



**GEOGRAPHY FINAL COURSE OUTLINE: FALL 2017**  
**Geography 340**  
**H(3-0)**

**Qualitative Methods in Human-Environmental Research**

Section	Days	Time	Location
LEC 01	TuTh	11:00 – 12:15	ES 443

<b>Instructor:</b> Conny Davidsen	<b>Office:</b> ES 318
<b>Tel:</b> 220 5591	<b>Email:</b> <a href="mailto:davidsen@ucalgary.ca">davidsen@ucalgary.ca</a>

***The primary emergency evacuation assembly point for all classes taught in Earth Sciences is ICT Food Court.***

**Course Description**

This course provides an introduction to qualitative research methods and research design in human geography. Topics covered include: basic principles of qualitative methods, theoretical frameworks, methodological design, forms of data collection, ethical considerations, fieldwork issues, data analysis, interpretation and structured writing. Drawing on theoretical and applied examples, the course offers basic skills for the analysis of human-environment relationships through multiple-source qualitative information that can encompass, for example, first-person accounts, life histories, visual records, semi-structured and open-ended interviews.

**Course Objectives:**

The main objective is a systematic overview of qualitative research methods, their opportunities and challenges; offer practice for specific qualitative or mixed methods applications; develop critical reflexivity from conceptual design to practical implementation; and overall build project design-related knowledge and experience necessary for the development of a basic research proposal.

**Course Learning Outcomes:**

The Department of Geography is committed to student knowledge and skill development. The table below lists the key learning outcomes for this course, the program-learning outcomes they facilitate and the expected level of achievement.

Course Learning Outcomes	PLO(s)	Level(s)
Describe core conceptual orientations and discussions related to geographic methods	1	1
Critically evaluate a work of academic research and its associated question, objectives and methods	2	1
Identify research questions, objectives, research scope, units of analysis, potential methods, and validity challenges	3	2
Outline a research proposal addressing a specific project	3	1
Define, explain and evaluate a case study in a given context	4	2
Critically engage with the ethical challenges of designing and conducting research	5	2
Demonstrate reflexivity about researcher positionality in relation to characteristics such as gender, class, nationality and ethnicity	5	2

Demonstrate clear and critical justification of all aspects of a research design, its analytical process and findings	7	2
Know how to retrieve, summarize, cite, reference and assess formal academic as well as other literature	8	2

**PLOs = Program Learning Outcomes:** 1 = reflect and communicate diverse human-environment perspectives, 2 = identify and explain human-environment processes, 3 = implement sampling, data collection, analyses and communication methods, 4 = analyze spatial and temporal aspects of human-environment systems, 5 = employ knowledge, arguments, and methodologies for solving human-environment problems, 6 = evaluate geospatial data and manipulate it to create cartographic products, 7 = communicate geographic concepts using oral, written, graphic, and cartographic modes, and 8 = demonstrate literacy skills. **Levels:** (1) Introductory, (2) Intermediate, (3) Advanced.

**Prerequisites:** One of Geography 205, 251, 253 or Urban Studies 253

**Supplementary Fees:** (field trips etc). N/A

**Text(s)/Readings:**

Alan Bryman and Edward Bell 2016. Social Research Methods: Canadian Edition 4<sup>th</sup> ed. Oxford Publishing. Paperback | 456 pp. | ISBN-13: 9780199009787 (required)

Iain Hay (ed.) 2015. Qualitative Research Methods in Human Geography: 4<sup>th</sup> edition. Oxford Publishing. Paperback | 536 pp. | ISBN-13: 9780199010905 (required)

Margot Northey, Dianne Draper and David B. Knight 2015. Making Sense in Geography and Environmental Sciences: A Student's Guide to Research and Writing: 6<sup>th</sup> edition. Oxford Publishing. Paperback | 328 pp. | ISBN-13: 9780199010226 (recommended)

**Grading (Weighting):**

- 10% in-class activities
- 20% class presentations
- 20% term project part I
- 25% term project part II
- 25% term project part III

It is not essential to pass all components to pass the course as a whole. There is no final examination for this course.

**Grading System:**

96-100	A+	77-80	B	59-61	C-
90-95	A	71-76	B-	55-58	D+
86-89	A-	65-70	C+	50-54	D
81-85	B+	62-64	C	0-49	F

For all detailed course information, announcements and assignments posted by the Instructor see Desire2Learn at <https://d2l.ucalgary.ca/d2l/home>

### **Human subjects**

Students are invited to participate as subjects and/or researchers in in-class group exercises that simulate research on human subjects. Please contact the instructor in case of questions or concerns.

