about what is or is not permitted in this course, please do not hesitate to contact me. If you have questions about appropriate research and citation methods, seek out additional information from me, or from other available campus resources like the [U of T Writing Website](#). If you are experiencing personal challenges that are having an impact on your academic work, please speak to me or seek the advice of your college registrar.

PRESENTATIONS

You will be assigned a presentation topic and date based on your paper topic. Your presentation topic will be related to your paper topic so that the work you do preparing for your presentation can also be used in the your final paper. I strongly encourage you to meet with me a couple of weeks before your presentation to discuss your plan.

FINAL RESEARCH PAPER

Your major assignment in this course will be to use social network data to answer the research question that you posed in your SOC355 research proposal. For many of you, this will be the first time you have had the opportunity to conduct a research study. This may be intimidating, but rest assured that we will tackle the project together in stages, and when each stage comes you will know what you need to know. If you have trouble applying what you know, help will be available both in my office hours and in class time set aside for this purpose during weeks 6 and 8.

As part of this project, the entire class will conduct interviews to collect the data that you will all analyze. **Given that you will need to depend on your classmates to collect your data and that your classmates will be depending on you to collect theirs, it is extremely important that you submit your short form proposal and interview data on time.** If your survey questions aren't in on time your classmates won't be able to ask them. If your data aren't in on time your classmates won't have data to analyze. Therefore, late short form proposals will be penalized 15% per day and will not be accepted more than 2 days late. Late interview data will be penalized 10% in total and will not be accepted more than 2 days late.

If you do not submit a short form proposal on time your survey questions will not be included in the interviews. Therefore, you will need to see me in office hours to develop a paper topic that you can write using the existing survey questions. This is entirely do-able and not the end of the world, but I assume you would rather write on a topic that interests you, so be sure to submit your proposal on time.

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 names and contact information for two of your classmates below so you'll have someone to contact if you need notes.

Name: _____

E-mail: _____

E-mail: _____

Phone: _____

Phone: _____

Other (IM, Skype etc.): _____

Other (IM, Skype etc.): _____

Name: _____