

COURSE OUTLINE - Winter 2026

SO2150(A3 & VC): Introduction to Social Methodology - 3 (3-0-0) 45 Hours for 15 Weeks

Northwestern Polytechnic acknowledges that our campuses are located on Treaty 8 territory, the ancestral and present-day home to many diverse First Nations, Metis, and Inuit people. We are grateful to work, live and learn on the traditional territory of Duncan's First Nation, Horse Lake First Nation and Sturgeon Lake Cree Nation, who are the original caretakers of this land.

We acknowledge the history of this land and we are thankful for the opportunity to walk together in friendship, where we will encourage and promote positive change for present and future generations.

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Rashid Begg
VENUE: E303
OFFICE: C203
OFFICE By appointment

PHONE: 780-539-2021
TIME: TUE & THUR 13:00 – 14:20
E-MAIL: mbegg@nwpolytech.ca

CALENDAR DESCRIPTION: How do we know what we know about the social world? In this course, we will tackle this question together by examining how social science scholars observe, analyze, and create knowledge about various social and criminogenic institutions and phenomenon. We will introduce you to qualitative and quantitative research methods commonly used by social science scholars and will invite you to think critically about how different methods lead to different kinds of knowledge production. We will pay special attention to how research methods have historically privileged some groups, while excluding, marginalizing, and disparaging others.

PREREQUISITE(S):

Complete the following:
SO1000 - Introductory Sociology (3)

COREQUISITE(S):

None

REQUIRED MATERIALS:

Bell, E., Bryman, A., & Klinknecht, S. (2023). *Social Research Methods*. Don Mills: Oxford.

DELIVERY MODE(S): On-Campus & Synchronous

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

This course will introduce some of the basic analytical lenses and research methods through which social science scholarship is conducted. By its conclusion students should be able to:

- Critically carry out social research
- Discuss the strengths and weaknesses of various methodological approaches.
- Assess which ways of approaching research in scholarship.
- Consider the ways different research methods might be combined to provide more inter or trans-disciplinary perspectives in the social sciences.

TRANSFERABILITY:

Please consult the Alberta Transfer Guide for more information. You may check to ensure the transferability of this course at the Alberta Transfer Guide main page <http://www.transferalberta.alberta.ca>

**** For courses with alpha (letter) grading, a grade of D or D+ may not be acceptable for transfer to other post-secondary institutions. Students are cautioned that it is their responsibility to contact the receiving institutions to ensure transferability**

EVALUATIONS:

Assessment	Total Point	Weight
4 Chapter Quizzes (5pts each *20)	20 pts	20%
Research Proposal	20 pts	20%
Midterm	25 pts	25%
Final Exam	35 pts	35%
Total	100 pts	100%

CHAPTER QUIZZES

Students will complete 4-chapter quizzes on our course webpage (myClass). There will be 10 questions (multiple choice). These quizzes serve to encourage you to consistently read the chapters and to test your knowledge as we move forward in the course. Beginning the third week of the class (See below), quizzes will open on Monday at midnight and close the following Sunday at 11:59 PM. It is your responsibility to ensure that you complete these quizzes on time. No exceptions will be made for lateness.

RESEARCH PROPOSAL

You must write a research proposal that would include a thesis statement in the introduction, show significance and contribution to scholarship by way of an adequate literature search, and showcase the proposed methods in gathering the data for the study. The topic is up to you, but options will be given upon request. The project will be broken down into the following steps: First, you will come up with a research topic (of your choice). Second, you must write an outline for a research proposal, showing how you would conduct research in this topic: write a research problem statement, and a working thesis or argument. (Lectures will be given in class to guide the project to fruition, including basic research methodologies to be employed).

MIDTERM TEST AND FINAL TEST

The Midterm term (25%) and Final Examination (30%) will consist of multiple-choice, true/false, and open questions. There will be a brief review before each of these evaluations. Tests and final exam will be based on all course material.

GRADING CRITERIA:

Please note that most institutions will not accept your course for transfer credit **IF** your grade is **less than C-**.

