

Psychology 415		Qualitative Inquiry in Psychology		Fall 2014
<b>Instructor:</b>	H. Lorraine Radtke	<b>Lecture Location:</b>	SH 157	
<b>Phone:</b>	403-220-0774	<b>Lecture Days/Time:</b>	MWF 1:00-1:50 pm	
<b>Email:</b>	radtke@ucalgary.ca	<b>Lab Instructor:</b>	Brienne Collins	
<b>Office:</b>	Administration 212	<b>Phone:</b>	403-220-4972	
<b>Office Hours:</b>	TBA or by appointment	<b>Email:</b>	<a href="mailto:bmcollin@ucalgary.ca">bmcollin@ucalgary.ca</a>	
		<b>Office:</b>	Administration 251B	
		<b>Office Hours:</b>	TBA or by appointment	
		<b>Lab Location:</b>	Administration 248	
		<b>Lab Days/Time:</b>	B01 T 11:00am-12:50pm B02 R 11:00am-12:50pm	

**Course Description and Goals**

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 assignments, students will also develop their writing skills.

**Prerequisites**

Psyc 312 – Experimental Design and Quantitative Methods for Psychology

**Required Text**

Braun, V., & Clarke, V. (2013). *Successful qualitative research: A practical guide for beginners*. London: Sage. [Available in the University Bookstore]

A set of readings will be available on the web or electronically through the library. The list of readings and dates when you need to read them will be available on the Desire2Learn (D2L) site for this course.

I will post powerpoint slides, information about where to locate the readings and other course information on D2L.

**Evaluation**

Final course grades will be based on three course components - (1) Tests (40% of final grade), (2) a research proposal (30% 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.**

### **Course Components**

1. Tests (40%): The four tests will cover material presented in the lecture, the textbook, and assigned readings. They will be noncumulative, although due to the nature of the course content, later knowledge builds on that acquired earlier. Each of the tests will be weighted 10% for a total of 40% of your final grade. The test format is written answers, which means a few sentences to a paragraph in length. For at least one of the tests (Test 4), you will be given material to prepare in advance but the test will be written in class.

If you miss a test, you will require medical documentation in order to write a make-up test.

The following table provides the dates for the tests and the material to be covered:

Test	Date	Material covered
1	Friday, Sept. 26	Textbook: Ch. 1–3 Lectures/Readings: Sept. 8-22
2	Friday, Oct. 24	Textbook: Ch. 4-8 Lectures/Readings: Sept. 26 - Oct. 15
3	Monday, Nov. 17	Textbook: Ch. 9-11 Lectures/Readings: Oct. 20 - Nov. 14
4	Friday, Nov. 28	Textbook: Ch. 12-13 Lectures/Readings: Nov. 19-26

2. Research proposal (30%): This involves both group work and an individual paper. There will be a maximum of 12 groups for the class, and each group must have a minimum of two members. The groups will be formed in the labs, as a number of the lab assignments are related to the proposal. Consequently, you will be able to work with your group members on the proposal in the lab and receive feedback on some elements. Group work outside of lab will also be required.

There are two components to the evaluation: (a) a group presentation and (b) an individual research proposal:

- (a) **Group presentation (10%):** During the last three classes, each group will present their research proposal. Each group will have a maximum of ten minutes to present, with two minutes for questions and discussion (the amount of time available per group may be increased if there are fewer than 12 groups). Time your presentations carefully, as you will lose marks for going over time. The order of the group presentations will be determined randomly once the groups are established.
- (b) **Individual research proposal (20%):** This is due **Monday, December 8** before 4:30 pm. Late papers will result in the loss of 2% (of the 20%) per day. The maximum length is 2500 words. A print copy must be submitted to me in my office or to the Department of Psychology Main Office (be sure to date stamp it). I will grade these papers according to clarity of language

and presentation, writing style and format, and the strength of your proposal (i.e., in terms of the logic of your proposal – does it make sense to do the proposed study in light of existing knowledge? - are your methodological choices appropriate and have you convincingly justified them?). More details will be provided in class.

