



**Department of Psychology**  
**Psychology 415 (L01) – Qualitative Inquiry in Psychology**  
**Fall 2009**

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<b>Instructor:</b>	L. Radtke	<b>Lecture Location:</b>	Admin 253
<b>Phone:</b>	403-220-5223	<b>Lecture Days/Time:</b>	R/17:00-19:50
<b>Email:</b>	<a href="mailto:radtke@ucalgary.ca">radtke@ucalgary.ca</a>	<b>Lab Instructor:</b>	Dane Burns
<b>Office:</b>	Admin 255B	<b>Phone:</b>	403-220-4972
<b>Office Hours:</b>	R/15:00-16:00 or by appointment	<b>Email:</b>	<a href="mailto:dtburns@ucalgary.ca">dtburns@ucalgary.ca</a>
		<b>Office:</b>	Admin 251B
		<b>Office Hours:</b>	TBA
		<b>Lab Location:</b>	Admin 248
		<b>Lab Days/Time:</b>	B01: M/9-10:50 B02: W/13:00-14:50

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### **Course Description and Goals**

An introduction to qualitative research methods in psychology. We will discuss the theory and practice of qualitative approaches to psychology. Three specific approaches -interpretative phenomenological analysis, grounded theory, and discourse analysis - will be used to illustrate basic principles but also to provide students with experience in conducting qualitative analysis. Students will develop skills related to conducting research interviews and analysing verbal data. Lectures will focus on theory and analysis; labs will provide an opportunity to practice developing interview materials, conducting interviews, and analysis. Through course projects, students will also develop their writing skills.

### **Prerequisites**

Psyc 312 – Experimental Design and Quantitative Methods for Psychology

### **Required Text**

Smith, J. A. (2008). *Qualitative psychology: A practical guide to research methods* (2<sup>nd</sup> ed.). London: Sage. [Available from the University of Calgary Bookstore]

The following four journal articles that you can access electronically through the library and download:

Adams, G., Turner, H., & Bucks, R. (2005). The experience of body dissatisfaction in men. *Body Image, 2*, 271-283.

Benford, R., & Gough, B. (2006). Defining and defending 'unhealthy' practices: A discourse analysis of chocolate 'addicts' accounts. *Journal of Health Psychology, 11*, 427-440.

Saarikallio, S., & Erkkilä, J. (2007). The role of music in adolescents' mood regulation. *Psychology of Music, 35*(1), 88-109.

Seymour-Smith, S., & Wetherell, M. (2006). 'What he hasn't told you . . .': Investigating the micro-politics of gendered support in heterosexual couples' co-constructed accounts of illness. *Feminism & Psychology, 16*, 105-127.

**Evaluation**

Final course grades will be based on three course components - (1) Exams (50% of final grade), (2) a Paper (20% of final grade), and (3) Lab assignments (30% of final grade). Details are provided below.

**Please note that students must achieve a passing grade on both the class and lab components to pass this course.**

(1) **Exams** (50% of final grade): Four, non-cumulative quizzes with short answer format. The quizzes will be written during the first 75 minutes of class.

Quiz	Date	Material Covered	Weighting
1	Sept 24	Ch. 1, 2, 4 – pp. 57-64 Sept 10 and 17 lectures	10%
2	Oct 15	Ch. 4, 11 Adams et al. (2005) Sept 24, Oct 1 and 8 lectures	15%
3	Nov 5	Ch. 5, 9 Saarikallio & Erkkilä (2007) Oct 15, 22 and 29 lectures)	15%
4	Dec 3	Ch. 8 Benford & Gough (2006) Seymour-Smith & Wetherell (2006) Nov 5, 19 and 26 lectures)	10%

(2) **Paper** (20% of final grade): Students will evaluate a journal article on a piece of empirical research in psychology utilizing one of the three qualitative approaches covered in the course, i.e., Interpretative Phenomenological Analysis, Grounded Theory, or Discourse Analysis. Details of the requirements and grading criteria for this assignment will be posted on Blackboard.

