

GEOG 583

Winter 2024

Advanced Qualitative Methods

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

Instructor: Eliot Tretter	Office: ES406
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Email communication will be through your UCalgary email address.	Office hours: see D2L

The **Department of Geography** condemns the longstanding and continued injustices against those marginalized by racism, sexism, homophobia, transphobia, classism, xenophobia, able-bodied normativity, mental health profiling, and other forms of prejudice. We are pained by the fact that injustices are unevenly borne. <https://arts.ucalgary.ca/news/anti-racism-statement>

Territorial Acknowledgement

The Department of Geography would also like to acknowledge the traditional territories of the people of the Treaty 7 region in southern Alberta. The City of Calgary is also home to Métis Nation of Alberta, Region III. <https://www.ucalgary.ca/indigenous/cultural-protocol>

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. This course has received approval from The Conjoint Faculties Research Ethics Board (CFREB), University of Calgary has reviewed and approved the below research. Ethics ID: REB23-1678. Principal Investigator: Eliot Tretter

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	2

Choose, evaluate, and conduct a range of qualitative research methods, 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	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, and 3 = Advanced.*

Prerequisites

3 units from GEOG 340, 483

Course Format

Unless government- and university-imposed public health measures are reintroduced, ALL classes and tutorials will be offered synchronously.

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.

Important Dates

The last day to drop this course and receive a tuition fee refund is January 18, 2024. The last day to add or swap a course for **Winter 2024** is January 19, 2024. The last day to withdraw from this course is April 9, 2024. Please note that the University is closed on February 19, March 29, and April 1 **2024**.

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

Grading (Weighting)

Assessment Methods

85% - Qualitative Methods Activities and Assignments:

75% or 25% (see note below about how this may be the full 85%) - **Students must be a researcher for and complete 3 out of 5 of the qualitative methods activities and assignments.**

10% - **Students may be a subject for credit for at least 3 out of 4 of the qualitative methods activities and assignments** - Students can receive up to 10% of their course grade for being a subject in 3 methods projects. Students may opt-out of being a subject for any or all projects. If they decide to not be a participant, any portion of the grade will be reweighted to the researcher assignments.

Details on the projects.

Some of these may not be able to completely outside of the regularly scheduled class time and others must be completed only outside of regularly scheduled class time. The activities are listed below and there is remark about their completion. Students may participate in all the activities as either a researcher, subject, or both. They **must be a researcher for and complete at least 3 out of 5 of the qualitative methods activities and assignments.**

Projects:

- *Project Option 1: Semi-Structured Interview (in-class only)*
- *Project Option 2: Focus Group (in-class only)*
- *Project Option 3: Participant Observation (outside of class only)*
- *Project Option 4: Photo Elicitation (outside of class but also maybe offered in class if time permits)*
- *Project Option 5: A 'Sense of Place' Walking Interview (outside of class only)*

Students will select three methods to “practice” and will write up the results from utilizing the method. Project prompts will be detailed in the following. The class will focus on the topic of student housing and studentification. Each mini-project paper is expected to be no less than **4 double-spaced pages** and no more than **6 double-spaced pages**. **There should be full bibliography but this is** included in the page count. Write-ups will:

- (1) Situate the topic and research question (c. 1/2-1 page);
- (2) Describe the methods used and why they are appropriate to answer the research question (explicitly drawing on the methods literature) (c. 1-2 pages);
- (3) Present an analysis of the data produced (c. 1-2 pages); and
- (4) Provide a reflection on the student’s positionality in the research process. Analysis will include reflections on the things that were difficult for you as a proto-researcher and what you wish you understood better (c. 1/2page-1 page).

Students are expected to act as scholars and find appropriate texts via journal/book access through the University library system or D2L. Students may not use other sources they those provided. Each mini-project must have **at least 4 references** that directly contribute to the analysis – these must include chapters and articles covered in the required course readings. You may cite additional readings included a section on D2L titled additional papers that deal directly with the topic. These papers, and their bibliographies, also provide useful resources for researching mini-project assignments. Students must submit all notes/transcripts/records as separate documents on D2L (not counted towards the page count).

5% - Completion of Ethics: This must be completed by the start of second class. If you do not complete the ethics for this course, you cannot pass. Go the website: <https://tcps2core.ca/welcome> You must register and complete the modules. It will take you about 2-2:30 hours. Why you are done upload the certification to D2L.

10% - Reflection Paper or Applying for a PURE Grant (other similar grant) - Details about this project will be given out in the final month of class.

- It is essential to complete the ethics course to pass the course as whole.
- There is no late assignment policy but once an assignment is graded and returned it may not be completed for a grade.

Grading System

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

In the event that a student misses any course work due to illness, supporting documentation, such as a medical note or a statutory declaration will be required see: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/m-1.html> Please refer to <https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/registration/appeals/student-faq> for frequently asked questions concerning the provision of a medical note/statutory declaration. If you miss class on an assignment that must be completed in-class no make-up can be given but this only applies to 2 of the 3 activities.

Supplementary Fees

“Not applicable.”

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

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

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. All members of the university community have a responsibility to familiarize themselves with the principles of conduct statement, which is available at: www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html.

Plagiarism, Cheating, and Student Misconduct

The University of Calgary is committed to the highest standards of academic integrity and honesty. Students are expected to be familiar with these standards regarding academic honesty and to uphold the policies of the University in this respect.

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 students wishing to know more about 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 disallows the practice of having students retrieve assignments from a public place, such as outside an 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 must provide the instructor with a stamped, self-addressed envelope to be used for the return of the assignment.

Human subjects

Students in the course must participate as subjects or researchers when research on human subjects.

Internet and electronic communication device information

There **are no** restrictions 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, unless you have previously identified yourself to the instructor as a health care or law enforcement professional.

Referencing Standard

There is no mandated method for referencing the work in this class but all referencing must conform to standards of academic practice such as the (1) Chicago Manual of Style: <https://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/home.html> or (2) American Psychological Association: <https://apastyle.apa.org/products/publication-manual-7th-edition>. If you have questions about referencing talk to the Professor. When you make references to any journal articles, books, and other materials, these should be appropriately cited and included in a bibliography for all papers and

assignments. **Works cited in-text should be compiled in your bibliography. Everything in your bibliography needs to be cited in the text.**

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/>

Deferrals

There are no late penalties or exams in this course.

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. 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.

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>

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: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/university-policies-procedures/accommodation-students-disabilities-procedure>

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).

Documentation for Absences or Missed Course Assessments

Students who are absent from class assessments (tests, participation activities, or other assignments) should inform the instructor as soon as possible. Instructors may request that evidence in the form of documentation be provided. If the reason provided for the absence is acceptable, instructors may decide that any arrangements made can take forms other than make-up tests or assignments. For example, the weight of a missed grade may be added to another assignment or test. For information on possible forms of documentation, including statutory declarations, please see <https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/m-1.html>

Copyright Legislation

All students are required to read the University of Calgary policy on Acceptable Use of Material Protected by Copyright <https://ucalgary.ca/legal-services/university-policies-procedures/acceptable-use-material-protected-copyright-policy> and requirements of the copyright act at (<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.

Course evaluations and student feedback

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.

Wellness and Mental Health Resources

The University of Calgary recognizes the pivotal role that student mental health plays 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

The University recognizes that 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, suypaca@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 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>. In case of emergencies and fire drills, please note the Professional Faculties Food Court as the assembly/muster point.

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.