



**GEOGRAPHY FINAL COURSE OUTLINE: FALL 2015**  
**Geography 340**  
**H(3-0)**

**Qualitative Methods in Human-Environmental Research**

Section	Days	Time	Location
LEC 01	TuTh	09:30 - 10:45	ES 443

<b>Instructor:</b> Gwendolyn Blue	<b>Office:</b> ES 322
<b>Tel:</b> 220 5595	<b>Email:</b> ggblue@ucalgary.ca
<b>TAs:</b> Ray Yeoung	<b>TA Office:</b> TBD
<b>TA Email:</b> cfyeung@ucalgary.ca	

The primary emergency evacuation assembly point for all classes taught in Earth Sciences is the ICT Food Court. The secondary emergency evacuation assembly point is the Social Science 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.

### **Prerequisites**

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

### **Required Text**

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

### **Recommended Text**

Aitken, Stuart and Valentine, Gill. 2015. *Approaches to Human Geography; Philosophies, Theories, People and Practices*. 2<sup>nd</sup> edition. New York and London: Sage.

Additional readings will be posted on D2L

Both texts are available on reserve at Gallagher Library.

## Grading/Weighting \*Assignment details located on D2L

Group seminar presentation	20%
Reflection portfolio	30%
Research proposal	35%
In class assignments	15%

### Grading system

96-100	A+	77-80.5	B	59-61.5	C-
90-95.5	A	71-76.5	B-	55-58.5	D+
86-89.5	A-	65-70.5	C+	50-54.5	D
81-85.5	B+	62-64.5	C	0-49.5	F

### 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 have opportunities to improve their writing skills. 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 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>

---

### **Academic Accommodations:**

It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodations according to the university policies and procedures listed below. The student accommodation policy can be found at: [www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy.pdf](http://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy.pdf)

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: [www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/procedure-for-accommodations-for-students-with-disabilities\\_0.pdf](http://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/procedure-for-accommodations-for-students-with-disabilities_0.pdf)

Students needing an accommodation based on a Protected Ground other than Disability, should communicate this need, in writing, to the "(Instructor).

### **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.
- 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)

### **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:

---

### Schedule of Lectures

\*Lectures and readings subject to change

Week		Tuesday	Thursday
1	Sept. 8, 10	<p><b>Course introduction: The nature and purpose of geographical inquiry</b></p> <p>Read: QRM Chapter 1</p>	<p><b>Ways of knowing and doing research: positivism and humanism; qualitative and quantitative</b></p> <p>Recommended: Rodaway, Humanism and People Centered Methods (AHG)</p> <p>Kitchin, Positivist Geography (AHG)</p>
2	Sept. 15, 17	<p><b>Research ethics</b></p> <p>Read: QRM Chapter 2, 3</p>	<p><b>Research design</b></p> <p>Read: QRM Chapter 4</p>
3	Sept. 22, 24	<p><b>Library workshop: Locating, referencing and citing research material</b></p>	<p>Research proposal topic statement due</p> <p>Deadline for groups to pick topic</p>
4	Sept. 29, Oct. 1	<p>Group project workshop</p>	<p><b>Communicating Qualitative Research: Audiences and Delivery</b></p> <p>Read: QRM Chapter 18</p>
5	Oct. 6, 8	<p><b>Case studies and ethnographic approaches</b></p> <p>Read: QRM Chapter 5</p>	<p>Group presentations</p>
6	Oct. 13, 15	<p><b>Talk based approaches: Interviewing and focus groups</b></p> <p>Read: QRM Chapter 6, 8</p>	<p>Group presentations</p>
7	Oct. 20, 22	<p><b>Questionnaires and surveys</b></p> <p>Read: QRM Chapter 10</p>	<p>Group presentations</p>
8	Oct. 27, 29		<p>Group presentations</p>

		<b>Discourse analysis / post-structuralism</b> Read: QRM Chapter 11 Recommended: Harrison Post-structuralist theories (AHG)	
9	Nov. 3, 5	<b>Critical methodologies: Post-colonialism, participatory action research, knowledge co-production</b> Read: QRM Chapter 12 & 13 Recommended: Robbins: Research as Theft (AHG)  Reflection portfolio due by Nov. 3 9:30 AM (Weeks 1 – 8)	Group presentations
10	Nov. 10, 12	Research proposal workshop  Due in class: Draft literature review and research question	Reading Break: No Class Scheduled
11	Nov.17, 20	<b>Critical methodologies: Feminist methods</b> Read: England: Producing Feminist Geographies (AHG)	Group presentations
12	Nov. 24, 26	<b>Qualitative GIS</b> Recommended: Goodchild: Geographic Information Systems (AHG)	Group presentations
13	Dec 2, 4	<b>Relational approaches: Actor network theory, multi-species ethnographies, etc.</b> Recommended: Lulka Human animal (AHG) Bosco: Actor Network Theory (AGH)	Group presentations
14	Dec 8	<b>Course conclusion</b>	

		Reflection portfolio due in class (Weeks 1 – 8)
15	Dec 15	<b>Research proposals due to D2L (by 5:00 PM)</b>

---