



GEOGRAPHY FINAL COURSE OUTLINE: FALL 2012
Geography 340
H(3-0)

Qualitative Methods in Human-Environmental Research

| Section | Days | Time | Location |
|----------------|-------------|---------------|-----------------|
| LEC 01 | TuTh | 09:30 - 10:45 | SB 144 |

| | | |
|----------------------------|---|---|
| Instructor: Chui-Ling Tam | Office: ES 454 | Office hours: Tue 10:45-12:15 |
| Tel: 220 5593 | Email: cltam@ucalgary.ca | |
| Instructor: Gwendolyn Blue | Office: ES 322 | Office hours: Mon: 14:00 – 1600 |
| Tel: 220 5595 | Email: gqblue@ucalgary.ca | |

Please note: The appropriate emergency evacuation assembly point for all classes taught in Science B is ICT food court.

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

Prerequisites

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

Text Readings

Hay, Iain (Ed) 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

| <i>Task</i> | <i>Value</i> | <i>Due date</i> |
|-------------------------------|--------------|----------------------|
| Library assignment | 10% | Sept 17/25 |
| Term examination | 30% | Oct. 11 |
| Group seminar | 15% | Oct. 18 – Nov. 8 |
| Topic statement and rationale | 5% | Nov. 15 |
| Research Proposal | 30% | Dec 6 |
| Peer evaluations | 10% | Seminar and proposal |

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 |

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.

Academic Accommodation Policy

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

Posting of Grades and Pick up of Assignments

- All assignments will be handles on Blackboard.
- 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: suwpaca@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.

Faculty of Arts Program Advising and Student Information Resources

- Have a question, but not sure where to start? The new Faculty of Arts Program Information Centre (PIC) is your information resource for everything in Arts! Drop in at SS110, call us at 403-220-3580 or email us at artsads@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 program planning and advice, contact the Student Success Centre (formerly the Undergraduate programs Office) at (403) 220-5881 or visit them in their new space on the 3rd Floor of the Taylor Family Digital Library.
- For registration (add/drop/swap), paying fees and assistance with your Student Centre, contact Enrolment Services at (403) 210-ROCK [7625] or visit them at the MacKimmie Library Block.

Contact for Students Union Representatives for the Faculty of Arts:

arts1@su.ucalgary.ca, arts2@su.ucalgary.ca, arts3@su.ucalgary.ca, arts4@su.ucalgary.ca

Lecture Schedule (subject to change)

| <i>Wk</i> | <i>Date</i> | <i>Topics</i> | <i>Instructor</i> | <i>Readings</i> | <i>Due</i> |
|---|------------------|--|-------------------|-----------------|---|
| Part I: Key concepts | | | | | |
| 1 | Sep 11 Sep 13 | Introduction to qualitative research | CT/GB | Ch. 1 | |
| 2 | Sep 18 Sep 20 | Information literacy / Referencing Library Workshop – <i>Meet in TFDL</i> | GB | | Library information sheet due Sept. 17 by 5:00 PM. See Blackboard for details |
| 3 | Sep 25 Sep 27 | Power, subjectivity and ethics | GB | Ch. 2,3 | Library quiz due in class Sept. 25 |
| 4 | Oct 02 Oct 04 | Constructing knowledges | CT | Ch. 4,17 | |
| 5 | Oct 09 Oct 11 | Research design TERM EXAM | CT | Ch. 16 | |
| Part II: Research methods | | | | | |
| 6 | Oct 16 Oct 18 | Oral methods: interviews, focus groups, narratives Group seminars | GB | Ch. 6,7,8 | Seminar summaries due by 6:00 PM Oct. 17. Email to all class |
| 7 | Oct 23 Oct 25 | Accounting for texts: archives, discourse Group seminars | GB | Ch. 9,11 | Seminar summaries due by 6:00 PM Oct. 24. Email to all class |
| 8 | Oct 30 Nov 01 | In the field: ethnography and participatory research Group seminars | CT | Ch. 12,13 | Seminar summaries due by 6:00 PM Oct. 31. Email to all class |
| 9 | Nov 06 Nov 08 | Questionnaires and analysis of data Group seminars | CT | Ch. 10,14 | Seminar summaries due by 6:00 PM Nov. 7. Email to all class |
| 10 | Nov 13 Nov 15 | Reading break <i>No lecture</i> | | | Topic statement due Nov. 15 by 10:45 AM. Email to both instructors |
| Part III: Interpretation and communication | | | | | |
| 11 | Nov 20 Nov 22 | <i>No lecture. One-on-one meetings with instructors</i> | CT/GB | | |
| 12 | Nov 27 Nov 29 | Proposal Workshops | CT/GB | Ch. 16 | |
| 13 | Dec 04 Dec 06 | Peer review workshop Course conclusion | CT/GB | | Draft research proposal due Dec. 4. Final research proposal due Dec. 6 |