

Psychology 415	Qualitative Inquiry in Psychology	Winter 2017
Instructor:	H. Lorraine Radtke	Lecture Location: SH 288
Phone:	403-220-0774	Lecture Days/Time: TR 11:00-12:15
		Lab Location: Lab 1 EDC 152
		Lab 2 SA 123
Email:	radtke@ucalgary.ca	Lab Days/Time: Lab 1 W 12:00-13:50
		Lab 2 F 12:00-13:50
Office:	AD 212	Lab Instructor: Brad Lewis
Office Hours:	By appointment	Email: lewisbk@ucalgary.ca
		Office: AD 251A
		Office Hours: TBA

Course Description

We will cover 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.

Course Learning Outcomes

The Department of Psychology is committed to student knowledge and skill development. The table below lists the key learning outcomes for this course, the program-learning outcomes they facilitate (see psyc.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate/program-learning-outcomes), and the expected level of achievement.

Course Learning Outcomes	PLO(s)	Level(s)
Understand and explain the theory underlying qualitative approaches to psychology	1, 3	A
Recognize when research questions are best addressed through qualitative inquiry and choose an appropriate qualitative approach for that question	1, 2, 3, 7	A
Write a research proposal for a study using qualitative methods, making decisions about the research question, the nature and size of the sample, the data collection method, the data analysis method, and techniques to ensure the quality of the study	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	A
Develop basic skills for conducting qualitative research, including creating an interview guide, conducting semi-structured interviews, and transcribing audio-taped interviews	2, 3, 7	C
Conduct a Thematic Analysis of interview data	3, 7	C
Write a research report in APA format	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	A

Notes. PLOs = Program-Learning Outcomes: 1 = demonstrate knowledge of psychological sciences, 2 = think critically and solve problems, 3 = conduct research and analyze data, 4 = communicate effectively, 5 = demonstrate

information literacy, 6 = understand and implement ethical principles, 7 = apply psychological knowledge and skills. Level of PLO achievement facilitated by this course: I = introductory, C = competency, A = advanced.

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 electronically through the library. The list of readings and dates when you need to read them will be available on the D2L site for this course.

I will post powerpoint slides and other course information on D2L.

Evaluation

Final course grades will be based on three course components:

- (1) Three tests (30%)
- (2) Two assignments (40%)
- (4) Lab assignments (30%)

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

Course Components

(1) **Tests** (30%): The **three** 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 30% of your final grade. The tests format short answer, which means a word to a few sentences to a paragraph. During tests, you will be allowed only the printed test and pen or pencil (erasers are also okay as is one clean sheet of paper to make rough notes for your answers).

See the department/university 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	Tuesday, Feb. 7	Ch. 1-6 plus assigned readings
2	Tuesday, Mar. 14	Ch. 7-8, Ch. 9 (pp. 201-213; Table 9.4), Ch. 10 (pp. 223-236; pp. 243-245) plus assigned readings
3	Tuesday, Apr. 11	Ch. 9 (p. 214-218), Ch. 10 (pp. 237-243), Ch. 11-13 plus assigned readings

(2) **Assignments** (40%): Details of the **two** assignments will be posted on D2L by the first week of classes. They involve applying your knowledge. Assignments are to be submitted to the appropriate folder in the Dropbox on D2L. **Assignment 1 is due Saturday, March 4 by 11:49 pm. Assignment 2 is due Saturday, April 1 by 11:49 pm.** Late assignments will result in the loss of 10% per day, including weekends.

(3) **Lab Assignments (30%):** The labs will involve group work, discussion, and individually-graded assignments (see the table below for the assignments, their weighting toward the final course grade, and their due dates). This includes hands-on opportunities to develop a research question, create an interview guide, conduct research interviews or focus groups, transcribe, and analyse interview or focus group transcripts. Students will participate as researchers and participants in the student-designed projects. Attendance in labs is very important due to the group work and the practical nature of the assignments that build on one another. Please note that you must attend the lab in which you are registered to ensure continuity of the groups. Details of the assignments will be available in the first lab (Wednesday, Jan. 18 and Friday, Jan. 20).

