
COURSE SYLLABUS
Winter Term (January-April) 2012

Section 901, 3 Credits

Dr. D.B. Tindall
Department of Forest Resources Management
and Department of Sociology

In recent years concern has developed about understanding the social dimensions of forestry and forest land-use decisions. Reasons for this trend include the observations that we know quite a lot about timber values, and about the economic importance of the forest industry, but that we know less about the non-economic values of forests, and about the social context of forestry, forest land use, and intergroup conflict over forests.

The objective of this course is to provide students with a detailed introduction and overview of social science methods relevant to studying forestry and conservation problems. In the course, students will become familiar with a variety of social science research design, data collection and data analysis issues. The main emphasis of the course will be on quantitative techniques, but some attention will also be given to qualitative research methods. Some of the research methods topics to be covered include:

- Constructing Social Scientific Explanations
- The Logic of Research Design
- Measurement Issues (Creation of Indexes and Scales, Questionnaire Construction)
- Using SPSS for Windows
- Conducting Surveys (Including Mail Questionnaires, and Interview Studies)
- Conducting Field Research
- Ethical Issues in Social and Behavioural Research
- Analysis of Available Data/Materials
- Coding and Processing of Data
- Presentation of Data
- Sampling
- Social Network Analysis
- Writing a Research Proposal
- An Overview of Statistics (univariate, bivariate, multivariate) – emphasizing the identification of available alternatives and appropriate techniques.

In the course students will become familiar with social science research on a variety of forestry and natural resource topics. Some of these may include:

- Values, Public Opinion and Attitudes about Forestry and Environmental Issues.
- Research on Forest Recreation
- Forestry Communities
- Social Impact Assessment
- Gender and Forestry
- First Nations and Forest Issues
- Perception Studies of Visual Aspects of Forest Management
Students will be expected to read and provide critical presentations on excerpts from books, journal articles, and reports related to the forementioned topics.

**EVALUATION:** Evaluation for the course will be based on the following:

- **Research Proposal (45%).** At the end of term, students will be required to produce a research proposal. This proposal will include a brief literature section, theoretical hypotheses and their justification, and a detailed account of research design, plans for analysis, and plans for addressing ethical concerns.

- **Four small assignments (30% in total).** Some examples of potential assignments include: developing a research question and testable hypothesis; developing a questionnaire; developing an interview schedule; developing a sampling strategy for a survey; analyzing a quantitative or qualitative data set. Some of these assignments will parallel the requirements for the research proposal and thus will be complementary to the above activity.

- **Class participation (10%).** Attendance, and level (frequency) and quality of presentation (e.g. demonstration of knowledge of class material) in class discussion.

- **In-class presentation (15% in total).** Students will be required to review and critique a published research article and/or a methodological article. (The precise number is subject to change, depending upon the size of the class.)

**FORMAT:** The format for the course will entail a mixture of lectures, student presentations, class discussion, and the occasional guest lecture.

**READINGS:**


**Note:** In addition, from time to time, students will be required to read additional selected articles.
COURSE LOCATION AND TIME: Term II (January - April 2012)

The class time and class location will vary:

• For most classes we will meet on Wednesdays, from 2:00pm-5:00pm in Frank Forward Building, Room 519.

• However, we will also have some “labs” in Buchanan Building, Room B125 (or possibly another room TBA).

• Also, we will have a class in a different location on March 14th, where we will meet in Koerner Library Room 217 at 2:00pm.

• Please check the details of the course outline for the time and location for each week’s class. Also, updates to the schedule may be sent via e-mail.

D.B. Tindall’s
Office Location and
Office Hours
for FRST 528:

Forest Sciences Centre
Room 2024
Wednesdays 11:00am - 12:00pm.

Additional Office
Hours:

Anthropology and Sociology Building
Room 1317
Tuesdays 3:00pm - 5:00pm.

E-mail: tindall@mail.ubc.ca

Course Web Site*:

http://faculty.arts.ubc.ca/tindall/frst/

* The website will only be used infrequently, and will not be updated regularly. Assignments, etc. will be distributed in class in paper format or via e-mail. The website serves more of an archival function (e.g. it shows what we have done in past years).
Week #01: Wednesday, January 4th, 2012.

Location: Frank Forward Building, Room 519.

Main Topic: Introduction.

• Course outline to be distributed.

• Student information sheet to be distributed.

• Pop Quiz to be distributed.

Required Readings: none.

Week #02: Wednesday, January 11th, 2012.

Location: Frank Forward Building, Room 519.

Main Topic: Constructing Social Scientific Explanations.

• Oral presentation instructions to be distributed.

• Assignment #1 on Research Question, Hypotheses, etc. to be distributed.

• Research Proposal Instructions to be distributed.

