

GEOG 3250B – Social Science Research Methods in Geography Course Syllabus* Winter 2022

This course is taught in-person

**Syllabus subject to change*

1. Course Information



ONLINE DELIVERY DETAILS <i>(until at least Jan 31st)</i>			
	Delivery Mode	Day/Time	Zoom Details:
Lecture	Synchronous <i>* begins Jan 10th</i>	Mon 12:30 – 2:30	Meeting ID: 977 6356 8856 Passcode: 980277
Lab Section 002	Synchronous <i>* begins Jan 18th</i>	Tue 10:30 – 12:30	Meeting ID: 918 4331 2454 Passcode: 867720
Lab Section 003	Synchronous <i>* begins Jan 19th</i>	Wed 1:30 – 3:30	Meeting ID: 936 5469 9172 Passcode: 500090

IN-PERSON DELIVERY DETAILS <i>(once in-person classes resume)</i>			
	Delivery Mode	Day/Time	Location
Lecture	In-person	Mon 12:30 – 2:30	SSC 1004
Lab Section 002	In-person	Tue 10:30 – 12:30	SSC 1316a
Lab Section 003	In-person	Wed 1:30 – 3:30	SSC 1316a

*Details about design and delivery of the course are listed below in Section 6

Classes Start	Spring Reading Week	Classes End	Study day(s)	Exam Period
January 10	February 21-25	April 8	April 9	April 10-30

January 18, 2022: Last day to add a second-term half course

March 14, 2022: Last day to drop a second term half course without penalty



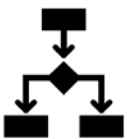
Course Instructor	Contact Information	Office Hours
Dr. Agnieszka Leszczynski	aleszczy@uwo.ca	Tues 2:45-3:45 * start Jan 18 th during online delivery: Zoom Meeting ID: 954 7438 5487 Passcode: 134478 once in-person resumes: SSC 2425

Teaching Assistant(s)	Contact Information	Office Hours
Daniel Amoak	damoak@uwo.ca *GEOG 3250 emails monitored beginning Jan 18 th	TBA *see info under Lab Session Notes on the Course Schedule (item 6 below) for weeks in which TA office hours will be held.



Office hours for Dr. Leszczynski and TAs will be held synchronously or in-person, depending on the current mode of delivery for Western courses.

2. Calendar Description



A survey of a range of social scientific methods for studying humans (e.g., interviews, questionnaires); with an emphasis on research designs involving human interaction. Topics include identifying research problems, questions and designs, sources of error, ethics and values in research, methods of data collection, data analysis and presentation of findings.

2 lecture hours per week, 2 lab hours per week, 0.5 course

Antirequisite(s): Political Science 2325F/G.

Prerequisite(s): Two full courses in Geography and third or fourth year status at the University.

Prerequisite checking is the student's responsibility

Senate Regulations state, "unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you will be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites."

3. Textbook

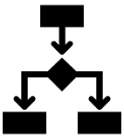


Required textbook: Bryman, Alan & Bell, Edward (2019) Social Research Methods, 5th Canadian Edition. Oxford University Press.

- Available at the University Bookstore or as a rented e-textbook via VitalSource: <https://www.vitalsource.com/en-ca/products/social-research-methods-alan-bryman-edward-bell-v9780199029518>

Additional resources: Any additional reading materials not included in the course textbook will be made available via the **Course Readings**, accessible via the OWL site for this course.

4. Course Objectives and Format



Research is the systematic pursuit of answers to questions that fascinate us. Social science research investigates a vast range of problems related to inequality, prejudice, mobility, social behaviour, cultural identity, and more. This course is designed to:

- Help students learn and apply the concepts and skills needed to design a social science research projects.
- Equip students to critically assess research conducted by others.

Attendance is required.

Missed work must be completed within 48 hours of the stated submission deadline (excluding weekends). Missed assignments/assessments not submitted within 48 hours (excluding weekends) of the original submission date will not be accepted for grading.

All course material will be posted to OWL: <http://owl.uwo.ca>. Any changes will be indicated on the OWL site and discussed with the class.

Google Chrome or Mozilla Firefox are the preferred browsers to optimally use OWL; update your browsers frequently. Students interested in evaluating their internet speed, please click [here](#). [Using the right browser is important, especially when using different features integrated with OWL]

If students need assistance, they can seek support on the OWL Help page. Alternatively, they can contact the Western Technology Services Helpdesk. They can be contacted by phone at 519-661-3800 or ext. 83800.

