

Social Research Winter 2024

SDS 251R / SWREN 251R

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Class Schedule

Course	Meet Days	Meet Time	Location	Instructor(s)
SDS 251R / SWREN 251R 081 [LEC]			ONLN - Online	K. Cook <i>katie.cook@uwaterlo...</i>

schedule data automatically refreshed daily

Instructor & TA (Teaching Assistant) Information

Use the LEARN Course Discussions forum to communicate with your instructor and classmates. Discussion topics can be accessed in LEARN by clicking **Connect** and then **Discussions** on the course navigation bar.

For questions of a personal nature, please email your instructor or your TA:

Instructor: Katie Cook

k7cook@uwaterloo.ca (mailto:k7cook@uwaterloo.ca)

Course Description

Calendar Description for SDS 251R / SWREN 251R:

Introduction to the philosophy and methodology of applied social science research, including treatment of the problems and strategies of research design and execution. [Note: SWREN 251R is available only to students who have been given conditional admission to the BSW program; such students must have already completed their first undergraduate degree.]

Prereq: Level at least 2A; Not open to students in the Faculty of Mathematics. Antireq: ISS 251R, LS/SOC 221, LS/SOC 321, PSYCH 291, REC 270, SMF 220

This course will provide students with a fundamental grounding in social research methods. It is designed to introduce students to various conceptual and practical approaches to the design and execution of social research. Special emphasis will be placed on cultivating skills that are practical for research, as well as useful in the critical analysis of existing research. At its conclusion, the student should possess the tools to thoughtfully examine their own world through a research lens.

Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course students should be able to:

Understand all phases of the research process, including the formulation of the research questions and/or hypotheses, study design, and data collection.

Identify the strengths and weakness of various qualitative and quantitative methodological approaches and become familiar with a number of practical concerns with social research.

Use a critical perspective when examining the application of the various methodological approaches in the research and popular literature.

Understand ethical issues in research conduct.

Write a literature review and develop a research question.

Gain experience in developing survey instruments and interview guides.

Tentative Course Schedule

Please see the Course Schedule in LEARN for complete details.

Texts / Materials

Title / Name	Notes / Comments	Required
Bell, E., Bryman, A., and Kleinknecht, S. (2022). <i>Social Research Methods</i> (6th ed.). Don Mills, Ontario, Canada: Oxford University Press.		Yes

For textbook ordering information, please contact the [W Store | Course Materials + Supplies](https://wstore.uwaterloo.ca/) (<https://wstore.uwaterloo.ca/>).

[Course reserves for students](https://uwaterloo.ca/library/services/course-reserves-students) (<https://uwaterloo.ca/library/services/course-reserves-students>) are used in this course. Course Reserves can be accessed using the **Library Resources** widget on the **Course Home** page in LEARN.

Student Assessment

Component	Value
Introduce Yourself	Ungraded
TCPS 2: CORE Tutorial (optional)	Bonus 2%
Assignment 1: Literature Review (details below)	35%
Assignment 2: Survey Research Tool	20%
Assignment 3: Interview Guide	15%
Reflection Assignment	5%
Final Test	25%

Assignment 1: Literature Review (35%)

- Literature Review References (2%)
- Draft Submission (Bonus 2%)
- Final Submission (33%)

Assignment Screening

Text matching software (Turnitin) will be used to screen assignments in this course. This is being done to verify that use of all material and sources in assignments is documented. In the first week of the term, details will be provided about the arrangements for the use of Turnitin and alternatives in this course. See Administrative Policy below for more information and links.

Administrative Policy

Late Assignments

Late assignments will be deducted 2% per day including weekends.

ChatGPT and AI Tools

Using ChatGPT (or similar tools that generate text, code, or visual images) for content generation and submitting it as one's own original work is a violation of the [University of Waterloo's Policy 71 \(Student Discipline\)](https://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat/policies-procedures-guidelines/policy-71). (<https://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat/policies-procedures-guidelines/policy-71>).

