

CARLETON UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY AND ANTHROPOLOGY
SOCI 2000 A
SUMMER 2026
FOUNDATIONS OF SOCIOLOGICAL INQUIRY

Instructor: Professor Steven Prus

Virtual Office Hours: Tuesday 1:30-2:30pm or by appointment at:

<https://carleton-ca.zoom.us/j/5206135200>

Email: steven.prus@carleton.ca

Brightspace course page: <https://carleton-ca.zoom.us/j/5206135200>

Pre-requisites: SOCI 1001 and SOCI 1002, or SOCI 1003 [1.0], or ANTH 1001, or ANTH 1002.

Method of Delivery: Online, Synchronous

Course Schedule: Live lecture and tutorial on Tuesday and Thursday 2:35-5:25pm

Course Description and Objectives:

This course is an introduction to sociological inquiry or the systematic study of human behaviour with social groups, institutions, and society as a whole. It looks at the main stages of the research process, from formulating research questions and hypotheses to data-collection methods to reporting research findings. Topics include the:

foundations and nature of social research;
relationship between theory and data;
research ethics;
techniques for the data collection; and
analysis of quantitative and qualitative data.

The course will prepare students to critically evaluate and carry-out independent social research and for more advanced courses in research methods. The two-hour lecture (per class) is designed to provide a foundational understanding of the research process. The lecture is followed by a one-hour TA-led tutorial. Attendance at both lecture and tutorial is required.

Lectures, tutorials, tests, and office hours will be delivered synchronously (in real-time) on Zoom. All lecture material, including lecture notes, will be posted on Brightspace.

Learning Outcomes:

- Generate a research question and plan;
- Explain the relationship between theory and data;
- Understand the nature of quantitative research (e.g., experimental, survey) methods and data analyses;
- Describe research methods (e.g., unstructured, semi-structured interviews) used to collect qualitative data; Assess ethical aspects of a research project.

Reading(s)/Textbook(s): Edward Bell, et al., 2022. Social Research Methods, 6th Edition. Toronto: Oxford University Press.

- The cost of the textbook is \$131.99 • Second-hand copies of the textbook are available, supported, and can be used in the course.

Course Requirements & Methods of Evaluation:

Assessment *	Weight
Multiple-choice Test 1 (May 21 at 2:35-3:35pm)	20%
Multiple-choice Test 2 (June 11 at 2:35-3:35pm)	30%
Attendance (lecture and tutorial)	20%
Take-home Exam (due June 27 at 11:59pm through Brightspace)	30%

* Please note:

1. the tests are delivered remotely through Brightspace.
2. with medical or university documentation, Tests 1 and 2 can be rescheduled for the following Saturday: May 23 at 6:00-7:00pm and June 13 at 6:00-7:30pm respectively. The tests cannot be rescheduled again.
3. take-home exam is based on essay-style questions that examine and apply core topics in the course and textbook.
4. late exams will be penalized at a rate of 10% of the mark per day, barring medical or university documentation.

Citation Style

The Chicago author-date citation style (17th edition) must be used in the course paper.

For more information, please see:

https://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguide/citationguide-2.html

In this course, you are expected to learn from your texts, your teacher and from one another. This requires striving towards understanding each other but it does not imply striving towards finding agreement. Our class will be racially, religiously, politically, culturally, generationally, and economically diverse. We will be of different gender identifications and sexual orientations and our lived experiences and reactions to the course material will reflect this diversity. Sharing our perspectives and interpretations on the course material will enhance everyone's learning experience and you are encouraged to openly express any disagreements with the authors you will read, with your fellow classmates, or with the Professor in the different participation fora that are available for this course. However, you are expected to conduct yourself in such a way that shows the utmost respect to others who may – or may not – share your views. Derogatory comments and hateful behavior towards others (and their views) will not be tolerated.

Carleton University acknowledges the location of its campus on the traditional, unceded territories of the Algonquin nation. In doing so, Carleton acknowledges it has a responsibility to the Algonquin people and a responsibility to adhere to Algonquin cultural protocols.

