

Psychology 415		Qualitative Inquiry in Psychology		Fall 2015	
<b>Instructor:</b>	H. Lorraine Radtke	<b>Lecture Location:</b>	SH 278		
<b>Phone:</b>	403-220-5223	<b>Lecture Days/Time:</b>	MWF 1:00-1:50 pm		
<b>Email:</b>	radtke@ucalgary.ca	<b>Lab Location:</b>	AD 248		
<b>Office:</b>	AD 212	<b>Lab Days/Time:</b>	Lab 1 T 9:00-10:50 am Lab 2 R 9:00-10:50 am		
<b>Office Hours:</b>	By appointment	<b>Lab instructor:</b>	Brad Lewis		
		<b>Email:</b>	<a href="mailto:lewisbk@ucalgary.ca">lewisbk@ucalgary.ca</a>		
		<b>Office:</b>	AD 251A		
		<b>Office Hours:</b>	TBA		

**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 analyzing verbal data. Lectures will focus on theory and analysis; labs will provide an opportunity to practice developing research questions and interview questions as well as conducting interviews and analysis of interview material. Through assignments, students will also develop their writing skills.

**Prerequisites**

Psyc 312 – Experimental Design and Quantitative Methods in 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 (50%)
- (2) Take home exam (20%)
- (3) Lab assignments (30%)

**Students must achieve a passing grade on both the class and lab components to pass this course.**

## Course Components

- (1) **Tests (50%):** The five tests will cover material presented in the lecture, the textbook, and assigned readings. The tests will not be cumulative, 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 50% of your final grade. The test format is written answers, which means a few sentences to a paragraph in length.

See the policy on Absence from a Test/Exam below.

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

Test	Date	Material covered
1	Friday, Sept. 25	Ch. 1-4; Edley (2001)
2	Wednesday, Oct. 14	Ch. 5-8 (up to p. 187)
3	Wednesday, Nov. 4	Ch. 8 (starting at p. 187); Ch. 9 (pp. 201-213, Table 9.4); Ch. 10 (pp. 223-236, 243-245); Ch. 11 (pp. 248-262, 268-272)
4	Monday, Nov. 23	Ch. 12; Ch. 13; Ch. 9 (p. 214); Ch. 10 (pp. 237-239); Ch. 11 (pp. 262-265); Brinkman (2007); Vachon, Fillion, & Achille (2012)
5	Monday, Dec. 7	Ch. 9 (pp. 214-218) Ch. 10 (pp. 242-243); Ch. 11 (pp. 267-268); Schéle, Hedman, & Hammarström (2011); Wigginton & Lee, 2014

- (2) **Take home exam (20%):** This exam will assess your ability to apply your knowledge of the planning and design of qualitative research to a research problem. The exam questions will be provided on Monday, Dec. 7 and posted on D2L. Your written answers will be due on **Monday, Dec. 14 by 4:30 pm** and are to be submitted via the appropriate assignment folder on D2L. Late papers will result in the loss of one letter grade per day (i.e., a late take home exam that is graded 'A-' will be awarded a 'B+').
- (3) **Lab assignments (30%):** The labs will involve group work and discussion that include hands-on opportunities to create interview guides, conduct research interviews, and analyse interview material. Students however will be graded individually on the basis of their performance in the various assignments. 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 on Tuesday, Sept. 15 and Thursday, Sept. 17. Labs end on Tuesday, Nov. 24 and Thursday, Nov. 26.**

## 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

Date	Topic/Activity	Readings
T Sep 8	Lecture begins.	
W Sep 9	<b>Lecture 1:</b> Introduction to the course; Some very important	Chapter 1

