



**FACULTY OF ARTS AND SCIENCE
SOCIOLOGY AND ANTHROPOLOGY
RESEARCH METHODS II: QUANTITATIVE APPROACHES SOAN 3314.01
COURSE OUTLINE Winter 2012**

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TEACHING AND LEARNING PLATFORM

Moodle login: <http://moodlelive.msvu.ca>
Moodle Student Guide: <http://moodlelive.msvu.ca/mod/resource/view.php?id=34234>

Technical Help: If you require assistance with Moodle, please first contact Distance Learning: (902) 457-6717; Email: online@msvu.ca

CLASS MEETS: MONDAY/WEDNESDAY 3:05-4:20 (EVR 308C)

COURSE DESCRIPTION An introduction to the processes involved in quantitative social survey research. Students will learn to apply basic statistical skills (using a computer-based statistical program like SPSS), and how to undertake and critically assess quantitative analyses. *(Also listed under Public Policy Studies)*

COURSE PRE-REQUISITES SOAN 3313 and MATH 2209 (MATH 2209 may be taken concurrently with SOAN 3314)

COURSE GOAL The goal of this course is for students to develop competence in the use of numerical, graphical, and algebraic representations. Students will demonstrate the ability to interpret data, analyze graphical information, and communicate solutions in written and oral form. In addition students will use critical thinking and problem solving skills in analyzing information gathered through different media and from a variety of sources. Through the study of equations, graphs and matrices of relations in data, the students will practice organizing and analyzing data in a way that can lead to valid conclusions.

STUDENT LEARNING OBJECTIVES: After completing this course, students will be able to:

- Collect, analyze and interpret quantitative information
- Understand the importance of clear communication of research results
- Utilize computer software packages, specifically SPSS, to analyze data and generate results.

COURSE TEXT(S) THERE IS 1 REQUIRED BOOKS FOR THIS COURSE:

Ritchey, Ferris J. (2008) *The Statistical Imagination* 2nd Edition. New York: McGraw-Hill.

In addition to the book, I expect everyone to have their own flash drive for this course.

ONLINE RESOURCES

Additional readings will be posted to our course website on Moodle and will be marked required (r) or optional (o) accordingly. I also encourage students to make use of the public forum and posting facilities available to them on our course webpage.

TEACHING AND LEARNING STRATEGIES

This course is designed in the spirit of the principles of active learning. My role in the course is to facilitate and encourage discussion and debate. Notes and handouts will be provided from time to time to assist you in your note taking and for preparing your written work.

SYLLABUS (WHAT WE WILL BE DOING, LEARNING AND WHEN THROUGHOUT THE COURSE):

Course Plan

Date	Topic	Core Reading
Jan 4	Introduction to Class	Chapter 1
Jan 9-11	Data and Statistical Error	Chapter 2
Jan 16-18	Graphing Data	Chapter 3
Jan 23	Central Tendency	Chapter 4
Jan 30-Feb 1	Dispersion	Chapter 5
Feb 6-8	Probability I	Chapter 6
Feb 13-15	Probability II	Chapter 7
Feb 27-29	Confidence Intervals	Chapter 8
Mar 5-7	Hypothesis Testing	Chapters 9-10
Mar 12-14	Bivariate Analysis	Chapter 11
Mar 19-21	Chi-Square	Chapter 13
Mar 26-28	Correlation/Regression I	Chapter 14
Apr 2-4	Correlation/Regression II	Chapter 15

In consultation with the class, the instructor reserves the right to amend the above course plan with reasonable notice to you.

ASSESSMENT AND EVALUATION

MARKS WILL BE EARNED BY COMPLETING THE FOLLOWING:

WEEKLY ASSIGNMENTS (BEST 10)	40%
QUIZZES (BEST 10)	20%
ASSIGNMENTS (4@ 10%; INCLUDES FINAL PROJECT)	40%

TOTAL 100%

THERE IS NO FINAL EXAM SCHEDULED FOR THIS CLASS

ASSIGNMENTS: DELIVERABLES AND EXPECTATIONS (Make sure you read and understand the late work policy).