5. Learning Outcomes



Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Describe major research approaches, their relationship to theory, and to each other;
- Formulate effective problem statements and research questions;
- Discuss advantages and disadvantages of various methods and research designs for investigating different kinds of questions;
- Find, critically review, and synthesize academic literature on a given topic;
- Anticipate possible benefits and risks of research and plan how to fairly handle them;
- Create research instruments (surveys, interview guides) and use them to collect data;
- Apply basic concepts in sampling and probability;
- Collaborate, divide tasks and manage time effectively as part of a research team;
- Perform basic quantitative and qualitative analysis; and
- Write a convincing project proposal that demonstrates effective and ethical social research design.

6. Course Content and Schedule



Week	Lecture Topic	Readings	Lab Assigned	Lab Session notes:	Assignments Due
Week 1 • Lec Mon Jan 10 th	Course Introduction				
Week 2 • Lec Mon Jan 17 th • Labs: Tues Jan 18 th & Wed Jan 19 th	Research Problems & Questions	Chapter 1	Lab 1 Critical Research Appraisal	<i>*TA office hours held this week</i>	
Week 3 • Lec Mon Jan 24 th Labs: Weds Jan 25 th & Wed Feb 26 th	Research Design	Chapters 2 & 16	Lab 2 Ethics for Research Involving Human Subjects	* independent activity – no regularly scheduled lab session this week (i.e., you do not need to attend your lab this week).	Lab 1 due

Week	Lecture Topic	Readings	Lab Assigned	Lab Session notes	Due
Week 4 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lec Mon Jan 31st • Labs: Tues Feb 1st & Wed Feb 2nd 	Observations & Surveys	Chapters 4, 5 & 6	Lab 3 Observation	Start work on Lab 3 – independent activity (no regularly scheduled lab this week) <i>*TA office hours held this week</i>	Lab 2 due
Week 5 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lec Mon Feb 7th • Labs: Tues Feb 8th & Wed Feb 9th 	Ethnography & Participant Observation	Chapter 10		Continue working on Lab 3 this week in-lab (i.e., attend your regularly scheduled lab session)	
Week 6 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lec Mon Feb 14th • Labs: Tues Feb 15th & Wed Feb 16th 	Interviews & Focus Groups	Chapter 13	Lab 4 Instrument Design	Start work on Lab 4	Lab 3 due
FEB 21 - 25	WINTER READING WEEK				
Week 7 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lec Mon Feb 28th • Labs: Tues Mar 1st & Wed Mar 2nd 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Professor away at academic conference; no lectures this week; Labs meet as scheduled</i> 			Continue working on Lab 4	
Week 8 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lec Mon Mar 7th • Labs: Tues Mar 8th & Wed Mar 9th 	Qualitative Analysis	Chapter 13	Lab 5 Qualitative Coding & Analysis	Start working on Lab 5	Lab 4 due

Week	Lecture Topic	Readings	Lab Assigned	Lab Session notes	Due
Week 9 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lec Mon Mar 14th • Labs: Tues Mar 15th & Wed Mar 19th 	Sampling	Chapter 7		Continue working on Lab 5	
Week 10 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lec Mon Mar 21st • Labs: Tues Mar 22nd & Wed Mar 23rd 	Quantitative Analysis	Chapter 8	Lab 6 Quantitative Analysis	Start working on Lab 6	Lab 5 due
Week 11 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lec Mon Mar 28th • Labs: Tues Mar 29th & Wed Mar 30th 	Digital Methods	* see Course Readings tab in OWL for Week 11		Continue working on Lab 6	Lab 4 due
Week 12 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lec Mon Apr 4th • Labs: Tues Apr 6th & Wed Apr 7th 	Final Exam Review			<i>Lab hours dedicated to final project consulting via sign-up; time slots will be opened up in the 2nd half of the semester</i>	Lab 6 due @ regularly scheduled lab start time Term project due by 3:59 pm via OWL submission on April 8th

7. Communication



- Students should check the OWL site every 24 – 48 hours
- For any other communication, the centrally administered **e-mail account** provided to students – i.e., your “@uwo.ca” email address - will be considered the individual’s official university e-mail address. It is the responsibility of the account holder to ensure that e-mail received from the University at his/her official university address is attended to in a timely manner. You can read about the privacy and security of the UWO email accounts [here](#).
- Emails will be monitored Monday - Friday; standard response time is **24 – 48 hours excluding weekends**.
- When emailing, please put “**GEOG 3250**” in the subject line
- If you have **lab specific questions**, attend the **TA office hours** or email your TA

8. Evaluation



Below is the evaluation breakdown for the course. Any deviations will be communicated.

Assessment	Format	Weighting	Due Date
Laboratory assignments (6 assignments)	Written	40% (labs are weighted differently from each other, for a cumulative 40% of your course grade)	See course schedule
Term Project	Written	30%	April 8 th by 3:59 pm via OWL assignment submission
Final exam	Mixed format (multiple choice, short answer, long answer)	30%	Final exam period, 2 hrs

Students are responsible for material covered in the lectures, labs, as well as the assigned chapters/sections in the text.

