



**Sociology 3306b (570)**  
**Investigating the Social World: Quantitative Research**  
**Fall/ Winter 2025-2026**

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### **Course Information**

#### **Calendar Description:**

Mandatory for third-year Sociology students in an Honours Specialization. In this course students will learn to evaluate quantitative sociological research and gain hands-on experience carrying out and writing up a research project that investigates current social issues. Topics include: posing a research question, developing concepts and measures, and analyzing quantitative survey data.

**Prerequisite(s):** Enrolment in an Honours Specialization or Honours Double Major in Sociology or Criminology with a minimum grade of 60% in [Sociology 2205A/B](#) and [Sociology 2206A/B](#), or [Social Work 2206A/B](#) and Social Work 2207A/B. If not in an Honours Specialization or Honours Double Major, a minimum grade of 70% in [Sociology 2205A/B](#) and [Sociology 2206A/B](#), or [Social Work 2206A/B](#) and Social Work 2207A/B is required.

**Extra Information:** 3 hours.

**Course Weight:** 0.50  
**Breadth:** Category A  
**Subject Code:** SOCIOLOG

Notice: Unless you have either the requisites for this course (fulfilment of pre-requisites, no anti-requisite conflicts), or special permission from your Dean to enrol in it, you may 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.

**Professor Jinette Comeau**  
**Email:** jcomeau5@uwo.ca  
**Office Hours:** by appointment

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## **Soc3306B (570)**

### **INVESTIGATING THE SOCIAL WORLD: QUANTITATIVE RESEARCH**

#### **Course Introduction**

This course will introduce students to the foundations of data analysis in social science research. We will focus on developing research questions and applying appropriate statistical techniques to answer them. Student will learn how to write code to analyze data using R, a programming language and platform used to compute statistics. The course will involve weekly lectures and labs where students will gain hands-on experience using R.

Whereas many of you will have been exposed to descriptive and bivariate statistics in an introductory statistics course such as Sociology 2205/2206, this course will focus on multivariate statistics: the analysis of several variables at the same time. Students will be introduced to the logic behind multivariate statistics, learn how to develop a research question and answer it by applying multivariate statistics, and become proficient at interpreting and reporting results from multivariate analyses. Students will apply the skills they have developed in a major research project on a topic of their choice to be submitted at the end of the course.

#### **Learning Outcomes**

As we work through the course material, students will be able to:

- Develop answerable research questions and related hypotheses
- Identify, implement, and evaluate appropriate statistical techniques to answer a given research question and undertake the analysis
- Demonstrate proficiency with R to manipulate and analyze data
- Interpret and report research findings in both written and oral format in a clear and accessible manner
- Critically evaluate research findings in their field of study and in everyday life
- Take more advanced statistics courses

#### **Brightspace**

All course content will be available on Brightspace: <https://westernu.brightspace.com/d2l/login>

Login using your UWO username and password. Check Brightspace regularly for information on the course schedule, materials such as lecture slides and readings, announcements, grades, and the full evaluation details. You will also be required to submit all assignments and evaluations to Brightspace.

## Course Readings

The following textbooks are required for this course.

Kellstedt, Paul M., Guy D. Whitten, and Steven A. Tuch. 2022. *The Fundamentals of Social Research*. Cambridge, UK. Cambridge University Press.

Kellstedt, Paul M., Guy D. Whitten, and Steven A. Tuch. 2022. *An R Companion for the Fundamentals of Social Research*. Cambridge, UK. Cambridge University Press.

Additional details on the cost and how to purchase a hard or digital copy of the textbook is available here:

[https://bookstore.uwo.ca/textbook-search?campus=KC&term=W2025B&courses%5B0%5D=570\\_KC/SOC3306B](https://bookstore.uwo.ca/textbook-search?campus=KC&term=W2025B&courses%5B0%5D=570_KC/SOC3306B)

Additional readings will be made available to students on Brightspace.

