



UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY

Fall 2021

FACULTY OF ARTS

Department of Sociology

Department of Sociology Website: <https://soci.ucalgary.ca/>

COURSE TITLE: Advanced Qualitative Research Methods			
Course Number	SOC 615/SOC 701		
Pre/Co-Requisites			
Instructor Name	Liza McCoy	Email	mccoy@ucalgary.ca
Instructor Email Policy	Feel free to email me at any time. During the work week I answer emails quickly, often the same day. I try not to answer emails over the weekend, unless the matter is urgent.		
Office Location	SS 934 and at home	Office Hours	By appointment
Telephone No.	403-220-6856 (leave a message; it comes through on my email)		
Class Dates	September 13, 2021 to December 6, 2021		
Class Times	Monday 9:30 am - 12:15 pm		
Class Location	SS 921 and on Zoom		

Course Description

Qualitative research methods include ways of generating data *in situ* (e.g. through observation, audio-recording, photography), through conversations, interviews and participants' photography or journals, and through the identification and analysis of pre-existing texts and symbolic artefacts, involving verbal, visual and numerical representation. This is a broad and eclectic field of methodological options and analytic projects. In this course, we will explore a few ways of using these methods within analytic approaches that are non-positivist, materialist, and language-sensitive. We will read some "how-to" material, and we'll also read empirical studies, with attention to the projects and choices of different researchers. We will consider the full trajectory of research, from initial research questions to writing up and sharing the study at the other end. Whether you are a novice at qualitative research or have previous experience, the exercises and assignments will give you the opportunity to extend your skills in new ways.

This is an informal seminar course that will involve some short lectures or explanations from me, a lot of class discussion, and practical, workshop-style sessions.

Course Objectives

Develop/deepen your conceptual and practical understanding of non-positivist, materialist, language-sensitive ethnographic approaches to exploring social organization as it occurs through the emplaced, embodied and coordinated activities of actual people.

Develop/deepen your critical familiarity with a range of strategies for gathering, generating and writing with verbal and visual ethnographic data that are suitable for use within such approaches.

Get hands-on practice generating high-quality ethnographic data from observation and interviewing.

Get hands-on practice analysing and writing with ethnographic data.

Get hands-on practice analysing textual data.

Course Format

This course will meet synchronously during the scheduled class time, either in person or on Zoom, as the COVID safety situation warrants.

Required Readings

Robert Emerson, Rachel Fretz and Linda Shaw. *Writing Ethnographic Fieldnotes* 2nd ed. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2011.

Nigel King, Christine Horrocks, and Joanna Brooks. *Interviews in Qualitative Research*, 2nd ed. Sage, 2019.

A collection of journal articles and book chapters, available through links and PDF copies in the course D2L site.

Learning Technologies and Requirements

For synchronous class meetings on Zoom you will need a computer, laptop or tablet with a webcam and an internet connection.

Schedule of Lectures and Readings

The class schedule and list of assigned readings by week will be posted in D2L.

Methods of Assessment and Grading Weights

There are three research practice assignments that can be tailored to students' research interests and levels of experience. The standard assignments are described briefly below. Possible modifications and full guidelines will be provided in class.

Observation (10% fieldnotes; 25% paper)

Working singly or in small groups, you will carry out naturalistic observation in a public setting or engage in auto-ethnographic observation of your own practice, for a total of 2-4 sessions. After each session of observation, you will write up field notes. You will then write a paper (10-15 pp) in which you discuss

your approach and experience of doing the research and present a preliminary analytic discussion of the data. You will submit your fieldnotes along with the paper.

Interview (10% interview summary/notes; 25% paper)

You will conduct an in-depth, ethnographic interview, either in person or on Zoom or Skype, with someone who can share their knowledge about an experience, setting, or work process. You will select the topic and recruit the participant from your own network. (You will need to submit an ungraded written proposal for my approval before you can conduct your research.) After the audio-recorded interview, you will prepare a summary and partial transcript of the interview and write a paper (10-15 pp) in which you discuss your method and experience of doing the research and present a preliminary analytic discussion of the data. You will submit your summary and partial transcript along with the paper.