Grading Chart

Alpha Grade	4-point Equivalent	Percentage Guidelines		Alpha Grade	4-point Equivalent	Percentage Guidelines
A+	4.0	95-100		C+	2.3	67-69
A	4.0	85-94		C	2.0	63-66
A-	3.7	80-84		C-	1.7	60-62
B+	3.3	77-79		D+	1.3	55-59
B	3.0	73-76		D	1.0	50-54
B-	2.7	70-72		F	0.0	00-49



COURSE SCHEDULE/TENTATIVE TIMELINE:

Date	Topic	Readings and Due Dates
Week1: Jan 6	Meet and Greet, Discussion on the Research Proposal, Fundamental Issues in Social Research: Research Orientations, Research Designs, and Research Ethics	Chapters 1 - 3
Week2: Jan 13	Fundamental Issues in Social Research: Research Orientations, Research Designs, and Research Ethics	Chapters 1 – 3 Quiz 1 due
Week3: Jan 20	Quantitative Research: The Nature of Quantitative Research, Survey Research: Interviews and Questionnaires	Chapters 4 - 5
Week4: Jan 27	Quantitative Research: The Nature of Quantitative Research, Survey Research: Interviews and Questionnaires	Chapters 4 – 5 Quiz 2 due
Week 5: Feb 3	Quantitative Research: Structured Observation, Quantitative Sampling, and Quantitative Data Analysis	Chapter 6 – 8
Week6: Feb 10	Quantitative Research: Structured Observation, Quantitative Sampling, and Quantitative Data Analysis Midterm Exam (12 th Feb)	Chapter 6 – 8
Week7: Feb 17	Reading Week	
Week8: Feb 24	Qualitative Research: The Nature of Qualitative Research, Ethnography and Participant Observation	Chapter 9 - 10
Week9: Mar 3	Qualitative Research: The Nature of Qualitative Research, Ethnography and Participant Observation	Chapter 9 – 10 Quiz 3 due
Week10: Mar 10	Qualitative Research: Interviewing in Qualitative Research	Chapter 11 Research Proposal due
Week11: Mar 17	Qualitative Research: Content Analysis	Chapter 12 Reflection 3 due

Week12: Mar 24	Qualitative Data Analysis	Chapters 13 Quiz 4 due
Week13: Mar 31	Bridging the Quantitative/Qualitative Divide	Chapter 14
Week14: Apr 7 and Apr 9	Conducting a Research Project	Chapter 15

OTHER IMPORTANT DATES:

Jan 5 – Classes Start

Jan 15 – Last day to add/drop.

Feb 16 – Family Day

Feb 17 – 21 – Winter Break

March 31 – Last Day to Withdraw

April 3 – Good Friday

April 13 – Last day of classes

April 16 – 23 – Final Exam Period

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES:

VC Student Requirements

Technology	A stable internet connection sufficient to meet the class requirements. Webcam, microphone, speakers.
Class Participation	Camera on and showing your face during class. An appropriate screen name.
Test/Exam Supervision These are requirements essential to maintaining the academic integrity of the course. The dual camera option is available to VC students only	Dual camera setup. During the exams you must have a webcam showing your face and a camera behind you showing your work surface with your computer. If you are unable to meet the dual camera setup requirement VC students can pay to write the exams at an independent proctor location approved by me. Note: the proctor cannot be a friend/family member, etc.



If neither of the above two options work for you, another option is to come to the NWP campus in person and write the exams with the other students during the scheduled time.

Ultimately, you are responsible for your learning and performance in this course.

Your grades are posted to myClass, so please be sure you are tracking them there. If you believe there is an error, please let your instructor know.

Submission, Late Policies, & Issues of Intellectual Concern:

- Equally important to learn and apply professional communication skills, such as writing proper e-mail messages, it is very important to learn to meet deadlines. Complete your assignments on time!
- Late assignments received will be deducted 5% for every late day (including weekends!).
- Incomplete assignments will receive a grade of 0 unless you have a valid reason supported with appropriate documentation (i.e., a medical note from an M.D.) and you discuss it with me well in advance of any due date.
- In cases where submitted work exhibits concerning patterns or raises questions for the instructor about its creation and the student's intellectual effort involved, students may be required to submit to an oral examination regarding the work at the discretion of the instructor. Failure to participate in the oral examination will result in an assigned grade of 0 for the assessment. If, following the oral examination, the instructor still has concerns about the work, the academic misconduct provisions of the Student Rights and Responsibilities policy (linked below) may be applied.

STATEMENT ON ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT:

Academic Misconduct will not be tolerated. For a more precise definition of academic misconduct and its consequences, refer to the Student Rights and Responsibilities policy available at <https://www.nwpolytech.ca/about/polytechnic-leadership/policies-directory>.

****Note:** all Academic and Administrative policies are available on the same page.