## Research Methods Consultant

Students in this course have access to additional resources to assist with their comprehension of the course material, including a dedicated consultant to provide support with R. See the course Brightspace page for the consultations schedule.

## Method of Evaluation (due dates are noted in the detailed outline below)

### 1. Labs and Participation (10%)

Weekly labs involve discussing the readings for that week or solving problems using the appropriate statistical procedures in R. In this advanced seminar in quantitative methods, students are required to actively participate and engage in class discussions. Labs and student participation are graded weekly and will be evaluated as pass/fail. Students may miss one lab per term without penalty.

### 2. Research Proposals (15%)

The purpose of the research proposal is for students to identify the topic, research question(s), dataset, and variables that they will explore as part of their final research project. You will receive feedback for improvement on your first proposal that will be incorporated into a second revised and expanded proposal. Whereas the initial research proposal is worth 5% of your final grade, the revisions will be worth 10%. Proposals will be penalized by 5% per day late, including weekends.

### 3. Assignments (2 X 10%)

The objectives of the first assignment are to become familiar with the R environment and to perform some preliminary analyses. As part of the second assignment, students will develop skills in multivariate analysis (i.e. analysis of several variables at a time). The second assignment will be divided into 2 components: linear regression and logistic regression. Assignments will be penalized by 5% per day late, including weekends.

### 4. Research Symposium (10%)

Disseminating research findings at academic conferences is an important part of the research process. As part of our Research Symposium, students will prepare a poster and discuss their research project and findings.

Attendance is required at the Research Symposium. Students who are absent will be required to obtain formal supporting documentation from the Academic Advising Office.

### 5. Final Research Project (45%)

The final research project will involve developing and answering one or more research questions on a topic of choice using the datasets available in this course. Early on in the course, students will develop a research proposal with an appropriate topic and answerable research question(s) that will lay the groundwork for this project. Students are provided with a one-week no penalty grace period for submitting the final project. No final projects will be accepted after that date without formal supporting documentation from the Academic Advising Office.

### Artificial Intelligence & Plagiarism

All work submitted as part of this course must be completed independently by the student without any aids. The use of Artificial Intelligence (AI), including but not limited to ChatGPT, for this course is NOT permitted under any circumstance. Please see the course policies below for further information

### Course Outline and Readings (subject to minor changes)

Date	Topic	Readings
Week 1 (January 6)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Course background, objectives, and evaluations</li> <li>- Introduction to quantitative methods and review of key concepts and terms</li> <li>- Introduction to R</li> </ul>	Chapter 1
Week 2 (January 13)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- How to develop a research question</li> <li>- Linking theory and methods</li> <li>- Introduction to course datasets</li> </ul>	Chapters 2 & 3
Week 3 (January 20)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Research design</li> <li>- Survey Research</li> <li>- Sampling weights</li> </ul>	Chapters 4 & 5
Week 4 (January 27)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Measurement</li> <li>- Manipulating data in R</li> </ul> <p><b>Project Proposal 1 Due</b></p>	Chapters 6 & 7
Week 5 (February 3)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Probability and statistical inference</li> </ul>	Chapter 8
Week 6 (February 10)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Bivariate hypothesis testing and measures of association</li> </ul> <p><b>Assignment 1 Due</b></p>	Chapter 9

February 17	<b>Reading Week</b>	
Week 7 (February 24)	- Linear regression models	Chapter 10
Week 8 (March 3)	- Logistic regression models	Chapter 10  Agresti & Finlay, Ch. 15
Week 9 (March 10)	- Multivariate regression  <b>Revised Project Proposal Due</b>	Chapter 11  Agresti & Finlay, Ch. 10
Week 10 (March 17)	- Research reports and effective dissemination of results	Chapter 12
Week 11 (March 24)	- Additional review as needed - Individual consultations  <b>Assignment 2 Due</b>	No readings
Week 12 (March 31)	<b>Research Symposium</b>	No readings
Week 13 (April 7)	<b>Final Research Project Due</b>	No readings

