



**GEOGRAPHY FINAL COURSE OUTLINE: WINTER
2016 GEOGRAPHY 695.02
H(3-0)**

Seminar in Geographic Research Methods – Qualitative Methods

Section	Days	Time	Location
LEC 01	TuTh	11:00 – 12:15	ES 908

Instructor: Conny Davidsen	Office: ES 318
Tel: 220 5591	Email: davidsen@ucalgary.ca

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

Additional Information:

Students are encouraged to contact the instructor by email. Please state the course code in the subject line.

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

May be repeated for credit.

Required Readings

- Creswell, John W. 2012. *Qualitative Inquiry and Research Design: Choosing Among Five Approaches*. Third Edition, Sage Publications, Thousand Oaks, CA.
- *Information on additional required reading materials will be posted on Desire2Learn (D2L).*

Grading (Weighting):

(1) In-class activities and participation:	20%
(2) Short assignments:	40%
(3) Final paper:	25%
(4) Final presentation:	15%

ad (1) In-class activities and participation 20%

For a good grade in this class, you are expected to participate actively throughout the semester. This includes engagement in discussions, thorough preparation of the readings, and a critical reflection on the course material and presentations. Mere presence in class is not sufficient to pass this class component.

ad (2) Short assignments 40%

Over the course of the semester, you are expected to prepare week-to-week assignments that may include, but are not limited to, small group projects, short presentations and/or papers. The assignments will be specified during class and posted online.

ad (3) Final paper 25%

You will write a final paper (4,500-6,000 words) that discusses and critically assesses possible research designs for a chosen qualitative research project, typically closely related to your own graduate thesis. The paper will be developed over the course of the semester and is expected to reflect your progress on methodological approaches and their applicability for your research.

ad (4) Final presentation 15%

You will give a presentation that provides an overview of your developed research project, explains your methodological approach and critically discusses its applicability and alternatives.

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

For additional detailed course information posted by the Instructor refer to Desire2Learn at <https://d2l.ucalgary.ca/d2l/home>

Re: Posting of Grades and Picking-up of Assignments

- All assignments will be handled through D2L or personally.
- Their own grades will be available to each student on D2L by password access. Grades will not be available at Geography’s main office.

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). 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 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 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 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. <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

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

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.

Contact Information for Student and Faculty Representation

- SU VP Academic Phone: 220-3911 and e-mail: suvpaca@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.