The article you select must be approved by the instructor. Please note that you cannot use the articles that are required reading for the course. Email me a pdf of the article by **Thursday, Nov 5**. If an electronic copy of the article is not available, then you must meet with me in person so that I can review a print copy.

The paper is **due no later than Friday, Dec 11** (but students are encouraged to hand it in earlier) either to the instructor in her office or in the green box outside A275. Late assignments will be penalized one letter grade per day, e.g., an A paper handed in on Dec 12 will have the grade reduced to A-, etc. Students must provide a printed copy of their paper and include a print copy of the article; emailed papers will not be graded.

(3) **Lab** (30% of final grade): The labs will involve group work and discussion, although students will be graded individually. Hence, attendance in labs is very important - for yourself and for the

members of your group. Also, you must attend the lab in which you are registered to ensure continuity of the group work. Labs begin September 14 and 16.

Lab assignments must be submitted in print form (i.e., emailed copies will not be accepted) either in the lab class or the green box outside of A275. Late lab assignments will be penalized one letter grade per day, e.g., an assignment that is one day late and awarded an A will have the grade reduced to A-. More detailed information on the content of the labs will be provided during the first lab and posted on Blackboard.

The lab grade will be based on three lab assignments.

<b>Due Date</b>	<b>Lab Assignment</b>	<b>Weighting</b>
<b>Oct 21 (W) and 26 (M)</b>	Interpretative Phenomenological Analysis	10%
<b>Nov 16 and 18</b>	Grounded Theory	10%
<b>Dec 7 and 9</b>	Discourse Analysis (put in green box outside Admin 275)	10%

#### **Grading Scale**

A+	96-100%	B+	80-84%	C+	67-71%	D+	54-58%
A	90-95%	B	76-79%	C	63-66%	D	50-53%
A-	85-89%	B-	72-75%	C-	59-62%	F	0-49%

As stated in the University Calendar, it is at the instructor's discretion to round off either upward or downward to determine a final grade when the average of term work and final examinations is between two letter grades. To determine final letter grades, final percentage grades will be rounded up or down to the nearest whole percentage (e.g., 89.5% will be rounded up to 90% = A but 89.4% will be rounded down to 89% = A-).

## Tentative Lecture Schedule

Date	Topic	Readings/Due Dates
<b>Sept 10</b>	Qualitative Research Design Interviewing	Ch. 1 Ch. 4 (pp. 57-64)
<b>Sept 17</b>	Qualitative Research Design cont.	Ch. 2
Sept 18	<i>Last day to drop a course with no W grade and tuition refund.</i>	
Sept 22	<i>Last day for registration/change of registration.</i>	
<b>Sept 24</b>	Interpretative Phenomenological Analysis	<b>Quiz 1</b> Ch. 4; Adams et al. (2005)
<b>Oct 1</b>	Transcribing Quality in qualitative research Interpretative Phenomenological Analysis cont.	Ch. 11
<b>Oct 8</b>	Interpretative Phenomenological Analysis cont.	
Oct 12	Thanksgiving Day. University closed.	
<b>Oct 15</b>	Grounded Theory	<b>Quiz 2</b> Ch. 5; Saarikallio & Erkkilä (2007)
<b>Oct 22</b>	Focus Groups Grounded Theory cont.	Ch. 9 (Focus Groups)
<b>Oct 29</b>	Grounded Theory cont.	
<b>Nov 5</b>	Discourse Analysis	<b>Quiz 3</b> Ch. 8; Benford & Gough (2006) Seymour-Smith & Wetherell (2006) <b>Deadline for submitting article for approval</b>
Nov 11-15	Reading Days. No lectures.	
<b>Nov 19</b>	Discourse Analysis cont.	
<b>Nov 26</b>	Discourse Analysis cont.	
<b>Dec 3</b>		<b>Quiz 4</b>
Dec 7	Last day to participate in research and allocate research credits	
Dec 8	Fall Session Lectures end. Last day to withdraw	
<b>Dec 11</b>		<b>Deadline for paper</b>
Dec 11-21	Final exams (scheduled by the Registrar)	<b>No Registrar-scheduled Final Exam</b>
Dec 25-31	Holiday Observance. Session Break. University closed.	