Additional Information

In accordance with the Carleton University Undergraduate Calendar Regulations, the letter grades assigned in this course will have the following percentage equivalents:

A+ = 90-100	B+ = 77-79	C+ = 67-69	D+ = 57-59
A = 85-89	B = 73-76	C = 63-66	D = 53-56
A - = 80-84	B - = 70-72	C - = 60-62	D - = 50-52
F= Below 50	WDN = Withdrawn from the course	DEF = Deferred	

Academic Regulations, Accommodations, Plagiarism, Etc.

University rules regarding registration, withdrawal, appealing marks, and most anything else you might need to know can be found on the university's website, here:

<https://calendar.carleton.ca/undergrad/regulations/academicregulationsoftheuniversity/>

Carleton is committed to providing academic accessibility for all individuals. You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term. The accommodation request processes, including information about the

Academic Consideration Policy for Students in Medical and Other Extenuating Circumstances, are outlined on the Academic Accommodations website (<https://students.carleton.ca/course-outline/>). For an accommodation request, the processes are as follows:

Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

The Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC: <https://carleton.ca/pmc/>) provides services to students with Learning Disabilities (LD), psychiatric/mental health disabilities, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD), chronic medical conditions, and impairments in mobility, hearing, and vision. If you have a disability requiring academic accommodations in this course, please contact PMC at **613-520-6608** or pmc@carleton.ca for a formal evaluation. If you are already registered with the PMC, contact your PMC coordinator to send your **Letter of Accommodation** at the beginning of the term, and no later than two weeks before the first in-class scheduled test or exam requiring accommodation (*if applicable*).

*The deadline for contacting the Paul Menton Centre regarding accommodation for June examinations is **June 1, 2026** and **August 1, 2026** for August examinations.

For Religious Obligations:

Please contact your instructor with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details, visit the Equity Services website: www.carleton.ca/equity/wp-content/uploads/Student-Guide-to-Academic-Accommodation.pdf

For Pregnancy:

Please contact your instructor with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details, visit the Equity Services website: www.carleton.ca/equity/wp-content/uploads/Student-Guide-to-Academic-Accommodation.pdf

For Survivors of Sexual Violence

As a community, Carleton University is committed to maintaining a positive learning, working and living environment where sexual violence will not be tolerated, and where survivors are supported through academic accommodations as per Carleton's Sexual Violence Policy. For more information about the services available at the university and to obtain information about sexual violence and/or support, visit: www.carleton.ca/sexual-violence-support

Accommodation for Student Activities

Carleton University recognizes the substantial benefits, both to the individual student and for the university, that result from a student participating in activities beyond the classroom experience. Reasonable accommodation must be provided to students who compete or perform at the national or international level. Please contact your instructor

with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist.

<https://carleton.ca/senate/wp-content/uploads/Accommodation-for-Student-Activities-1.pdf>

Plagiarism

Plagiarism is the passing off of someone else's work as your own and is a serious academic offence. For the details of what constitutes plagiarism, the potential penalties and the procedures refer to the section on Instructional Offences in the Undergraduate Calendar. Students are expected to familiarize themselves with and follow the Carleton University Student Academic Integrity Policy (See <https://carleton.ca/registrar/academic-integrity/>). The Policy is strictly enforced and is binding on all students. Academic dishonesty in any form will not be tolerated. Students who infringe the Policy may be subject to one of several penalties.

Generative Artificial Intelligence Tools (e.g. ChatGPT)

Unless explicitly permitted, either generally or for a specific assignment, any use of generative AI tools to produce assessed content is considered a violation of academic integrity standards.

As our understanding of the uses of AI and its relationship to student work and academic integrity continue to evolve, students are required to discuss their use of AI in any circumstance not described here with the course instructor to ensure it supports the learning goals for the course.

Note: Students can also access resources related to citing Generative AI on the [MacOdrum Library website](#).

What are the Penalties for Plagiarism?

A student found to have plagiarized an assignment may be subject to one of several penalties including but not limited to: a grade of zero, a failure or a reduced grade for the piece of academic work; reduction of final grade in the course; completion of a remediation process; resubmission of academic work; withdrawal from course(s); suspension from a program of study; a letter of reprimand.

What are the Procedures?

All allegations of plagiarism are reported to the faculty of Dean of FASS and Management. Documentation is prepared by instructors and departmental chairs. The Dean writes to the student and the University Ombudsperson about the alleged plagiarism. The Dean reviews the allegation. If it is not resolved at this level then it is referred to a tribunal appointed by the Senate.