# KING'S UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

## GENERAL COURSE POLICIES

### 2025-2026

#### **1. Academic Accommodations, Consideration for Absences**

##### **Academic Accommodation (Accessibility)**

Accessibility Services works to ensure that academic programs are accessible to all students, and supports students who may have a condition related to, but not limited to, vision, hearing, mobility, different ways of learning, mental health, chronic illnesses, chronic pain, autism spectrum disorder, ADD/ADHD, and temporary conditions (beyond short-term academic consideration). Accessibility Services provides recommendations for accommodation based on medical documentation or psychological and cognitive assessment. The accommodation policy can be found here [Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities](#). Information on Accessibility Services at King's can be found [here](#).

##### **Academic Consideration for Student Absence**

If a student is unable to meet a course requirement due to substantial but temporary extenuating circumstances (medical or compassionate), they should follow the procedures below.

In some cases, where instructors have built flexibility into their assessments, this flexibility will already address consideration needs.

Requests for academic consideration should be directed to the Academic Advising Office of your faculty/college of registration. Requests must be made as soon as possible and no later than 48 hours after the missed assessment.

As a rule, documentation is required for academic consideration. For academic consideration requests on medical grounds, the Student Medical Certificate is available at [https://www.kings.uwo.ca/kings/assets/File/currentStudents/courses\\_enrollment/exams\\_and\\_tests/SMC-Feb-2025.pdf](https://www.kings.uwo.ca/kings/assets/File/currentStudents/courses_enrollment/exams_and_tests/SMC-Feb-2025.pdf).

Students are permitted one academic consideration request without supporting documentation per term per course.

Instructors may designate one assessment per half-course weight as requiring formal supporting documentation. Please refer to the course outline for each course.

For further information, please see:

[https://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/academic\\_consideration\\_Sep24.pdf](https://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/academic_consideration_Sep24.pdf)

##### **Absences from Final Examinations**

If you miss the Final Exam, contact the Academic Advising Office of your faculty/college of registration as soon as you are able to do so. They will assess your eligibility to write the Special Examination (the name given by the University to a makeup Final Exam).

You may also be eligible to write the Special Exam if you are in a “Multiple Exam Situation” (e.g., more than 2 exams in 23-hour period, or more than 3 exams in a 47-hour period).

If a student fails to write a scheduled Special Examination, the date of the next Special Examination (if granted) normally will be the scheduled date for the final exam the next time this course is offered. The maximum course load for that term will be reduced by the credit of the course(s) for which the final examination has been deferred. See the Academic Calendar for details (under [Special Examinations](#)).

## **Religious Accommodation**

Students should consult the University's list of recognized religious holidays, and should give notice in writing to the instructor and Academic Advising Office if a course requirement will be affected by a religious holiday/observance. Notice must be given as early as possible, and no later than two weeks prior to an examination, and one week prior to a midterm test date. It is the responsibility of such students to inform themselves concerning the work done in classes from which they are absent and to take appropriate action.

## **2. Support Services**

Accessibility, Counselling and Student Development at King’s University College:

<https://www.kings.uwo.ca/current-students/student-services/>

Students experiencing emotional or mental health distress can access services at King’s University College: <http://www.kings.uwo.ca/current-students/campus-services/student-support-services/personal-counselling/>

Good2talk is a good online and phone 24/7 resource for students and is available in English, Mandarin, and French: <https://good2talk.ca>, 1-866-925-5454

MentalHealth@Western provides a complete list of options about how to obtain help:

[https://www.uwo.ca/health/mental\\_wellbeing/](https://www.uwo.ca/health/mental_wellbeing/)

Academic Support Services at King’s University College:

<https://www.kings.uwo.ca/current-students/academic-resources/>

### **GBSV Support:**

King’s is committed to reducing incidents of gender-based and sexual violence and providing compassionate support to anyone who has gone through these traumatic events. If you have experienced sexual or gender-based violence (either recently or in the past), you will find information about support services for survivors, including emergency contacts at:

<https://www.kings.uwo.ca/about-kings/safe-campus/gender-and-sexual-violence/>

You can reach someone supports at Kings by emailing [Care@kings.uwo.ca](mailto:Care@kings.uwo.ca) or calling 519-930-4640 to reach a social worker who can offer help.

