Instructor:	Dr. Jenny Godley	**Class Hours**: T, Th 9:30-10:45
Office:	SS922	**Class Location:** ST059
Office Hours:	T, Th 1:00-2:00, or by appt.	
Telephone:	403-220-7566	

E-mail: jgodley@ucalgary.ca*

Emergency evacuation:
In the case of fire or other emergency evacuation of this classroom, please proceed to the assembly point in the Food Court of the Professional Faculties.
http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/node/75

* Please use email for administrative concerns only. Substantive issues should be addressed in person, either in class, during office hours, or during an appointment time.

NOTE: this course outline is subject to revision. All changes will be announced in class.
Last revised 9 August 2017

Overview:

This is the required second-year course for members of the Arts and Science Honours Academy at the University of Calgary. This course will examine how quantitative social scientists use data to represent and study the social world. First, you will be introduced to a range of theoretical models proposed by social scientists from the fields of economics, political science, psychology and sociology to understand social inequality. Next, you will be introduced to a range of research methods used by quantitative social scientists to study social inequality empirically. We will critically assess the predominance of quantitative approaches in print, broadcast and social media. You will learn to think critically about research design, and the collection, availability, analysis and presentation of quantitative social science data. In particular, you will learn to evaluate the quality of the data social scientists so often use to represent the social world, and how the data is then presented to the public through various media outlets. Over the course of the semester, you will conduct your own quantitative research project on an issue of social inequality of your choice.

Course Objectives:

1. To introduce you to theories of social inequality from various social science fields, including economics, political science, psychology and sociology.
2. To introduce you to research methods used in economics, political science, psychology and sociology.
3. To introduce you to quantitative social science research design, and critically assess the predominance of quantitative methods.
4. To introduce you to quantitative social science data collection and analysis techniques.
5. To enable you to conduct your own mini-research project on a topic of your choice, including writing a literature review, choosing a dataset, conducting data analysis, and presenting your findings.
6. To illustrate and critique uses of available social science data, as presented through various media outlets.

Text:

The Data Game: Controversies in Social Science Statistics. (Fourth Edition). (2015). By Mark H. Maier and Jennifer Imazeki. (abbreviated as M&I in course outline).
** Available for purchase at the U of C bookstore. Note: textbooks are now organized alphabetically by author in the bookstore. You need to go to the "Ma" shelf to find the book.

Other assigned readings are listed in the course calendar (below), and are available on the course site on D2L.

At the instructor's discretion, additional readings may be assigned throughout the semester. These will be announced in class, and will be made available on the course site on D2L.

Requirements:

A.   Reading:
         Readings are assigned for each day of class. Please come to class every day having read the materials. Bring any questions or comments you have about the readings with you to share with your classmates. Please bring your textbooks and copies of the readings to class, as we will refer to them often.

B.   Research Project:
         During the semester, you will be conducting a quantitative social science research project on a topic of your choice. The project will be due in pieces throughout the semester, as outlined below:

         a.   Research Interests – one pager (10%)   DUE: 21 September

b.	Literature Review – theoretical (15%)	5 October
c.	Literature Review – empirical (15%)	19 October
d.	Data set choice / variables (10%)	9 November
e.	Data analysis (10%)	16 November
f.	Results (10%)	30 November
g.	Presentation (10%)	28 Nov – 7 Dec.
h.	Final paper (20%)	15 December

NOTE: All assignments are due at the beginning of class on the due date. All assignments will receive a grade reduction of 10% for each day past the deadline. The 10% grade reduction per day also applies to weekend days and holidays. If you hand in your assignment more than FIFTEEN MINUTES past the time it is due, it will be considered one day late.

Grades:

Your final grade will be computed as follow:

- Research Interests	10%
- Literature Review – theoretical	15%
- Literature Review – empirical	15%
- Data Set / Variables	10%
- Data Analysis	10%
- Results	10%
- Presentation	10%
- Final Paper	20%

I will use the following scale to convert percentage grades to letter grades for this class.

A+ = 95-100	A = 90-94	A- = 85-89
B+ = 80-84	B = 75-79	B- = 70-74
C+ = 65-69	C = 60-64	C- = 55-59
D+ = 50-54	D = 45-49	
F = below 45		

The following description of letter grades comes from the University of Calgary Calendar.

An A indicates superior performance, showing comprehensive understanding of
        the subject matter.
A B indicates clearly above average performance, with knowledge of the subject matter
        generally complete.
A C indicates satisfactory performance, with a basic understanding of the subject matter.
A D indicates marginal performance and generally insufficient preparation for subsequent
        courses in the same subject.

An F indicates unsatisfactory performance, or failure to meet course requirements.

Policies:

A. You are responsible for all the material covered in the textbook, in supplemental readings, and during lectures

B. In the event that you have to miss class, you are responsible for getting the lecture notes from another student in the class.