Assignment	Weighting	Due Date
1	2%	Jan. 25/27
2	8%	Mar. 8/10
3	15%	Apr. 5/7
4 (participation)	5%	Throughout term

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/	Reading in textbook
T Jan 10	Lecture 1: Introduction to the course	
R Jan 12	Lecture 2: Some very important starting information; Ten fundamentals of qualitative research	Chapter 1, Chapter 2
T Jan 17	Lecture 3: Ten fundamentals of qualitative research cont.	Chapter 2
W Jan 18	Wednesday lab begins today	
R Jan 19	Lecture 4: Planning and designing qualitative research – The research topic and research questions; sampling and recruitment	Chapter 3
F Jan 20	Friday lab begins today Last day to drop Winter Term half-courses.	
M Jan 23	Last day to add or swap Winter Term half courses. Last day for change of registration from audit to credit or credit to audit.	
T Jan 24	Lecture 5: Planning and designing qualitative research – Ethics	Chapter 3
R Jan 26	Lecture 6: Data collection – Interviews	Chapter 4
T Jan 31	Lecture 7: Data collection – interviews	Chapter 4
R Feb 2	Lecture 8: Data collection – focus groups, textual data	Chapter 5, Chapter 6
T Feb 7	Test 1	
R Feb 9	Lecture 9: Preparing audio data for analysis	Chapter 7
T Feb 14	Lecture 10: Moving towards analysis – Thematic analysis	Chapter 8, pp. 173-180
R Feb 16	Lecture 11: Moving towards analysis – Interpretative phenomenological analysis	Chapter 8, pp. 180-183
Feb 19-26	Reading Week. No lectures. University open (except Family Day).	

	Alberta Family Day, University closed (except Taylor Family Digital Library, Law, Medical, Gallagher and Business Libraries). No lectures.	
M Feb 20	Alberta Family Day, University closed (except Taylor Family Digital Library, Law, Medical, Gallagher and Business Libraries). No lectures.	
T Feb 28	Lecture 12: Moving towards analysis – Grounded theory	Chapter 8, pp. 184-187
R Mar 2	Lecture 13: Moving towards analysis – Discourse analysis	Chapter 8, pp. 187-198
S Mar 4	Assignment 1 Due	Deadline: 11:49 pm
T Mar 7	Lecture 14: First analytic steps	Chapter 9, pp. 201-213, Table 9.4
R Mar 9	Lecture 15: Identifying patterns across data	Chapter 10, pp. 223-236, 243-245
T Mar 14	Test 2	
R Mar 16	Lecture 16: Analysing and interpreting patterns across data	Chapter 11, pp. 248-262, 268-272
T Mar 21	Lecture 17: Quality criteria and techniques for qualitative research	Chapter 12
R Mar 23	Lecture 18: Writing and communicating qualitative research	Chapter 13
T Mar 28	Lecture 19: Doing Interpretative Phenomenological Analysis	Chapter 9, p. 214; Chapter 10, pp. 237-239; Chapter 11, pp. 262-265
R Mar 30	Lecture 20: Doing Grounded Theory Analysis	Chapter 9, pp. 24-216; Chapter 10, pp. 239-242; Chapter 11, pp. 262-266
S Apr 1	Assignment 2 Due	Deadline: 11:49 pm
T Apr 4	Lecture 21: Doing Discourse Analysis	Chapter 9, pp. 216-218; Chapter 10, pp. 242-243; Chapter 11, pp. 267-268
W Apr 5	No Lab	
R Apr 6	Lecture 22: Doing Discourse Analysis	
F Apr 7	No Lab	
T Apr 11	Test 3	
W Apr 12	Winter Term Lectures End. Last day to withdraw from full courses and Winter Term half courses.	
F Apr 14	Good Friday. No Classes. University Closed	

Apr 15-26	<p>There is no Registrar-scheduled final exam in this course. Winter Term Final Examinations.</p>	
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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

Students seeking an accommodation based on disability or medical concerns should contact Student Accessibility Services; SAS will process the request and issue letters of accommodation to instructors. For additional information on support services and accommodations for students with disabilities, visit www.ucalgary.ca/access/.

Students who require an accommodation in relation to their coursework based on a protected ground other than disability should communicate this need in writing to their Instructor.

The full policy on Student Accommodations is available

at http://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy_0.pdf.

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 <https://psyc.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate/exam-review-and-makeup-exams>. If a student cannot 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. 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 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. 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 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

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 **April 12, 2017**.

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 130 and may be contacted at 403-220-5567.

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

Student Union Faculty Rep.:

arts1@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 (<http://www.ucalgary.ca/provost/students/ombuds>)

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 **January 20, 2017**. Last day for registration/change of registration is **January 23, 2017**. The last day to withdraw from this course is **April 12, 2017**.