You can also reach Western’s Gender-Based Violence & Survivor Support Case Manager by [email](#) or by calling 519-661-3568.

Further supports can be found on this website: <https://www.kings.uwo.ca/about-kings/safe-campus/gender-and-sexual-violence/>

See also [https://www.uwo.ca/health/student\\_support/survivor\\_support/get-help.html](https://www.uwo.ca/health/student_support/survivor_support/get-help.html)

University Students' Council offers many valuable support services for students, including the health insurance plan: <http://westernusc.ca/services/>

### 3. Statement on Use of Electronic Devices

**Use of Electronic Devices:** Unless explicitly stated otherwise, you are not allowed to have a cell phone, or any other electronic device, with you during tests or examinations. Unauthorized possession of such a device during a test or examination constitutes an academic offence.

**Use of Laptops, Tablets, and Smartphones in the Classroom:** King's University College at Western University acknowledges the integration of new technologies and learning methods into the curriculum. The use of electronic devices such as laptop computers, tablets, or smartphones can contribute to student engagement and effective learning. At the same time, King's recognizes that instructors and students share jointly the responsibility to establish and maintain a respectful classroom environment conducive to learning.

The use of electronic devices by students during lectures, seminars, labs, etc., shall be for matters related to the course at hand only. Students found to be using electronic devices for purposes not directly related to the class may be subject to sanctions under the Student Code of Conduct; see <https://www.kings.uwo.ca/current-students/student-affairs/code-of-student-conduct1/>

Inappropriate use of electronics (e.g., laptops, tablets, smartphones) during lectures, seminars, labs, etc., creates a significant disruption. As a consequence, instructors may choose to limit the use of electronic devices in these settings. In addition, in order to provide a safe classroom environment, students attending in-person class sessions are strongly advised to operate laptops with batteries rather than power cords.

### 4. Statement on Academic Offences

King's is committed to academic integrity. Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, is posted at

[http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/scholastic\\_discipline\\_undergrad.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf)

It is expected that students will submit work that is truly their own, completed without external assistance (human or artificial) except as explicitly permitted by the course instructor. Check with your instructor on what tools, including generative AI (ChatGPT, translation tools, grammar-checking tools) are permitted in the course. Because a tool is permitted in one course, that does not mean it is permitted in other courses.

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; see <https://elearningtoolkit.uwo.ca/tools/Originality Reports - TurnItIn.html>.

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.

### **5. Copyright of Course Material**

Lectures and course materials, including PowerPoint presentations, tests, outlines, and similar materials are protected by copyright. Faculty members are the exclusive owner of copyright in those materials they create. Students may take notes and make copies for their own use. Students may not allow others to reproduce or distribute lecture notes and course materials publicly (whether or not a fee is charged) without the express written consent of a faculty member. Unauthorized sharing of class content is subject to academic discipline.

Similarly, students own copyright in their own original papers and exam essays. If a faculty member wishes to post a student's answers or papers on the course website, they should ask for the student's written permission.

### **6. Use of Recordings**

Participants in this course are not permitted to record the sessions, except where recording is an approved accommodation and/or the participant has the prior written permission of the instructor. Unauthorized recording and/or sharing of class content is subject to academic discipline.

### **7. Policy on Attendance**

Any student who, in the opinion of the instructor, is absent too frequently from class or laboratory periods in any course, will be reported to the Dean of the Faculty offering the course, after due warning has been given. On the recommendation of the department concerned, and with the permission of the Dean of that Faculty, the student will be debarred from taking the regular examination in the course.