



Department of Psychology
Psychology 415 (L01) – Qualitative Inquiry in Psychology
Fall 2010 – Course Outline

Instructor:	H. Lorraine Radtke	Lecture Location:	Admin 253
Phone:	403-220-5223	Lecture Days/Time:	T/17:00
Email:	radtke@ucalgary.ca	Lab Instructor:	Jennifer Moore
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Office:	Admin 255B	Office:	Admin 263
		Office Hours:	TBA
Office Hours:	T/15:00-16:00 or by appointment	Lab Location:	Admin 248
		Lab Days/Time:	B01: M/13:00-14:50 B02: W/17:00-18:50

Course Description and Goals

An introduction to qualitative research methods in psychology. We will discuss the theory and practice of qualitative approaches to psychology. A number of approaches 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 lab assignments, students will also develop their writing skills.

Prerequisites

Psyc 312 – Experimental Design and Quantitative Methods for Psychology

Required Text and Readings

Willig, C. (2008). *Introducing qualitative research in psychology* (2nd ed.). Maidenhead, UK: Open University Press/McGraw Hill. [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.

Gilbert, E. (2008). The art of governing smoking: Discourse analysis of Australian anti-smoking campaigns. *Social Theory & Health, 6*, 97-116.

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 two course components - (1) Exams (65% of final grade) and (2) Lab assignments (35% 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 (65% of final grade): Four, non-cumulative quizzes with short answer/paragraph answer format and a take-home final exam. The quizzes will be written during the first 75 minutes of class. See the table below for dates, material covered, and weighting of each quiz.

For the take-home final exam, students will write a critical analysis of a journal article. The instructor will provide three articles, and the student will choose one of the three. The criteria for the critical analysis will be provided at the time the exam information is made available. The exam will be handed out during the last class on **December 7**. It is due **Tuesday, December 14 by 4:00 pm** and must be submitted in print form (i.e., typed, not handwritten) either to the instructor in her office or in the green box outside of A275 AND by email to the instructor at the following email address: radtker@ucalgary.ca. Because this is a final exam, no extensions will be granted.

Quiz	Date	Material Covered	Weighting
1	Oct. 5	Ch. 1, 2	10%
2	Oct. 26	Ch. 3, 5	15%
3	Nov. 16	Ch. 6, 7, 8	15%
4	Dec. 7	Ch. 4, 9	10%
	Dec. 4	Take-home exam due Dec 14 at 4 pm	15%

(2) Lab (35% 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 20 and 22.

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 by 4:00 pm on the date the assignment is due. 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 **3** lab assignments.

Due Date	Lab Assignment	Weighting
B01: Nov. 1 B02: Oct. 27	Grounded Theory	10%
B01: Nov. 22 B02: Nov. 17	Discourse Analysis	15%
B01: Dec. 6	Interpretative Phenomenological Analysis	10%

B02: Dec. 1		
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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
Sep 14	Introduction, Research interviews	
Sep 21	What is qualitative research?	Ch. 1
F Sep 24	Last day to drop a course with no W grade and tuition refund.	
M Sep 27	Last day for registration/change of registration.	
Sep 28	Designing qualitative research	Ch. 2
Oct 5	Grounded Theory	Quiz 1 Ch. 3 Saarikallio & Erkkilä, (2007)
Oct 12	Grounded Theory	
Oct 19	Grounded Theory Case Studies	Ch. 5
Oct 26	Discourse Analysis	Quiz 2 Ch. 6 Seymour-Smith & Wetherell (2006)
Nov 2	Discourse Analysis	Ch. 7 Gilbert (2008)
Nov 9	Discourse Analysis Working with Memories	Ch. 8
R Nov 11	Remembrance Day	
Nov 16	Phenomenological Methods	Quiz 3 Ch. 4 Adams, Turner & Bucks (2005)
Nov 23	Phenomenological Methods	
Nov 30	Phenomenological Methods Quality in qualitative research	Ch. 9
Dec 7		Quiz 4 Take-home final exam handed out
W Dec 8	Last day to participate in research and allocate research credits.	
F Dec 10	Last day to withdraw.	
Dec. 14		Take-home final exam due by 4:00 pm

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 403-220-8237. 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 8th, 2010**.

Evacuation Assembly Point

In case of an emergency evacuation during class, students must gather at the designated assembly point nearest to the classroom. The list of assembly points is found at

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints>

Please check this website and note the nearest assembly point for this course.

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 403-220-5567.

Student Union VP Academic: Phone: 403-220-3911 suwpaca@ucalgary.ca

Student Union Faculty Rep.: Phone: 403-220-3913 socialscirep@su.ucalgary.ca

Important Dates

The last day to drop this course with no "W" notation and **still receive a tuition fee refund** is **Sep 24th, 2010**. Last day for registration/change of registration is **Sep 27th, 2010**. The last day to withdraw from this course is **Dec 10th, 2010**.