3. Lab assignments (30%): The labs will involve group work and discussion, but students will be graded individually. Hence, attendance in labs is very important. Also, you must attend the lab in which you are registered to ensure continuity of the group work. **Labs begin Tuesday, September 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 by 4:30 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 and grading criteria will be provided during the labs and posted on D2L.

### **Department of Psychology Grade Distribution Policy**

The distribution of grades in Psychology courses (the percentage of A grades, B grades, etc.) will be similar to the distribution of grades in other courses in the Faculty of Arts. The Department monitors the grade distributions of 200-, 300-, and 400-level courses in the Faculty to ensure that the grade distributions in Psychology courses are comparable. Based on these reviews, students can expect that 1) up to 30% of grades in 200- and 300-level psychology courses will be “A” grades (A+, A, and A-), and 2) up to 40% of grades 400-level psychology courses will be “A” grades.

### **Department of Psychology Criteria for Letter Grades**

Psychology professors use the following criteria when assigning letter grades:

**A+ grade: *Exceptional Performance.*** An A+ grade indicates near perfect performance on multiple choice and short answer exams. For research papers/essays/course projects/presentations, an A+ grade is awarded for exceptional work deserving of special recognition and is therefore not a common grade.

**A, A- Range: *Excellent Performance.*** Superior understanding of course material. Written work is very strong in terms of critical and original thinking, content, organization, and the expression of ideas, and demonstrates student’s thorough knowledge of subject matter.

**B Range: *Good Performance.*** Above average understanding of course material. Written work shows evidence of critical thinking and attention to organization and editing but could be improved in form and/or content.

**C Range: *Satisfactory Performance.*** Adequate understanding of course material. Knowledge of basic concepts and terminology is demonstrated. Written work is satisfactory and meets essential requirements but could be improved significantly in form and content. Note: All prerequisites for courses offered by the Faculty of Arts must be met with a minimum grade of C-.

**D range: *Marginally meets standards.*** Minimal understanding of subject matter. Written work is marginally acceptable and meets basic requirements but requires substantial improvements in form and content. Student has not mastered course material at a level sufficient for advancement into more senior courses in the same or related subjects.

F grade: *Course standards not met.* Inadequate understanding of subject matter. Written work does not meet basic requirements. Student has not demonstrated knowledge of course material at a level sufficient for course credit.

### 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. In this course there will be no rounding up of final grades, especially in light of the opportunities students have to increase their final grade via research participation.

### Tentative Lecture Schedule

The following schedule is subject to revision in terms of the lecture content.

Date	Topic/Activity/Readings/Due Date
M Sep 8	Lecture 1: Introduction to the course  <b>NO LAB THIS WEEK</b>
W Sep 10	Lecture 2: Some very important starting information (Chapter 1)
F Sep 12	Lecture 3: Ten fundamentals of qualitative research (Chapter 2)
M Sep 15	Lecture 4: Ten fundamentals of qualitative research (Chapter 2)  <b>LABS BEGIN THIS WEEK</b>
W Sep 17	Lecture 5: Ten fundamentals of qualitative research (Chapter 2)
F Sep 19	Lecture 6: Planning and designing qualitative research – The research topic and research questions (Chapter 3)  Last day to drop full courses (Multi-term) and Fall Term half courses. No refunds for full courses (Multi-term) or Fall Term half courses after this date.
M Sep 22	Lecture 7: Planning and designing qualitative research – Data sampling and recruiting participations (Chapter 3)  Last day to add or swap full courses (Multi-term) and Fall Term half courses. Last day for change of registration from audit to credit or credit to audit.
W Sep 24	Lecture 8: Planning and designing qualitative research (Chapter 3)
F Sep 26	<b>Test 1</b>  Fee payment deadline for Fall Term full and half courses.
M Sep 29	Lecture 9: Data collection – Interviews (Chapter 4)
W Oct 1	Lecture 10: Data collection – Interviews (Chapter 4)
F Oct 3	Lecture 11: Data collection – Focus groups (Chapter 5)
M Oct 6	Lecture 12: Data collection – Focus groups (Chapter 5)
W Oct 8	Lecture 13: Textual data collection (Chapter 6)