C. I will not distribute my personal notes to students under any circumstances.

D. All submitted work must be YOUR OWN INDIVIDUAL WORK. It is your responsibility to make sure you understand the definition of plagiarism, and that you avoid submitting any work which could be considered plagiarized. Students are advised to consult the University of Calgary Calendar, which presents a Statement of Intellectual Honesty and definitions and penalties associated with plagiarism, cheating, and other academic misconduct. In particular, please note the following statement on penalties for academic misconduct: (http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html)

E. Cell phones, pagers, blackberries, surfing the internet, checking email, and listening to music are disruptive to other students. **No electronic devices** are allowed during class, with the exception of using a computer to take notes, conduct statistical analysis, or complete assignments. If you are using electronic devices for any other reason during class or lab, you will be asked to leave the classroom.

F. There are no re-writes on any assignments in this class, and no extra credit work will be given.

G. If you expect to have trouble meeting *any* of the class deadlines, please make sure to discuss your concerns with me *before* the deadline.

H. If you wish to discuss any grades in the class, you must meet with me IN PERSON within two weeks of the date the assignment is returned, either during office hours or during an appointment time. I will not discuss grades over email.

I. The U of C Statement on Principles of Conduct, reproduced in the University of Calgary Calendar (http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/j-2.html), applies to all work in this class.   Please familiarize yourself with this statement.

J. Ethical Research: Students are advised that any research with human subjects-- including any interviewing (even with friends and family), opinion polling, or unobtrusive observation--must have the approval of the Faculty of Arts Ethics

Committee. In completing course requirements, students must not undertake any human subjects research without discussing their plans with the instructor, to determine if ethics approval is required.

K. Safewalk: The University of Calgary provides a "safe walk" service to any location on Campus, including the LRT, parking lots, bus zones, and campus housing. For Campus Security/Safewalk call 220-5333. Campus Security can also be contacted from any of the "Help" phones located around Campus.

L. Academic Accommodation: Students seeking an accommodation based on disability or medical concerns should contact Student Accessibility Services. SAS will process the request and issue letters of accommodation to instructors. For additional information on support services and accommodations for students with disabilities, visit www.ucalgary.ca/access/. Students who require an accommodation in relation to their coursework based on a protected ground other than disability should communicate this need in writing to their Instructor. The full policy on Student Accommodations is available at http://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy_0.pdf

Week	Date	Reading	Topic	NOTES / DUE
One				
T	12 Sept.		Course introduction	
Th	14 Sept.	Punch, Chpts. 1 & 2 (on D2L)	Research and theory	
Two				
T	19 Sept.	Strada, Chpt. 2, R&M, Chpt. 2 (on D2L)	Introduction to research design	
Th	21 Sept.	R&M, Chpt. 10	Ethics	Research interests due
		TCPS2: http://www.pre.ethics.gc.ca/eng/policy-politique/initiatives/tcps2-eptc2/Default/		
Three				
T	26 Sept.	Punch, Chpt. 6; R&M, Chpt 5	Literature Reviews	
Th	28 Sept.	NO CLASS		
Four				
T	3 Oct.	M&I, Chpts. 1& 2	Demographic data	
Th	5 Oct.	M&I, Chpt. 4	Health	Lit review (theoretical) due
Five				
T	10 Oct.		Demography and health in Canada	
Th	12 Oct.	M&I, Chpt. 5	Education data	
Six				
T	17 Oct.	M&I, Chpt. 6	Crime data	
Th	19 Oct.		Education and crime in Canada	Lit review (empirical) due

Seven					
T	24 Oct.	M&I, Chpts. 8 & 9	Wealth, Income and Poverty data, Labour data	
Th	26 Oct.	SANDS Website: https://library.ucalgary.ca/sands	Introduction to public use data available at UofC	

Eight				
T	31 Oct.	M&I, Chpt. 12	Public Opinion Data	
Th	2 Nov.	SANDS Website: https://library.ucalgary.ca/sands	Public use data, contd.	

Nine				
T	7 Nov.	SPSS resources (on D2L)	Quantitative data analysis	
Th	9 Nov.		Quantitative data analysis	Dataset and variables due

Ten				
T	14 Nov.	SPSS resources (on D2L)	Quantitative data analysis	
Th	16 Nov.		Quantitative data analysis	Analysis plan due

Eleven				
T	21 Nov.	M&I, Chpt. 13	Conclusions	
Th	23 Nov.		Presenting results	

Twelve				
T	28 Nov.		Student research presentations	
Th	30 Nov.		Student research presentations	Initial results due

Thirteen

| T | 5 Dec. | Student research presentations |
| Th | 7 Dec. | Student research presentations |

FINAL PAPER due: 15 December, 2017 at NOON. SS922