

GEOG 695 LEC01 Seminar in Geographic Research Methods

GFC Hours 3-0

Winter 2023 classes: January 9th – April 12th

Section	Days	Time	Location
LEC 01	W	15:00-17:45	ES 342

Instructor: Conny Davidsen	Office: ES 319
Telephone: 403 220 5591	Email: davidsen@ucalgary.ca
Email communication will be through your UCalgary email address.	Office hours: see D2L

Official Course Description

Exploration of the underlying theories and procedures of qualitative research, in human geography. Overview of methodologies including conventional approaches such as case studies and ethnographies and critical avenues such as feminist, Indigenous and science and technology studies approaches. Main qualitative research methods (interviews, discourse analysis, observation, action-oriented research) are covered.

Course Objectives

The main objective is a systematic overview and critical application of qualitative research methods, their opportunities and challenges; offer practice for specific qualitative or mixed methods applications; develop critical researcher 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 to which they contribute, and the expected level of achievement.

Course Learning Outcomes	PLO(s)*	Level(s)**
Explain methodological, theoretical and ethical issues involved in qualitative research	1, 3, 5	3
Choose and evaluate a range of qualitative research designs and data collection tools for different research situations	1, 2, 4, 5, 8	3
Explain and address validity and ethics implications related to research designs, data practices and power relationships	3,5	3
Effectively communicate and critique research in oral and written formats	7, 8	3

*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, and 3 = Advanced.

Prerequisites

3 units from GEOG 340, 483

Learning Resources

Iain Hay and Meghan Cope (2021) *Qualitative Research Methods in Human Geography*. Oxford Publishing.

Digital and older textbook editions can be used as well. Please see D2L course page for additional information on the textbooks, and for further learning materials posted throughout the term.

Assessment Methods

20%	Class Activities & Assignments
15%	Class Presentations
30%	Midterm Paper
35%	Final Paper

Class Activities & Assignments include in-session exercises, group work and discussions, live or recorded oral contributions, written assignments, and other in-class or take-home activities. The course sessions require attendance and interactive engagement for full grade.

Class Presentations may include in-person or recorded presentations to share with the class during class sessions or via D2L.

Midterm Paper is a take-home open-book assignment with pre-defined segments of a research design project proposal paired with course content, methodological critiques and peer review by and for class colleagues. All course materials can and should be used.

Final Paper is a take-home open-book assignment with pre-defined elements of a research design project proposal, similar to the midterm paper. All course materials can and should be used.

There will be no registrar-scheduled final exam. Late submission of grading components will be subject to a prorated 12% penalty per day. It is not necessary to pass all components to pass the course as a whole. The instructor reserves the right to adjust grading to reflect student performance more fairly.

In the event that any grading component or course activity will be missed, please discuss with the instructor as soon as you know. Provided valid reasons, possible alternative arrangements can be discussed. For general UofC expectations and standards, see <https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/m-1.html> and <https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/registration/appeals/student-faq>

Grading System

96 – 100 A+	76 – 80 B	58 – 61 C-
91 – 95 A	71 – 75 B-	54 – 57 D+
86 – 90 A-	66 – 70 C+	50 – 53 D
81 – 85 B+	62 – 65 C	0 – 49 F

Flexible Grade Option (CG Grade) <https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/f-1-3.html>

Exams & Deferrals <https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/exams>

Referencing Standard

In written work presented in this class, accepted referencing standards are APA or Chicago Manual of Style. See D2L for more info for specific written assignments.

Important Dates

The last day to drop this course and receive a tuition fee refund is **Thursday, January 19th, 2023**. The last day to add or swap a course for Winter 2023 is **Friday, January 20th, 2023**. The last day to withdraw from this course is **Wednesday, April 12th, 2023**. Please note that the University is closed on **Monday, February 20th** for Family Day. Term break is **February 19th – 25th**. The University is closed **Friday, April 7th** and **Monday, April 10th** for Easter.

For additional detailed course information posted by the instructor, visit the course Desire2Learn page online at <https://d2l.ucalgary.ca/d2l/home>.

Resources and Writing support

Please note writing support resources provided by the Student Success Centre <https://ucalgary.ca/ssc/resources/writing-support> and the library <https://libguides.ucalgary.ca/guides/>

University of Calgary Academic Integrity Policy

Academic integrity is the foundation of the development and acquisition of knowledge and is based on values of honesty, trust, responsibility, and respect. We expect members of our community to act with integrity. The University 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 university property. This statement applies in all situations where members of the university community are acting in their university capacities.

[University of Calgary : K. Integrity and Conduct \(ucalgary.ca\)](https://ucalgary.ca/k-integrity-and-conduct)

Plagiarism, Cheating, and Student Misconduct

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 at: www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k-3.html. 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 adequate citation, and (3) using work completed for another course. Such activities will not be tolerated in this course, and students suspected of academic misconduct will be dealt with according to the procedures outlined in the calendar at: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/university-policies-procedures/student-academic-misconduct-procedure>

For information on what constitutes plagiarism and how to properly cite the work of others, the Department of Geography recommends that they attend Academic Integrity workshops offered through the Student Success Centre: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/student-services/student-success/learning/academic-integrity>

Instructor Intellectual Property

Information on Instructor Intellectual Property can be found at <https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/university-policies-procedures/intellectual-property-policy>

Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy

Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) legislation in Alberta regulates the return of term assessments. 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 must provide the instructor with a stamped, self-addressed envelope to be used for the return of the assignment. Grades and assignments will not be available at the Department of Geography's main office and assignments cannot be dropped off at the Department Office.

Research

Learning activities and grading components do not implement data collection with human subjects, and do not require students to participate as subjects in data collection. Students are not expected to obtain UofC research ethics approval for their course deliverables.