F Oct 10	Lecture 14: Textual data collection (Chapter 6)
M Oct 13	Thanksgiving Day, University closed (except Taylor Family Digital Library, Law, Medical, Gallagher and Business Libraries). No lectures.
W Oct 15	Lecture 15: Preparing audio data for analysis (Chapter 7)
F Oct 17	Lecture 16: Moving towards analysis (Chapter 8)
M Oct 20	Lecture 17: Moving towards analysis (Chapter 8)
W Oct 22	Lecture 18: Moving towards analysis (Chapter 8)
F Oct 24	<b>Test 2</b>
M Oct 27	Lecture 19: First analytic steps (Chapter 9)
W Oct 29	Lecture 20: First analytic steps (Chapter 9)
F Oct 31	Lecture 21: First analytic steps (Chapter 9)
M Nov 3	Lecture 22: Identifying patterns across data (Chapter 10)
W Nov 5	Lecture 23: Identifying patterns across data (Chapter 10)
F Nov 7	Lecture 24: Analysing and interpreting patterns across data (Chapter 11)
M Nov 10	Reading Days. No lectures.
T Nov 11	Remembrance Day (Observed). University Closed (except Taylor Family Digital Library, Law, Medical, Gallagher and Business Libraries). No lectures.
W Nov 12	Lecture 25: Analysing and interpreting patterns across data (Chapter 11)
F Nov 14	Lecture 26: Analysing and interpreting patterns across data (Chapter 11)
M Nov 17	<b>Test 3</b>
W Nov 19	Lecture 27: Quality criteria and techniques for qualitative research (Chapter 12)
F Nov 21	Lecture 28: Quality criteria and techniques for qualitative research (Chapter 12)
M Nov 24	Lecture 29: Writing and communicating qualitative research (Chapter 13)
W Nov 26	Lecture 30: Writing and communicating qualitative research (Chapter 13)  <b>NO LAB R Nov 27</b>
F Nov 28	<b>Test 4</b>
M Dec 1	3 – 4 group presentations  <b>NO LABS THIS WEEK</b>
W Dec 3	3 – 4 group presentations
F Dec 5	3 – 4 group presentations  Fall Term Lectures End. Last day to withdraw with permission from Fall Term half courses.
M Dec 8	<b>Research Proposal Due</b>
Dec 8-18	Fall Term Exam Period.

### **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; no reappraisal of term work is permitted after the 15 days. 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.

### **Travel During Exams**

Consistent with University regulations, students are expected to be available to write scheduled exams at any time during the official December and April examination periods. Requests to write a make-up exam because of conflicting travel plans (e.g., flight bookings) will NOT be considered except under exceptional circumstances. Students are advised to wait until the final examination schedule is posted before making any travel arrangements.

### **Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) Act**

The FOIP legislation disallows the practice of having student's retrieve tests and assignments from a public place. Therefore, tests and assignments may be returned to students during class/lab, or during office hours, or via the Department Office (Admin 255), or will be made available only for viewing during exam review sessions scheduled by the Department. Tests and assignments will be shredded after one year. Instructors should take care to not link students' names with their grades, UCIDs, or other FOIP-sensitive information.

### **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 5, 2014**

### **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

[suvpaca@ucalgary.ca](mailto:suvpaca@ucalgary.ca)

**Student Union Faculty Rep.:**

Phone: 403-220-3913

[socialscirep@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:socialscirep@su.ucalgary.ca)

### **Student Ombudsman's Office**

The Office of the Student Ombudsmen provides independent, impartial and confidential support for students who require assistance and advice in addressing issues and concerns related to their academic careers. The office can be reached at 403-220-6420 or [ombuds@ucalgary.ca](mailto:ombuds@ucalgary.ca) (<http://www.su.ucalgary.ca/services/student-services/student-rights.html>).

### **Safewalk**

The safewalk program provides volunteers to walk students safely to their destination anywhere on campus. This service is free and available 24 hrs/day, 365 days a year.

Call 403-220-5333.

**Important Dates**

The last day to drop this course with no “W” notation and **still receive a tuition fee refund** is **Friday, September 19, 2014**. Last day for registration/change of registration is **Monday, September 22, 2014**. The last day to withdraw from this course is **December 5, 2014**.