Statement on Student Mental Health:

“As a student you may experience a range of mental health challenges that significantly impact your academic success and overall well-being. If you need help, please speak to someone. There are numerous resources available both on- and off-campus to support you. For more information, please consult <https://wellness.carleton.ca/>”

Emergency Resources ([on and off campus](#))

- Crisis/Urgent Counselling Support: 613-520-6674 (Mon-Fri, 8:30-4:30)
- Suicide Crisis Helpline: call or text 9-8-8, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.
- For immediate danger or urgent medical support: call 9-1-1

Carleton Resources

- Mental Health and Wellbeing: <https://carleton.ca/wellness/>
- Health & Counselling Services: <https://carleton.ca/health/>
- Paul Menton Centre: <https://carleton.ca/pmc/>
- Academic Advising Centre (AAC): <https://carleton.ca/academicadvising/>
- Centre for Student Academic Support (CSAS): <https://carleton.ca/csas/>
- Equity & Inclusivity Communities: <https://carleton.ca/equity/>

Off Campus Resources

- Distress Centre of Ottawa and Region: call 613-238-3311, text 343-306-5550, or connect online at <https://www.dcottawa.on.ca/>
- Mental Health Crisis Service: call 613-722-6914 or toll-free 1-866-996-0991, or connect online at <http://www.crisisline.ca/>
- Good2Talk: call 1-866-925-5454 or connect online at <https://good2talk.ca/>
- The Walk-In Counselling Clinic: for online or on-site service
<https://walkincounselling.com>

Important Information:

- Student or professor materials created for this course (including presentations and posted notes, labs, case studies, assignments and exams) remain the intellectual property of the author(s). They are intended for personal use and may not be reproduced or redistributed without prior written consent of the author(s).
- Students must always retain a hard copy of all work that is submitted.
- Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor subject to the approval of the Faculty Dean. This means that grades submitted by the instructor may be subject to revision. No grades are final until they have been approved by the Dean.
- Carleton University is committed to protecting the privacy of those who study or work here (currently and formerly). To that end, Carleton’s Privacy

Office seeks to encourage the implementation of the privacy provisions of Ontario's *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* (FIPPA) within the university.

- In accordance with FIPPA, please ensure all communication with staff/faculty is via your Carleton email account. To get your Carleton Email you will need to activate your [MyCarletonOne account](#) through Carleton Central. Once you have activated your MyCarletonOne account, log into the [MyCarleton Portal](#).
- Please note that you will be able to link your MyCarletonOne account to other non-MyCarletonOne accounts and receive emails from us. However, for us to respond to your emails, we need to see your full name, CU ID, and the email must be written from your valid MyCarletonOne address. Therefore, it would be easier to respond to your inquiries if you would send all email from your connect account. If you do not have or have yet to activate this account, you may wish to do so by visiting <https://students.carleton.ca/>.

SUMMER TERM 2026 – Important Dates and Deadlines

Date	Activity
SUMMER TERM 2026	
March 1, 2026	Last day for receipt of applications for admission to an undergraduate degree program for the summer term.
April 29, 2026	Deadline for course outlines to be made available to students registered in early summer and full summer courses.
May 1, 2026	Last day for receipt of applications for undergraduate degree program transfer for the summer term.
May 6, 2026	Summer term begins. Early summer and full summer classes begin.
May 12, 2026	Last day for registration and course changes (including auditing) in early summer courses.

Date	Activity
	Graduate students who have not electronically submitted their final thesis copy to Graduate Studies will not be eligible to graduate in spring 2026 and must register for the summer 2026 term.
May 15-27, 2026	Full winter, late winter, and fall/winter term deferred final examinations will be held.
May 18, 2026	Statutory holiday. University closed.
May 20, 2026	Last day for registration and course changes (including auditing) in full summer courses.
	Last day to withdraw from early summer courses with a full fee adjustment.
May 31, 2026	Last day to withdraw from full summer courses with a full fee adjustment.
June 1, 2026	Last day for academic withdrawal from early summer courses.
	Last day to request Formal Examination Accommodations for June examination from the Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities. Note that it may not be possible to fulfil accommodation requests received after the specific deadlines.
June 11, 2026	Last day for summative tests or examinations, or formative tests or examinations totaling more than 15% of the final grade in early summer term undergraduate courses before the official examination period (see examination regulations in the Academic Regulations of the University section of the Undergraduate Calendar/General Regulations of the Graduate Calendar).
June 18, 2026	Last day of early summer classes. (NOTE: full summer classes resume July 2.)
	Classes follow a Monday schedule.