Required Readings:

• Babbie, Chapter 1: Human Inquiry and Science.

• Babbie, Chapter 2: Paradigms, Theory, and Social Research.

Recommended Readings:

• Henderson, Chapter 1.2: Shift into Gear.

• Henderson, Chapter 2.2: Field Research and Participant Observation.

Week #03: Wednesday, January 18th, 2012.

Location: Frank Forward Room 519.

Main Topic: A Research Example: Explaining Participation in the Wilderness Preservation Movement.

• Assignment #2 on Survey Instrument Construction/Operationalization to be distributed.

Required Reading:


Recommended Readings:


Location: Frank Forward Building, Room 519.

Main Topic: Writing Proposals/Logic of Research Design/Introduction to Measurement.

Required Readings:

• Babbie, Appendix A: Using the Library.
• Babbie, Chapter 17: Reading and Writing Social Research.

• Babbie, Chapter 4: Research Design.
• Babbie, Chapter 5: Conceptualization, Operationalization, and Measurement.
• Babbie, Chapter 8: Experiments.

Week #05: Wednesday, February 1st, 2012.

Location: Frank Forward Building, Room 519.

Main Topic: Surveys/Questionnaire Construction.

• Assignment #3 on Sampling to be distributed.

Required Readings:

• Babbie, Chapter 9: Survey Research.
Week #06: Wednesday, February 8th, 2012.

Location: Buchanan Building, Room B125.

Main Topic: Introduction to SPSS/Online Resources (if Time Permits).

* Assignment #1 Due.

Required Readings:

• Babbie, Chapter 14: Quantitative Data Analysis.

Recommended Reading:

• Norušis, Chapter 11.
• Norušis, Chapters 1,2,3,4,5.

Week #07: Wednesday, February 15th, 2012.

Location: Frank Forward Building, Room 519.

Main Topic: Sampling/Ethics.

• Assignment #4 on Data Analysis (Quantitative or Qualitative) to be distributed.

Required Reading:

• Babbie, Chapter 7: The Logic of Sampling.
• Norušis, Appendix B.
• Babbie, Chapter 3: The Ethics and Politics of Social Research.
• Henderson, Chapter 3.7: Issues and Challenges.
Week #08: Wednesday, February 22nd, 2012.

Location: READING BREAK – NO CLASS.

Main Topic: READING BREAK – NO CLASS.

Week #09: Wednesday, February 29th, 2012.

Location: Buchanan Building, Room B125.

Main Topic: Using Multiple Indicators to Construct Composite Variables (e.g. Indexes).

* Assignment #2 on Survey Instrument Construction/Operationalization Due.

Required Readings:
- Babbie, Chapter 6: Indexes, Scales, and Typologies.
- Babbie, Chapter 14: Quantitative Data Analysis.
- Norušis, Appendix B.

Week #10: Wednesday, March 7th, 2012.

Location: Buchanan Building, Room B125.

Main Topic: Introduction to Statistics.

Required Readings:
- Babbie, Chapter 15: The Elaboration Model.
- Babbie, Chapter 16: Statistical Analyses.
- Norušis, Review Chapter 5, Read Chapters 19, 20, 21, 23, 24, Appendix B.
Week #11: Wednesday, March 14th, 2012.

Location: Koerner Library Room 217.

Main Topic: Using data from UBC Data Services (Guest Presentation by the Data Librarian, Mary Luebbe).

Required Readings:

• None.


Location: Buchanan B125.

Main Topic: Introduction to Social Network Analysis.

* Assignment #3 on Sampling Due.

Required Readings:


Recommended Reading:

Week #13: Wednesday, March 28\textsuperscript{th}, 2012.

Location: Frank Forward Building, Room 519.

Main Topic: Introduction to Qualitative Analysis.

Required Readings:

• Henderson, Chapter 2.2: Field Research and Participant Observation.
• Henderson, Chapter 2.3: Indepth Interviewing.
• Henderson, Chapter 3.1: Data Discovery, Organization, and Analyses.
• Henderson, Chapter 3.4: Writing and Presenting Data.

Recommended Readings:

• Henderson, Chapter 3.1: Data Discovery, Organization, and Analyses
• Henderson, Chapter 3.2: Data Analyses and Interpretation.

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Week #14: Wednesday, April 4\textsuperscript{th}, 2012.

Location: Frank Forward Building, Room 519.

Main Topic: Content Analysis.

* Assignment #4 on Quantitative or Qualitative Analysis Due.

Required Readings:

• Babbie, Chapter 11: Unobtrusive Research
• Babbie, Chapter 6: Indexes, Scales, and Typologies.

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Monday, April 16\textsuperscript{th}, 2012.

* Research Proposal Due.