- Except where otherwise indicated, all **assignments are due at the start of the lab section** in the week that the lab is indicated as being due. Any labs submitted **>15 minutes** after the start of a scheduled lab section will be considered late.



- ☒ Assignments will be accepted up to 48 hrs after their scheduled due date, excluding weekends
 - (e.g., if your lab is due @10:30 on Tuesday, you have until 10:30 on Thursday to submit it).
- ☒ All assignments are to be **typed**, and submitted in **PDF format (with a “.pdf” file extension) via the OWL submission portal for each assignment.**
- ☒ After an assessment is returned, students should wait 24 hours to digest feedback before contacting their TA. **If you have questions about your lab grade on any one assignment, please raise this with your TA first.** To ensure a timely response, reach out within 7 days (i.e., within a week of your lab being handed back to you).
- ☒ When deemed necessary, **virtual proctoring may be used in the delivery of the final exam.**

Click [here](#) for a detailed and comprehensive set of policies and regulations concerning examinations and grading. The table below outlines the University-wide grade descriptors.

A+	90-100	One could scarcely expect better from a student at this level
A	80-89	Superior work which is clearly above average
B	70-79	Good work, meeting all requirements, and eminently satisfactory
C	60-69	Competent work, meeting requirements
D	50-59	Fair work, minimally acceptable
F	below 50	Fail

Information about late or missed evaluations:

- ☒ Assignments (labs, term project) will not be **accepted for grading more than 48 hours (excluding weekends) after the scheduled due date & time.**
 - e.g., if your lab assignment is due on a Wednesday @ 1:30, you have until Friday @1:30pm to submit it.
 - See details below for how this applies to late assignments submitted with and without illness self-reports.
- ☒ **Late assessments without illness self-reports** will be subject to a late penalty of 10%/24 hour period up to a maximum of 20% (where/when submitted within 48 hours of the scheduled submission deadline).
- ☒ **Late assessments with illness self-reports** should be submitted within 24 hours of submission of the last illness self-report.
 - Illness self-reports will only be accepted as applying to scheduled submission dates.
 - Illness self-reports do not extend the 48 hour post-deadline period for the submission of late assignments, but a late penalty will not apply for the first 24 hrs or full 48 hrs post submission deadline, depending on the temporal window covered by your illness self-report.

Grades will not be adjusted on the basis of need. It is important to monitor your performance in the course. Remember: *You* are responsible for your grades in this course.

9. Accommodation Policies

Students with disabilities work with Accessible Education (formerly SSD) which provides recommendations for accommodation based on medical documentation or psychological and cognitive testing. The accommodation policy can be found here: [Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities](#).

Academic Consideration for Student Absence

Students will have up to two (2) opportunities during the regular academic year to use an on-line portal to self-report an absence during the term, provided the following conditions are met: the absence is no more than 48 hours in duration, and the assessment for which consideration is being sought is worth 30% or less of the student's final grade. Students are expected to contact their instructors within 24 hours of the end of the period of the self-reported absence, unless noted on the syllabus. Students are not able to use the self-reporting option in the following circumstances:

- for exams scheduled by the Office of the Registrar (e.g., December and April exams)
- absence of a duration greater than 48 hours,
- assessments worth more than 30% of the student's final grade,
- if a student has already used the self-reporting portal twice during the academic year

If the conditions for a Self-Reported Absence are *not* met, students will need to provide a Student Medical Certificate if the absence is medical, or provide appropriate documentation if there are compassionate grounds for the absence in question. Students are encouraged to contact their Faculty academic counselling office to obtain more information about the relevant documentation.

Students should also note that individual instructors are not permitted to receive documentation directly from a student, whether in support of an application for consideration on medical grounds, or for other reasons. **All documentation required for absences that are not covered by the Self-Reported Absence Policy must be submitted to the Academic Counselling office of a student's Home Faculty.**

For Western University policy on Consideration for Student Absence, see

[Policy on Academic Consideration for Student Absences - Undergraduate Students in First Entry Programs](#)

and for the Student Medical Certificate (SMC), see:

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf.

Religious Accommodation

Students should consult the University's list of recognized religious holidays, and should give reasonable notice in writing, prior to the holiday, to the Instructor and an Academic

Counsellor if their course requirements will be affected by a religious observance. Additional information is given in the [Western Multicultural Calendar](#).

10. Use of Electronic Devices

The use of electronic devices for purposes of recording video or audio of lectures or labs is strictly prohibited. This means that you cannot audio or video record the instructor, TAs, or other members of the lab teaching staff.

- If you require an accommodation on this policy, please contact the instructor (Dr. Leszczynski). For further information about accommodations, please see item 17 (Western's Commitment to Accessibility) below.

