



**GEOGRAPHY FINAL COURSE OUTLINE: WINTER 2014  
GEOGRAPHY 695.02**

**Qualitative Methods**

<b>Section</b>	<b>Days</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Location</b>
LEC01	TuTh	09:30 – 10:45	ES 908

Instructor: Joe Arvai	Office: ES 448
Telephone: 220 7846	Email: <a href="mailto:arvai@ucalgary.ca">arvai@ucalgary.ca</a>
Twitter: @DecisionLab (#GEOG251)	Web: <a href="http://www.decisonlab.ca">www.decisonlab.ca</a>

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

**Course Description**

This seminar course examines qualitative research methodology by focusing on a variety of methods and analytical techniques. Much of the material, particularly the empirical examples are firmly rooted in geography. Nevertheless, the major themes of the course connect to debates concerning qualitative research in all of the social sciences. The general themes are philosophy, methods of data gathering, analysis strategies, and evaluation (qualitative rigour).

**Prerequisite**

Consent of the Department

**Supplementary Fees**

NA

**Readings**

There is no required textbook for this class. When it comes to graduate students, my philosophy is that you should be able to choose your own reference material. In my view, the bookshelf of a researcher should include at least a few volumes on 'research methods'. To this end, please identify a reference book on qualitative methods that suits your research interests. Whether you choose to buy a book for this course is up to you. Additional readings—mainly journal articles—will be assigned, and posted on Blackboard (<http://blackboard.ucalgary.ca/>), throughout the term.

**Assignments and Weighting**

Research Paper      100%      Due: TBD

**Grading**

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 are available to any undergraduate or graduate student who requires 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.

### **Student Accessibility Services Accommodations**

If you are a student with a documented disability who may require academic accommodation and have not registered with Student Accessibility Services, please contact their office at 220-8237. Students who have not registered with Student Accessibility Services 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**

- Each assignment must be printed, stapled, and submitted at the start of class on its due date. Electronic copies of assignments will **not** be accepted.

- Final 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: [suvpaca@ucalgary.ca](mailto:suvpaca@ucalgary.ca)
- SU Faculty Rep. Phone: 220-3913 and e-mail: [arts1@ucalgary.ca](mailto: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](mailto: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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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](mailto:arts1@su.ucalgary.ca), [arts2@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts2@su.ucalgary.ca), [arts3@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts3@su.ucalgary.ca), [arts4@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts4@su.ucalgary.ca)