	starting information	
F Sep 11	<b>Lecture 2:</b> Ten fundamentals of qualitative research	Chapter 2; Edley (2001)
M Sep14	<b>Lecture 3:</b> Ten fundamentals of qualitative research cont.	
T Sept 15	<b>Tuesday lab begins today</b>	
W Sep 16	<b>Lecture 4:</b> Planning and designing qualitative research – The research topic and research questions	Chapter 3, pp. 42-55
R Sep 17	<b>Thursday lab begins today</b>	
F Sep 18	<b>Lecture 5:</b> Data collection – Interviews  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.	Chapter 4
M Sep 21	<b>Lecture 6:</b> Data collection – Interviews cont.  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 23	<b>Lecture 7:</b> Planning and designing qualitative research	Chapter 3, pp. 55-74
F Sep 25	<b>Test 1</b> Fee payment deadline for Fall Term full and half courses.	
M Sep 28	<b>Lecture 8:</b> Data collection – Focus groups	Chapter 5
W Sep 30	<b>Lecture 9:</b> Textual data collection	Chapter 6
F Oct 2	<b>Lecture 10:</b> Preparing audio data for analysis	Chapter 7
M Oct 5	<b>Lecture 11:</b> Moving towards analysis – Thematic analysis	Chapter 8, pp. 173-180
W Oct 7	<b>Lecture 12:</b> Moving towards analysis – Interpretative phenomenological analysis	Chapter 8, pp. 180-183
F Oct 9	<b>Lecture 13:</b> Moving towards analysis – Grounded theory	Chapter 8, 184-187
M Oct 12	Thanksgiving Day, University closed (except Taylor Family Digital Library, Law, Medical, Gallagher and Business Libraries). <b>No lectures.</b>	
W Oct 14	<b>Test 2</b>	
F Oct 16	<b>Lecture 14:</b> Moving towards analysis – Discourse analysis	Chapter 8, 187-198
M Oct 19	<b>Lecture 15:</b> First analytic steps	Chapter 9, pp. 201-213, Table 9.4
W Oct 21	<b>Lecture 16:</b> First analytic steps cont.	
F Oct 23	<b>Lecture 17:</b> Identifying patterns across data	Chapter 10, pp. 223-236, 243-245
M Oct 26	<b>Lecture 18:</b> Identifying patterns across data cont.	
W Oct 28	<b>Lecture 19:</b> Analysing and interpreting patterns across data	Chapter 11, pp. 248-262, 268-272
F Oct 30	<b>Lecture 20:</b> Analysing and interpreting patterns across data cont.	
M Nov 2	<b>Lecture 21:</b> Analysing and interpreting patterns across data cont.	
W Nov 4	<b>Test 3</b>	

F Nov 6	<b>Lecture 22:</b> Quality criteria and techniques for qualitative research	Chapter 12; Brinkman (2007)
M Nov 9	<b>Lecture 23:</b> Quality criteria and techniques for qualitative research	
Nov 11-15	Reading Days. No lectures.	
W Nov 11	Remembrance Day (Observed). University Closed (except Taylor Family Digital Library, Law, Medical, Gallagher and Business Libraries). No lectures.	
F Nov 13	Reading Days. No lectures.	
M Nov 16	<b>Lecture 24:</b> Writing and communicating qualitative research	Chapter 13
W Nov 18	<b>Lecture 25:</b> Doing Interpretative Phenomenological Analysis	Chapter 9, p. 214; Chapter 10, pp. 237-239; Chapter 11, pp. 262-265; Vachon, Fillion, & Achille (2012)
F Nov 20	<b>Lecture 26:</b> Doing Interpretative Phenomenological Analysis cont.	
M Nov 23	<b>Test 4</b>	
T Nov 24	<b>Last Lab</b>	
W Nov 25	<b>Lecture 27:</b> Doing Grounded Theory Analysis	Chapter 9, pp. 214-216; Chapter 10, pp. 239-242; Chapter 11, 262-266; Schéle, Hedman, & Hammarström (2011)
R Nov 26	<b>Last Lab</b>	
F Nov 27	<b>Lecture 28:</b> Doing Grounded Theory Analysis cont.	
M Nov 30	<b>Lecture 29:</b> Doing Discourse Analysis	Chapter 9 pp. 216-218; Chapter 10, pp. 242-243; Chapter 11, pp. 267-268; Wigginton & Lee, 2014
W Dec 2	<b>Lecture 30:</b> Doing Discourse Analysis cont.	
F Dec 4	<b>Lecture 31:</b> Doing Discourse Analysis cont.	
M Dec 7	<b>Test 6</b> <b>Take home exam made available on D2L</b>	
T Dec 8	Fall Term Lectures End. Last day to withdraw with permission from Fall Term half courses.	
M Dec 14	<b>Take home exam to be submitted on D2L by 4:30 pm</b>	
Dec 11-22	<b>There is no Registrar-scheduled final exam in this course.</b>  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 up to 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 during exam make-up hours provided by the department <http://psychology.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate/exam-and-course-information#mues>. If a student cannot make write their final exam on the date assigned by the Registrar's Office, they need to apply for a deferred exam [http://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/exams/deferred\\_final](http://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/exams/deferred_final). Under no circumstances will this be accommodated by the department.

### **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 by the department. Students are advised to wait until the final examination schedule is posted before making any travel arrangements. If a student cannot make write their final exam on the date assigned by the

Registrar's Office, they need to apply for a deferred exam [http://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/exams/deferred\\_final](http://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/exams/deferred_final). Under no circumstances will this be accommodated by the department.

### **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 8, 2015**

### **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.

<b>Student Union VP Academic:</b>	Phone: 403-220-3911	<a href="mailto:suypaca@ucalgary.ca">suypaca@ucalgary.ca</a>
<b>Student Union Faculty Rep.:</b>	Phone: 403-220-3913	<a href="mailto:socialscirep@su.ucalgary.ca">socialscirep@su.ucalgary.ca</a>

### **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 **September 18, 2015**. Last day for registration/change of registration is **September 21, 2015**. The last day to withdraw from this course is **December 8, 2015**.