Posting of Grades and Picking-up of Assignments

Graded assignments will be returned by the instructor or teaching assistant personally during scheduled lecture or laboratory periods, unless they are made available electronically through the course D2L webpage.

Academic Accommodations

It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodations, according to the university policies and procedures listed in the University Calendar. The student accommodation policy can be found at: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/b-6-1.html>

Within the first week of classes, students needing an accommodation because of a disability or medical condition should register with Student Accessibility Services [Accessibility | Home | University of Calgary \(ucalgary.ca\)](#) Students needing an accommodation based on a protected ground other than disability should communicate this need, preferably in writing to their instructor or the Department Head (email: freeman@ucalgary.ca).

Learning Technologies and Requirements

In order to successfully engage in their learning experiences at the University of Calgary, students taking online, remote and blended courses are required to have reliable access to the following technology.

- A computer with a supported operating system, as well as the latest security and malware updates
- A current and updates web browser
- Broadband internet connection
- Optional technology: webcam (built in or external) / microphone and speaker (built in or external) or headset with microphone

Use of internet and electronic devices in class

Laptops and electronic devices can be used in class except during grading assessments or when prompted for specific activities.

Guidelines for Video Sessions

Video sessions maybe used in the event of instructor absence, for work within peer groups, or for other communication related to course obligations. To help ensure video sessions are private, do not share link or password with others via any medium, including social media platforms. Links and passwords are only intended for students registered in the course. Recordings and materials presented, including any teaching materials, must not be shared, distributed or published without the instructor's permission.

The use of video conferencing programs relies on participants to act ethically, honestly and with integrity; and in accordance with the principles of fairness, good faith and respect (as per the [Code of Conduct](#)). When entering video conferencing sessions, you play a role in helping create an effective, safe and respectful learning environment.

Please be mindful of how your behavior in these sessions may affect others. Participants are required to use names officially associated with their UCID (legal or preferred names listed in the Student Centre) when engaging in these activities. Instructors/moderators can remove those whose names do not appear on class rosters. Non-compliance may be investigated under relevant University of Calgary conduct policies (e.g. Student Non Academic Misconduct Policy). If participants have difficulties complying with this requirement, they should email the instructor of the class explaining why, so the instructor may consider whether to grant an exception, and on what terms. For more information on how to get the most out of your sessions visit: [eLearn @ UCalgary](#)

If you are unable to attend a session, please contact your instructor to arrange an alternative activity for the missed session (e.g., to review a recorded session). Please be prepared, as best as you are able, to join class in a quiet space that will allow you to be fully present and engaged in sessions. Students will be advised by their instructor when they are expected to turn on their webcam (for group work, presentations, etc.).

The instructor may record online class sessions for the purposes of supporting student learning in this class – such as making the recording available for review of the session or for students who miss a session. Students will be advised before the instructor initiates a recording of a class session. These recordings will be used to support student learning only and will not be shared or used for any other purpose.

Media Recording

Selected class activities may be audio or video recorded to enhance student learning by enabling self-assessment or lesson review. For general UofC standards please see https://elearn.ucalgary.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Media-Recording-in-Learning-Environments-OSP_FINAL.pdf

Course evaluations and student feedback

Student feedback is encouraged throughout the term. Formal student feedback will be sought at the end of the course through the standard University Student Ratings of Instruction (USRI) and Faculty course evaluation forms.

Accessibility

Students need visual capacity to see presented lecture materials in order to get full information. YuJa will not be used and captioning may not always be available.

Copyright Legislation

All students are required to read the University of Calgary policy on Acceptable Use of Material Protected by Copyright <https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/university-policies-procedures/acceptable-use-material-protected-copyright-policy> and requirements of the copyright act (<https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-42/index.html>) to ensure they are aware of the consequences of unauthorised sharing of course materials (including instructor notes, electronic versions of textbooks etc.). Students who use material protected by copyright in violation of this policy may be disciplined under the Non-Academic Misconduct Act.

Wellness and Mental Health Resources

Mental health plays a pivotal role in physical health, social connectedness, and academic success and aspires to create a caring and supportive campus community where individuals can freely talk about mental health and receive supports when needed. We encourage you to explore the mental health resources available throughout the university community, such as counselling, self-help resources, peer support, or skills-building available through the SU Wellness Centre (Room 370, MacEwan Student Centre, <https://www.ucalgary.ca/wellnesscentre/services/mental-health-services> and the Campus Mental Health Strategy website (<http://www.ucalgary.ca/mentalhealth/>).

Students requiring assistance are encouraged to email the **Student at Risk line** if they or others appear to need wellness assistance: sar@ucalgary.ca For more immediate response, please call: 403-210-9355 and select option #2.

Sexual Violence Policy

All members of the University Community should be able to learn, work, teach and live in an environment where they are free from harassment, discrimination, and violence. Please see the policy available at <https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/university-policies-procedures/sexual-and-gender-based-violence-policy>

Contact Information for Student and Faculty Representation

- Student Union VP Academic 403-220-3911, suvpaca@ucalgary.ca
- Students Union Representatives for the Faculty of Arts – 403-220-3913, arts1@su.ucalgary.ca, arts2@su.ucalgary.ca, arts3@su.ucalgary.ca, arts4@su.ucalgary.ca
- Student Ombuds Office information can be found at: www.ucalgary.ca/ombuds/

Emergency Evacuation/Assembly Points

Assembly point: ICT Food Court (see <https://www.ucalgary.ca/risk/emergency-management/evacuations/assembly-points-and-evacuation-maps>). Assembly points for emergencies have been identified across campus. Assembly points are designed to establish a location for information updates from the emergency responders to the evacuees; from the evacuated population to the emergency responders. For more information, see the University of Calgary's Emergency Management website: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/risk/emergency-management>

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 station, 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.