Coursework includes:

Weekly Assignments (4% each):

You will be asked to complete 12 assignments dealing with questions from the textbook chapter as well as SPSS exercises. Please refer to Moodle for further instructions. I will grade the best 10 assignments. ALL 12 ASSIGNMENTS MUST BE PASSED IN.

Quizzes (2% each):

You will have 14 weekly chapter quizzes (including the first week) to be completed online and submitted to me by the Friday of each week of the term. I will grade the best 10 quizzes submitted. ALL 14 QUIZZES MUST BE COMPLETED.

ASSIGNMENTS (10% EACH)

You will be required to complete 3 assignments which will require research design, some data entry, manipulation, statistical analysis and a research report of the findings. More instructions will be provided on Moodle.

Approximate Dates:

1	January 30
2	March 5
3	April 4

Final Project (10%)

You will have a final project of your own choosing to complete. This will include data collection, data cleaning, data entry, manipulation, analysis and a final research report. Pieces of the project will be ongoing throughout the term (see above). The final project is due Friday April 20.

UNDERGRADUATE GRADING SCHEME

The Mount's Undergraduate Course Guidelines for Marking can be read at:

<http://www.msvu.ca/en/home/programsdepartments/undergradprograms/regulations/gradingexaminations.aspx>

CONFLICTS

Students requesting special consideration as a result of a conflict with a deadline for an assignment or an examination must do so in advance of the relevant deadline.

LATE ASSIGNMENTS

Given the structure of this course, it is imperative that you keep up with assignments. To that end, I will generally not accept late work, except under exceptional circumstances. Unexcused late work will be docked 10% each day late.

GUIDELINES FOR WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS

You must submit all written assignments to receive a final grade. You must submit a hardcopy and/or an electronic version of your written assignment, which should be an example of an original, acceptable piece of scholarly work and follow the minimum/maximum page range indicated in the assignment details.

Your written assignment must include the following information:

- a cover page that states:
 - your name
 - course title/name/number

- your student I.D. #
- title of assignment
- date

Format:

- Times Roman text font
- 12 point font
- 1" margin
- double-spaced
- paginated (numbered)
- citation style as per MLA, APA, etc.

You are responsible for keeping a back-up copy of all your written work.

LANGUAGE

Correct use of language is one of the criteria included in the evaluation of all written assignments.

COURSE POLICIES (Read them!)

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

You play a vital role in contributing to and maintaining the culture of academic integrity expected of everyone at MSVU. Statement on Plagiarism and Cheating: University regulations on Plagiarism and Cheating and academic offenses will be strictly enforced. These regulations including applicable procedures and penalties are detailed in the University Calendar and are posted on Department notice boards and on the Mount website at:

<http://www.msvu.ca/en/home/programsdepartments/undergradprograms/regulations/academicoffenses.aspx>

ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATIONS FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Students who have a disability and who require academic accommodations must register with Disability Services (<http://www.msvu.ca/disabilityservices>) as early as possible in order to receive accommodations.

RESEARCH

Students who conduct research involving human participants must have their research reviewed in accordance with the *MSVU Policies and Procedures for Ethics Review of Research Involving Humans* before starting the research. Check with your course professor or Chair of the Department about proper procedure.

Class Attendance

Regular attendance is expected of students at all classes; the Mount recognizes the significance of attendance by stating it in the Academic Calendar at:

<http://www.msvu.ca/en/home/programsdepartments/undergradprograms/regulations/classattendance.aspx>

HELPFUL MSVU ONLINE RESOURCES FOR YOU

Distance Learning and Continuing Education

<http://www.msvu.ca/Distance/index.asp>

For course-related/administrative inquiries, textbook inquiries, proctor inquiries, etc.

Email Distance Learning: distance@msvu.ca or call (902) 457-6511, toll free 1-800-665-3838.

Undergraduate Academic Calendar

<http://www.msvu.ca/calendar/undergraduate.asp>

Library

<http://www.msvu.ca/library/>

Writing Resource Centre

<http://www.msvu.ca/en/home/student-services/academic-advising-support/writing-resource-centre/default.aspx>

Student Services

<http://www.msvu.ca/en/home/student-services/default.aspx>

PLEASE NOTE: Class Cancellation Line: (902) 457-6566