



**GEOGRAPHY FINAL COURSE OUTLINE: FALL 2011
GEOGRAPHY 340
H(3-0) Area II**

Qualitative Methods in Human-Environmental Research

Section	Days	Times	Location
LEC01	MoWeFr	13:00 - 13:50	ES 443

Instructor: Chui-Ling Tam	Office: ES 454	Office hours: Tr 11:00-13:00
Telephone: 220 5593	Email: cltam@ucalgary.ca	
Instructor: Gwendolyn Blue	Office: ES 302	Office hours: We 14:00-16:00
Telephone: 220 5595	Email: gqblue@ucalgary.ca	

Please note: The appropriate emergency evacuation assembly point for classes taught in Earth Sciences is ICT Food Court.

Official Course Description:

This course provides an introduction to qualitative research methods and research design in human geography and environmental geography. The course covers the basic principles of qualitative methods, how they compare with and differ from quantitative methods and how these methods can be combined. Among the subjects covered are theoretical frameworks, methodological design, forms of data collection, ethical considerations, fieldwork issues, data analysis, interpretation and structured writing. By using theoretical and applied examples throughout the course, it offers basic skills for the complex 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.

Three basic methods in qualitative research will be introduced:

- (i) Observational methods
- (ii) Oral methods (interviewing, focus groups, narratives)
- (iii) Textual analysis

Prerequisite:

One of Geography 205, 251, 253 or Urban Studies 253 or consent of the department.

Supplementary Fees: N/A

Text(s)/Readings:

Hay, Iain. 2010. *Qualitative research methods in human geography*. Don Mills, Ontario: Oxford University Press. (QRM)

Information about additional readings will be posted on Blackboard.

Grading (Weighting):

Term examination 1	20%	Fri Oct 14
Term examination 2	20%	Fri Nov 18
Group presentation	15%	To be scheduled
Research paper	35%	
Proposal (5%)		Wed Oct 26
Paper (30%)		Fri Dec 9
Participation	10%	Continuous

There is no final examination. It is essential to pass all elements/components to pass the course as a whole.

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 additional detailed course information posted by the Instructor see Blackboard at:
<http://blackboard.ucalgary.ca/>

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 Centre in the Effective Writing Office 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/j-2.html>

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/honesty/plagiarism>

Disability Resource Centre Accommodations

If you are a student with a documented disability who may require academic accommodation and have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre, please contact their office at 220-8237. Students who have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre are not eligible for formal academic accommodation. You are also required to discuss your needs with your instructor no later than fourteen (14) days after the start of this course.

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 Blackboard or personally.
- Their own grades will be available to each student on Blackboard 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: suypaca@ucalgary.ca
- SU Faculty Rep. Phone: 220-3913 and e-mail: 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.

Lecture Schedule (subject to change)

Wk	Date	GEOG 340 CONTENT and Instructor	Readings	
Part I: Conceptual accounts				
1	Sep 12 Sep 14 Sep 16	Course introduction: Qualitative research <i>Individual work on 1st critical reflection</i>	CT/GB	Ch. 1
2	Sep 19 Sep 21 Sep 23	Accounting for power <i>Groupwork meeting</i>	GB	Ch. 2
3	Sep 26 Sep 28 Sep 30	Working across differences <i>Groupwork meeting</i>	GB	Ch. 3
4	Oct 03 Oct 05 Oct 07	Research strategies: Choices, challenges and requirements <i>Research proposal workshop</i>	CT	Ch. 4,5
5	Oct 10	<i>Thanksgiving – no lecture</i>		
	Oct 12	Exam review: Part 1		
	Oct 14	Term exam 1		
Part II: Research methods				
6	Oct 17 Oct 19 Oct 21	In the field: ethnography and observational methods <i>Seminars</i>	CT	Ch. 12
7	Oct 24 Oct 26 Oct 28	Participatory research and questionnaires Research proposal due <i>Seminars</i>	CT	Ch. 10,13
8	Oct 31 Nov 02 Nov 03	Oral methods: interviews, focus groups, narratives <i>Seminars</i>	GB	Ch. 6,7,8
9	Nov 07 Nov 09	Accounting for texts: archives, discourse <i>Seminars</i>	GB	Ch. 9,11
	Nov 11	<i>Remembrance Day – no lecture</i>		
10	Nov 14 Nov 16 Nov 18	<i>One-on-one research proposal meetings – no lecture</i> Exam review: Part II Term exam 2		
Part III: Making texts: Interpretation and communication				
11	Nov 21 Nov 23 Nov 25	Analysing data	CT	Ch. 14,15
12	Nov 28 Nov 30 Dec 02	Constructing knowledges	CT/GB	Ch. 16,17
13	Dec 05 Dec 07 Dec 09	Writing up the results: From personal to public Research paper due	CT/GB	Ch. 18