### **USRI**

At the University of Calgary, feedback provided by students through the Universal Student Ratings of Instruction (USRI) survey provides valuable information to help with evaluating instruction, enhancing learning and teaching, and selecting courses ([www.ucalgary.ca/usri](http://www.ucalgary.ca/usri)). Your responses make a difference - please participate in USRI Surveys.

### **Writing across the Curriculum**

Writing skills are not exclusive to English courses and, in fact, should cross all disciplines. The University supports the belief that throughout their University careers, students should be taught how to write well so that when they graduate their writing abilities will be far above the minimal standards required at entrance. Consistent with this belief, students are expected to do a substantial amount of writing in their University courses and, where appropriate, members of faculty can and should use writing and the grading thereof as a factor in the evaluation of student work. The services provided by the Writing Support Services can be utilized by all undergraduate and graduate students who feel they require further assistance.

### **Principles of Conduct**

The University of Calgary Calendar includes a statement on the Principles of conduct expected of all members of the University community (including students, faculty, administrators, any category of staff, practicum supervisors and volunteers) whether on or off the University's property. This statement applies in all situations where the members of the University community are acting in their University capacities. All Members of the University Community have a responsibility to familiarize themselves with this statement which is available at: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html>

### **Internet and electronic communication device information:**

No restriction on the use of laptops and tablets in class if they are used to take notes or find information relevant to the class, and if there is *no disturbance or distraction of other students or the instructor*. Phones must be turned off during class time unless you are a health care or law enforcement professional with appropriate ID.

### **Plagiarism**

Academic dishonesty is not an acceptable activity at the University of Calgary and students are **strongly advised** to read the Student Misconduct section in the University Calendar. Quite often, students are unaware of what constitutes academic dishonesty or plagiarism. The most common are 1) presenting another student's work as your own 2) presenting an author's work or ideas as your own without proper referencing and 3) using work completed for another course. This activity will not be tolerated in this course and students conducting themselves in this manner will be dealt with according to the procedures outlined in the calendar: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k-5.html>

### **Academic Accommodations:**

Students needing an accommodation because of a Disability or medical condition should communicate this need to Student Accessibility Services in accordance with the Procedure for Accommodations for Students with Disabilities. The procedure can be found at:

---

[ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy](http://ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy)

Students needing an accommodation based in relation to their coursework or to fulfil requirements for a graduate degree, on a Protected Ground other than Disability, should communicate this need, preferably in writing to their instructor or the appropriate Associate Dean or Department Head.

[ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy](http://ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy)

Students needing an Accommodation unrelated to their coursework or the requirements for a graduate degree, based on a Protected Ground other than Disability, should communicate this need, preferably in writing, to the Vice-Provost (Student Experience).

### **Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy**

*FOIP:* The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) legislation disallows the practice of having students retrieve assignments from a public place, e.g., outside instructor's office, the department office, etc. Term assignments will be returned to students individually, during class or during the instructor's office hours; if students are unable to pick up their assignments from the instructor, they provide the instructor with a stamped, self-addressed envelope to be used for the return of the assignment.

### **Re: Posting of Grades and Picking-up of Assignments**

- All assignments will be handled through D2L or personally.
- Their own grades will be available to each student on D2L by password access. Grades will not be available at Geography's main office.

### **Contact Information for Student and Faculty Representation**

- SU VP Academic Phone: 220-3911 and e-mail: [suvpaca@ucalgary.ca](mailto:suvpaca@ucalgary.ca)
- SU Faculty Rep. Phone: 220-3913 and e-mail: [arts1@ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts1@ucalgary.ca)

The students ombudsman office information can be found at:

<http://www.su.ucalgary.ca/page/affordability-accessibility/su-structure/contact-info>

### **Campus Safewalk**

Campus Security, in partnership with the Students' Union, provides the Safewalk service, 24 hours a day, to any location on Campus including the LRT, parking lots, bus zones and University residences. Contact Campus Security at 220-5333 or use a help phone, and Safewalkers or a Campus Security officer will accompany you to your Campus destination.

### **Faculty of Arts Program Advising and Student Information Resources**

- Have a question, but not sure where to start? The new Faculty of Arts Students Centre is your information resource for everything in Arts! Drop in at SS 102, call us at 403-220-3580 or email us at [ascarts@ucalgary.ca](mailto:ascarts@ucalgary.ca) you can also visit the Faculty of Arts website at <http://arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate> which has detailed information on common academic concerns.
- For registration (add/drop/swap), paying fees and assistance with your Student Centre, contact Enrolment Services at (403) 210 7625 or visit them at the MacKimmie Library Block.

Contact for Students Union Representatives for the Faculty of Arts:

[arts1@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts1@su.ucalgary.ca), [arts2@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts2@su.ucalgary.ca), [arts3@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts3@su.ucalgary.ca), [arts4@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts4@su.ucalgary.ca)

---