Text Analysis (20%)

You will write a paper (8-12 pp.) in which you analyze a text that you yourself know how to generate or activate, or that operates within the field of your research interest, with a focus on how its features allow it to operate within a specific work process, interpretive framework, or set of relations.

Reading Presentation (10 %)

You will take responsibility to make a 10-15 minute presentation on one of the assigned readings based on an empirical study. The focus of the presentation is on the researcher(s)' approach, methods, analytic focus and way of writing up the study. After your presentation, you will submit your presentation notes.

Final Exam Information

There is no final exam.

Grading Scale

Letter grades will be assigned and submitted to the registrar based on the following scale:

Grade	Percent range	Grade Point Value	Description
A+	96 – 100%	4.0	Outstanding performance
A	90 – 95.99%	4.0	Excellent - superior performance showing comprehensive understanding of the subject matter
A-	85 – 89.99%	3.7	Very good performance
B+	80 – 84.99%	3.3	Good performance
B	75 – 79.99%	3.0	Satisfactory performance
B-	70 – 74.99%	2.7	Minimum pass for students in the Faculty of Graduate Studies
C+	67 – 69.99%	2.3	All grades of "C+" or lower are indicative of failure at the graduate level and cannot be counted toward Faculty of Graduate Studies course requirements.

Passing Grades

A passing grade is required on all course components. Students who do not obtain a passing grade on a course component will have the opportunity to revise their work. Revised work will normally not receive a revised grade higher than B-.

Absences and Deferrals

Please let me know in advance if you must miss class for any reason or if you would like to request an extension on an assignment because of conflicting deadlines, illness or personal circumstances.

Deferred Term Work Form: Deferral of term work past the end of a term requires a form to be filled out by the student and submitted, along with any supporting documentation, to the instructor. The form is available at:

<https://live-ucalgary.ucalgary.ca/sites/default/files/teams/14/deferral-of-term-work-2020.pdf>

Once an extension date has been agreed between instructor and student, the instructor will email the form to the Faculty of Arts Program Information Centre (ascarts@ucalgary.ca) for approval by the Associate Dean.

Grade Reappraisal

Within two weeks of the date an assignment is returned, if you think the grade you have received is unfair or inaccurate, please send me your request and rationale for reappraisal in writing. I will review your work and meet with you to discuss my response. Your grade might be raised or it might stay the same; it would never be lowered in response to a request for reappraisal.

Handing in Papers, Assignments

1. The main Sociology Department office does not deal with any course-related matters. Please speak directly to your instructor.
2. **Protection of Privacy:** The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIPP) legislation does not allow students to retrieve any course material from public places. Anything that requires handing back will be returned directly during class or office hours. If students are unable to pick up their assignments from the instructor, they can provide the instructor with a stamped, self-addressed envelope to be used for the return of the assignment. Private information related to the individual student is treated with the utmost regard by the faculty at the University of Calgary
3. Final grades are not posted by the Sociology Department. They are only available online.
4. Attached please find the final approved course outline for POLI 201 L01 Fall 2021. **This is the version that should be posted to your D2L site.**

Research Ethics

Students are advised that any research with human subjects – including any interviewing (even with friends and family), opinion polling, or unobtrusive observation – must have the approval of the Conjoint Faculties Research Ethics Board. In completing course requirements, students must not undertake any human subjects research without discussing their plans with the instructor, to determine if ethics approval is required.

Copyright Legislation

All students are required to read the University of Calgary policy on Acceptable Use of Material Protected by Copyright (<https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/university-policies-procedures/acceptable-use-material-protected-copyright-policy>) and requirements of the Copyright Act (<https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-42/index.html>) to ensure they are aware of the consequences of unauthorized sharing of course materials (including instructor notes, electronic versions of textbooks etc.). Students who use material protected by copyright in violation of this policy may be disciplined under the Non-Academic Misconduct Policy.