Date	Activity
	Last day for take-home examinations to be assigned, with the exception of those conforming to the examination regulations in the Academic Regulations of the University section of the Undergraduate Calendar/General Regulations of the Graduate Calendar.
	Last day that can be specified by a course instructor as a due date for term work for early summer courses.
June 19-20, 2026	No classes or examinations take place.
June 21-27, 2026	Final examinations in early summer courses and mid-term examinations in full summer courses will be held. Examinations are normally held all seven days of the week.
June 25, 2026	Deadline for course outlines to be made available to students registered in late summer courses.
June 27, 2026	All final take-home examinations are due on this day, with the exception of those conforming to the examination regulations in the Academic Regulations of the University section of the Undergraduate Calendar/General Regulations of the Graduate Calendar.
July 1, 2026	Statutory holiday. University Closed.
July 2, 2026	Late summer classes begin and full summer classes resume.
July 8, 2026	Last day for registration and course changes (including auditing) in late summer courses.
July 15, 2026	Last day to withdraw from late summer courses with a full fee adjustment.
July 17-19, 2026	Early summer term deferred final examinations will be held.

Date	Activity
July 19, 2026	Last day for graduate students to submit their supervisor-approved thesis, in examinable form to the department.
August 1, 2026	Last day for academic withdrawal from full and late summer courses.
	Last day to request Formal Examination Accommodations for August final examinations from the Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities. Note that it may not be possible to fulfil accommodation requests received after the specified deadlines.
August 3, 2026	Statutory holiday. University closed.
August 7, 2026	Last day for summative tests or examinations, or formative tests or examinations totaling more than 15% of the final grade in late summer and full summer term undergraduate courses, before the official examination period (see examination regulations in the Academic Regulations of the University section of the Undergraduate Calendar/General Regulations of the Graduate Calendar).
August 14, 2026	Last day of late summer and full summer classes.
	Classes follow a Monday schedule.
	Last day for final take-home examinations to be assigned, with the exception of those conforming to the examination regulations in the Academic Regulations of the University section of the Undergraduate Calendar/General Regulations of the Graduate Calendar.
	Last day that can be specified by a course instructor as a due date for term work for late summer and full summer courses.
August 15-16, 2026	No classes or examinations take place.

Date	Activity
August 17-23, 2026	Final examinations in late summer and full summer courses will be held. Examinations are normally held all seven days of the week.
August 23, 2026	All final take-home examinations are due on this day, with the exception of those conforming to the examinations regulations in the Academic Regulations of the University section of the Undergraduate Calendar/General Regulations of the Graduate Calendar.
September 18-20, 2026	Full summer and late summer term deferred final examinations will be held.

COURSE OUTLINE

Date Topics and Required Readings

Part I: Fundamental Issues in Social Research

May 7, 12, 14 Main Topics: Deductive and Inductive Approaches; Epistemological and Ontological Considerations; Introduction to Quantitative and Qualitative Research Designs; Research Ethics and Principles.
 Readings: Chs. 1, 2, and 3

Part II: Quantitative Research

May 19 Main Topics: Main Steps and Goals of Quantitative Research; Measurement; Critiques of Quantitative Research.
 Readings: Ch. 4

May 21 Main Topics: Survey Research; Questionnaires; Types and Rules for Designing Questions; Conducting Interviews; Secondary Analysis of Survey Data.

- Readings: Ch. 5
- May 26, 28
- June 2 Main Topics: Quantitative Sampling; Types of Sampling; Sampling Error; Sample Size; Quantitative Data Analysis.
Readings: Chs. 7 and 8

Part III: Qualitative Research

- June 4, 9, 11 Main Topics: Nature of Qualitative Research; Evaluating Qualitative Research; Goals of Qualitative Researchers; Critiques of Qualitative Research; Quantitative vs. Qualitative Research.
Readings: Chs. 9, 11

Part IV: Some Practical Advice

- June 16 Main Topics: Writing Up Research; Conducting a Research Project; Identifying Research Questions; Searching the Existing Literature.
Readings: Chs. 14 and 15