Phones are to remain put away during class (i.e., in your schoolbag, pocket, etc.). If you must make/take an urgent phone call or send/read a text, please step outside of the class to do so.

No electronic devices will be allowed during examinations.

11. Lecture materials and course content

All course materials – including lecture slides, lecture audio and vide – are the copyright of the instructor, and may not be disseminated, posted, shared, or made available online through any course notes websites, or any other channels.

12. How to Be Successful in this Class:



Students enrolled in this class should understand the level of autonomy and self-discipline required to be successful.

1. Invest in a planner or application to keep track of your courses. Populate all your deadlines at the start of the term and schedule time at the start of each week to get organized and manage your time.
2. Make it a daily habit to log onto OWL to ensure you have seen everything posted to help you succeed in this class.
3. Follow weekly checklists created on OWL or create your own to help you stay on track.
4. Take notes as you go through the lesson material. Keeping handwritten notes or even notes on a regular Word document will help you learn more effectively.
5. Connect with others. Try forming a study group and try meeting on a weekly basis for study and peer support.
6. Do not be afraid to ask questions. If you are struggling with a topic, check the online discussion boards or contact your instructor(s) and or teaching assistant(s).
7. Reward yourself for successes. It seems easier to motivate ourselves knowing that there is something waiting for us at the end of the task.

13. Course delivery with respect to the COVID-19 pandemic

Although the intent is for this course to be delivered in-person, the changing COVID-19 landscape may necessitate some or all of the course to be delivered online, either synchronously (i.e., at the times indicated in the timetable) or asynchronously (e.g., posted on OWL for

students to view at their convenience). The grading scheme will not change. Any assessments affected will be conducted online as determined by the course instructor.

When deemed necessary, tests and examinations in this course will be conducted using a remote proctoring service. By taking this course, you are consenting to the use of this software and acknowledge that you will be required to provide personal information (including some biometric data) and the session will be recorded. Completion of this course will require you to have a reliable internet connection and a device that meets the technical requirements for this service. More information about this remote proctoring service, including technical requirements, is available on Western's Remote Proctoring website at: <https://remoteproctoring.uwo.ca>.

14. Information on COVID-19

Masking Guidelines

Students will be expected to wear triple layer, non-medical, paper masks at all times in the classroom as per University policy and public health directives. Students who are unable to wear a mask must seek formal accommodation through Western Accessible Education, and present medical documentation.

Students are not permitted to eat or drink while in class to ensure masks stay in place. Students will be able to eat and drink outside of the classroom during scheduled breaks.

Students unwilling to wear a mask as stipulated by Western policy and public health directives will be referred to the Dean, and such actions will be considered a violation of the student Code of Conduct.

Course Absences due to Daily COVID Screening Questionnaire

Missed assessments (e.g., presentations, essays, quizzes, tests, midterms, etc.) require formal academic considerations (typically self-reported absences and/or academic counselling). [Methods for dealing with missed work and course content are at the discretion of the instructor(s). Students should be aware that some learning outcomes cannot be easily made up and may need to be completed in a subsequent year. Your instructor will provide you with further information as to how this applies within this course.

Students who demonstrate a pattern of routinely missing coursework due to self-reported COVID symptoms, and therefore do not demonstrate mastery of the learning outcomes of the course, will not receive credit for the course.]

15. Academic Offences

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence.

[Include this paragraph on plagiarism-checking software only if relevant. If not relevant delete the paragraph below]

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (<http://www.turnitin.com>).

[Include this paragraph on computer marked multiple-choice tests if relevant. If not relevant delete the paragraph below]

Computer-marked multiple-choice tests and/or exams may be subject to submission for similarity review by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating.

16. Western's Commitment to Accessibility

The Department of Geography and Environment strives at all times to provide accessibility to all faculty, staff, students and visitors in a way that respects the dignity and independence of people with disabilities.

Please contact the course instructor if you require material in an alternate format or if you require any other arrangements to make this course more accessible to you. You may also wish to contact Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) at 519-661-2147 for any specific question regarding an accommodation. [Information regarding accommodation of exams](#) is available on the Registrar's website.

More information about "[Accessibility at Western](#)" is available.

17. Mental Health

If you or someone you know is experiencing distress, there are several resources here at Western to assist you. Please visit Western's [Health and Wellness website](#) for more information on mental health resources.

18. Support Services

[Western's Support Services](#)
[Student Development Centre](#)

19. Important Dates

January 10: Classes resume

January 18: Last day to add a second term half course

February 21: Family Day – Department Office Closed

February 21-25: Spring Reading Week (No classes; Department Office open)

March 14: Last day to drop a first term half course without penalty

April 8: Classes end

April 9: Study days

April 10-31: Examination Period