Instructor Intellectual Property

Course materials created by professor(s) (including course outlines, presentations and posted notes, labs, case studies, assignments and exams) remain the intellectual property of the professor(s). These materials may NOT be reproduced, redistributed or copied without the explicit consent of the professor. The posting of course materials to third party websites such as note-sharing sites without

permission is prohibited. Sharing of extracts of these course materials with other students enrolled in the course at the same time may be allowed under fair dealing.

Recording of Lectures

The audio or video recording of lectures and taking screenshots of PowerPoint slides during the lecture are not permitted without explicit authorization. The non-authorized media recording of lectures is inconsistent with the Code of Conduct and may result in discipline in accordance with the Student Non-Academic Misconduct Policy and Procedure. For more information click here: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/university-policies-procedures/student-non-academic-misconduct-policy>.

Sharing of Lecture Notes and Exam Questions

Publicly sharing lecture notes and exam questions on 3rd party sites such as OneClass, StudyBlue, Quizlet, Course Hero, etc. is not permitted. If you wish to use these helpful studying tools, make sure you adjust your privacy settings accordingly. Any violations are subject to investigation under the UofC Student Non-Academic Misconduct Policy. For more information, click here: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/university-policies-procedures/student-non-academic-misconduct-policy>.

Academic Misconduct

Please refer to the website listed below for information on University of Calgary policies on Plagiarism/Cheating/Other Academic Misconduct:

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html>

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:

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/university-policies-procedures/student-accommodation-policy>

Students needing an Accommodation based on a Protected Ground other than Disability, should communicate this need, preferably in writing, to the course instructor.

Libraries & Cultural Resources

To contact your librarian or find out about the resources and services available to sociology students go to the Sociology Library guide: <https://library.ucalgary.ca/guides/sociology>

To access the main Library website go to: <https://library.ucalgary.ca>

Wellness and Mental Health Resources

The University of Calgary recognizes the pivotal role that mental health plays in physical health, social connectedness and academic success, and aspires to create a caring and supportive campus community where individuals can freely talk about mental health and receive support when needed. We encourage you to explore the excellent mental health resources available throughout the university community, such as counselling, self-help resources, peer support or skills-building available through Student Wellness Services (Room 370 MacEwan Student Centre,

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/wellness-services/services/mental-health-services>) and the Campus Mental Health Strategy (<http://www.ucalgary.ca/mentalhealth/>).

Student Success Centre

The Student Success Centre provides services and programs to ensure students can make the most of their time at the University of Calgary. Our advisors, learning support staff, and writing support staff assist students in enhancing their skills and achieving their academic goals. They provide tailored learning support and advising programs, as well as one-on-one services, free of charge to all undergraduate and graduate students. For more information visit:

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/student-services/student-success>

Student Ombuds Office

The Student Ombuds Office supports and provides a safe, neutral space for students. For more information, please visit www.ucalgary.ca/ombuds/ or email ombuds@ucalgary.ca.

Student Representation

The Graduate Student Association VP Academic can be contacted at vpa.gsa@ucalgary.ca

For more information, and to contact other elected officials with the GSA, please visit this link:

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/grad/current/graduate-students-association-gsa-grad.html>

Emergency Evacuation/Assembly Points

Assembly points for emergencies have been identified across campus. Assembly points are designed to establish a location for information updates from the emergency responders to the evacuees; from the evacuated population to the emergency responders. For more information, see the University of Calgary's Emergency Management website:

<https://live-risk.ucalgary.ca/risk/emergency-management/evac-drills-assembly-points/assembly-points>

Safewalk

Campus security will escort individuals, day or night, anywhere on campus (including McMahon Stadium, Health Sciences Centre, Student Family Housing, the Alberta Children's Hospital and the University LRT station). Call 403-220-5333 or visit <http://www.ucalgary.ca/security/safewalk>. Use any campus phone, emergency phone or the yellow phone located at most parking lot pay booths. Please ensure your personal safety by taking advantage of this service.