Group Participation

- If you choose to work in a group for Assignment 1 and 2, please document your contributions to assignments.
- In the event that there are non-responsive members in the group:
 - Please document attempts to contact unresponsive group members and their contributions of work.
 - **Unresponsive group members may be removed from the group at the professor's discretion.** A case can be made for this action until one week before the due date. After that point, the group stays intact.
 - A non-responsive group member who has been removed from the group will lose access to the group discussions and dropboxes. They will be expected to complete the assignment individually. This will not become the foundation for an extension. All parties who have contributed materials will retain ownership over those materials.
- **The instructor reserves the right to reconfigure or add to existing groups if the need arises.**

If you are choosing to work in a group, then it is your responsibility to actively participate in group collaboration. It's all a lot easier if everyone just does their part and works together!

Territorial Acknowledgement

With gratitude, we acknowledge that Renison University College is located on the traditional territory of the Anishinaabeg, Hodinohsyó:ni, and Attawandaran (Neutral) Peoples, which is situated on the Haldimand Tract, the land granted to the Six Nations that includes ten kilometres on each side of the Grand River from mouth to source. Our active work toward reconciliation takes place in all corners of our campus through research, learning, teaching, community building and outreach. We are guided by the work of our Reconciliation and Re-storying Steering

University Policy

Academic integrity: In order to maintain a culture of academic integrity, members of the University of Waterloo community are expected to promote honesty, trust, fairness, respect and responsibility. [Check [the Office of Academic Integrity](https://uwaterloo.ca/academic-integrity/) (<https://uwaterloo.ca/academic-integrity/>) for more information.]

Grievance: A student who believes that a decision affecting some aspect of their university life has been unfair or unreasonable may have grounds for initiating a grievance. Read [Policy 70, Student Petitions and Grievances, Section 4](https://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat/policies-procedures-guidelines/policy-70) (<https://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat/policies-procedures-guidelines/policy-70>). When in doubt, please be certain to contact the department's administrative assistant who will provide further assistance.

Discipline: A student is expected to know what constitutes academic integrity to avoid committing an academic offence, and to take responsibility for their actions. [Check [the Office of Academic Integrity](https://uwaterloo.ca/academic-integrity/) (<https://uwaterloo.ca/academic-integrity/>) for more information.] A student who is unsure whether an action constitutes an offence, or who needs help in learning how to avoid offences (e.g., plagiarism, cheating) or about "rules" for group work/collaboration should seek guidance from the course instructor, academic advisor, or the undergraduate associate dean. For information on categories of offences and types of penalties, students should refer to [Policy 71, Student Discipline](https://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat/policies-procedures-guidelines/policy-71) (<https://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat/policies-procedures-guidelines/policy-71>). For typical penalties, check [Guidelines for the Assessment of Penalties](https://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat/guidelines/guidelines-assessment-penalties) (<https://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat/guidelines/guidelines-assessment-penalties>).

Appeals: A decision made or penalty imposed under [Policy 70, Student Petitions and Grievances](https://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat/policies-procedures-guidelines/policy-70) (<https://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat/policies-procedures-guidelines/policy-70>) (other than a petition) or [Policy 71, Student Discipline](https://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat/policies-procedures-guidelines/policy-71) (<https://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat/policies-procedures-guidelines/policy-71>) may be appealed if there is a ground. A student who believes they have a ground for an appeal should refer to [Policy 72, Student Appeals](https://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat/policies-procedures-guidelines/policy-72) (<https://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat/policies-procedures-guidelines/policy-72>).

Note for students with disabilities: [AccessAbility Services](https://uwaterloo.ca/accessability-services/) (<https://uwaterloo.ca/accessability-services/>), located in Needles Hall, Room 1401, collaborates with all academic departments to arrange appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities without compromising the academic integrity of the curriculum. If you require academic accommodations to lessen the impact of your disability, please register with AccessAbility Services at the beginning of each academic term.

Turnitin.com: Text matching software (Turnitin®) may be used to screen assignments in this course. Turnitin® is used to verify that all materials and sources in assignments are documented. Students' submissions are stored on a U.S. server, therefore students must be given an alternative (e.g., scaffolded assignment or annotated bibliography), if they are concerned about their privacy and/or security. Students will be given due notice, in the first week of the term and/or at the time assignment details are provided, about arrangements and alternatives for the use of Turnitin in this course.

It is the responsibility of the student to notify the instructor if they, in the first week of term or at the time assignment details are provided, wish to submit alternate assignment.