## Reappraisal of Grades

A student who feels that a piece of graded term work (e.g., term paper, essay, test) has been unfairly graded, may have the work re-graded as follows. The student shall discuss the work with the instructor within 15 days of being notified about the mark or of the item's return to the class. If not satisfied, the student shall immediately take the matter to the Head of the department offering the course, who will arrange for a reassessment of the work within the next 15 days. The reappraisal of term work may cause the grade to be raised, lowered, or to remain the same. If the student is not satisfied with the decision and wishes to appeal, the student shall address a letter of appeal to the Dean of the faculty offering the course within 15 days of the unfavourable decision. In the letter, the student must clearly and fully state the decision being appealed, the grounds for appeal, and the remedies being sought, along with any special circumstances that warrant an appeal of the reappraisal. The student should include as much written documentation as possible.

### **Plagiarism and Other Academic Misconduct**

Intellectual honesty is the cornerstone of the development and acquisition of knowledge and requires that the contribution of others be acknowledged. Consequently, plagiarism or cheating on any assignment is regarded as an extremely serious academic offense. Plagiarism involves submitting or presenting work in a course as if it were the student's own work done expressly for that particular course when, in fact, it is not. Students should examine sections of the University Calendar that present a Statement of Intellectual honesty and definitions and penalties associated with Plagiarism/Cheating/Other Academic Misconduct.

### **Academic Accommodation**

It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodations. 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 14 days after the start of this course.

### **Absence From A Test/Exam**

Makeup tests/exams are NOT an option without an official University medical excuse (see the University Calendar). A completed Physician/Counselor Statement will be required to confirm absence from a test/exam for health reasons; the student will be required to pay any cost associated with this Statement. Students who miss a test/exam have 48 hours to contact the instructor and to schedule a makeup test/exam. Students who do not schedule a makeup test/exam with the instructor within this 48-hour period forfeit the right to a makeup test/exam. At the instructor's discretion, a makeup test/exam may differ significantly (in form and/or content) from a regularly scheduled test/exam. Except in extenuating circumstances (documented by an official University medical excuse), a makeup test/exam must be written within 2 weeks of the missed test/exam.

### **Course Credits for Research Participation (Max 2% of final grade)**

Students in most psychology courses are eligible to participate in Departmentally approved research and earn credits toward their final grades. **A maximum of two credits (2%) per course, including this course, may be applied to the student's final grade. Students earn 0.5% (0.5 credits) for each full 30 minutes of participation.** The demand for timeslots may exceed the

supply in a given term. Thus, students are not guaranteed that there will be enough studies available to them to meet their credit requirements. Students should seek studies early in the term and should frequently check for open timeslots. Students can create an account and participate in Departmentally approved research studies at <http://ucalgary.sona-systems.com>. The last day to participate in studies and to assign or reassign earned credits to courses is **Dec 7<sup>th</sup>, 2009**.

### **Student Organizations**

Psychology students may wish to join the Psychology Undergraduate Students' Association (PSYCHS). They are located in Administration 170 and may be contacted at 220-5567.

**Student Union VP Academic:** Phone: 220-3911 [suvpaca@ucalgary.ca](mailto:suvpaca@ucalgary.ca)  
**Student Union Faculty Rep.:** Phone: 220-3913 [socialscirep@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:socialscirep@su.ucalgary.ca)

### **Important Dates**

The last day to drop this course and **still receive a fee refund** is **Sep 18<sup>th</sup>, 2009**. The last day to withdraw from this course is **Dec 8<sup>th</sup>, 2009**.