

PSYC*4310, Course Outline: Winter 2019

General Information

Course Title: Advanced Topics in Social & Applied Social Psychology: Qualitative Methods

Course Description:

This course will introduce students to qualitative methods in psychology. Students will be guided through examination of theory and methods, as well as practice-based discussions and exercises. The main goals of the course are:

1. To introduce you to concepts and frameworks necessary to understand qualitative research methods in psychology
2. For you to gain the ability to critically read and gain knowledge from qualitative studies
3. To guide you to analyzing qualitative data and making empirical knowledge claims based on qualitative research principles

Credit Weight: 0.5

Academic Department (or campus): Psychology

Semester Offering: W19

Class Schedule and Location: Wed: 2:30-5:20, MCKN 228

Instructor Information

Instructor Name: Kieran O'Doherty

Instructor Email: kieran.odoherty@uoguelph.ca

Office location and office hours: MACK 3014, Wednesday 1-2pm and Fridays 2:30-3:30pm

GTA Information

GTA Name: Melisa Choubak

GTA Email: mchoubak@uoguelph.ca

GTA office location and office hours: n/a

GTA Name: Alexis Fabricius

GTA Email: afabrici@uoguelph.ca

GTA office location and office hours: n/a

GTA Name: Jessica White

GTA Email: jwhite29@uoguelph.ca

GTA office location and office hours: n/a

Course Content

Specific Learning Outcomes:

The successful student, upon completion of this course will be able to:

1. Distinguish between qualitative data sources and qualitative approaches to analysis
2. Articulate ontological and epistemological assumptions underlying both qualitative and quantitative approaches and how they differ from each other
3. Articulate the ways in which context is taken into account in qualitative research
4. Describe the of operation of reflexivity and its importance in conducting qualitative research
5. Recognise the role of subjectivity in both the research process and in the psychological phenomena being studied
6. Design a qualitative research study
7. Conduct systematic qualitative data coding
8. Write-up and communicate the results of a qualitative analysis

Lecture Content:

- What is qualitative research?
- Research as a search for meaning, not numbers
- Ontological and epistemological foundations of qualitative research
- Planning and designing qualitative research
- Collecting qualitative data
- Analysing qualitative data
- Transcription
- Data coding
- Approaches to qualitative analysis
- Thematic analysis
- Discourse analysis
- Criteria for evaluating qualitative research

Labs: n/a

Seminars: n/a

Course Assignments and Tests:

Assignment or Test	Due Date	Contribution to Final Mark (%)	Learning Outcomes Assessed
In class participation	n/a	20%	1-5
Discussion notes	Most Fridays, 5pm	20%	1-5
Analysis paper 1	25/2/2019, 5pm	30%	6-8
Analysis paper 2	4/4/2019, 5pm	30%	6-8

Additional Notes (if required):

In class Participation 20%

This will be based on quality of meaningful engagement in class discussions based on course readings. It is expected that students have read all required readings and are able to discuss them with colleagues. If a student has not contributed sufficiently for a grade to be allocated, they may be called upon to give an oral presentation in class. Students are expected to attend every class, except in the case of emergencies, and to come prepared to discuss the assigned readings.

Discussion notes 20%

There will be required readings to complete for each class. Discussion notes are required to be submitted based on readings and class discussions about those readings. The length of the discussion notes should be ½ - 1 page each. Discussion notes are graded satisfactory or not satisfactory. For each satisfactory set of discussion notes you submit, you will earn 2% up to a cumulative maximum of 20% (for discussion notes on 10 articles). There will be 11 opportunities to submit discussion notes, so you can afford to miss one set of discussion notes and still get the full 20% for this grade component. Discussion notes need to be submitted electronically via CourseLink on the Friday after the readings were discussed in class by 5pm.

Final examination date and time: N/A

Final exam weighting: N/A

Course Resources

Required Texts:

Successful Qualitative Research: A Practical Guide for Beginners by Virginia Braun and Victoria Clarke. Sage. 2013. ISBN: 9781847875822

Recommended Texts: N/A

Lab Manual: n/a

Other Resources:

Additional readings will be provided via CourseLink.

Field Trips: n/a

Additional Costs: n/a

Course Policies

Grading Policies

10% subtracted for each day late up to a maximum of 3 days (after that assignments receive an automatic zero)

[Undergraduate Grading Procedures](#)

Course Policy on Group Work:

Course Policy regarding use of electronic devices and recording of lectures:

Electronic recording of classes is expressly forbidden without consent of the instructor. When recordings are permitted they are solely for the use of the authorized student and may not be reproduced, or transmitted to others, without the express written consent of the instructor.

University Policies

Academic Consideration

When you find yourself unable to meet an in-course requirement because of illness or compassionate reasons, please advise the course instructor in writing, with your name, id#, and e-mail contact. See the academic calendar for information on regulations and procedures for

Academic Consideration:

[Academic Consideration, Appeals and Petitions](#)

Academic Misconduct

The University of Guelph is committed to upholding the highest standards of academic integrity and it is the responsibility of all members of the University community, faculty, staff, and students to be aware of what constitutes academic misconduct and to do as much as possible to prevent academic offences from occurring.

University of Guelph students have the responsibility of abiding by the University's policy on academic misconduct regardless of their location of study; faculty, staff and students have the responsibility of supporting an environment that discourages misconduct. Students need to remain aware that instructors have access to and the right to use electronic and other means of detection. Please note: Whether or not a student intended to commit academic misconduct is not relevant for a finding of guilt. Hurried or careless submission of assignments does not excuse students from responsibility for verifying the academic integrity of their work before submitting it. Students who are in any doubt as to whether an action on their part could be construed as an academic offence should consult with a faculty member or faculty advisor.

The Academic Misconduct Policy is detailed in the Undergraduate Calendar:

[Academic Misconduct Policy](#)

Accessibility

The University of Guelph is committed to creating a barrier-free environment. Providing services for students is a shared responsibility among students, faculty and administrators. This relationship is based on respect of individual rights, the dignity of the individual and the University community's shared commitment to an open and supportive learning environment. Students requiring service or accommodation, whether due to an identified, ongoing disability or a short-term disability should contact [Student Accessibility Services](#) as soon as possible.

For more information, contact SAS at 519-824-4120 ext. 54335 or email accessibility@uoguelph.ca or the [Student Accessibility Services Website](#)

Course Evaluation Information

Please refer to the [Course and Instructor Evaluation Website](#) .

Drop date

The last date to drop one-semester courses, without academic penalty, is March 8, 2019. For regulations and procedures for Dropping Courses, see the [Schedule of Dates in the Academic Calendar](#). [Current Undergraduate Calendar](#)

Additional Course Information

Course instructors are allowed to use software to help in detecting plagiarism or unauthorized copying of student assignments. Plagiarism is one of the most common types of academic misconduct on our campus. Plagiarism involves students using the work, ideas and/or the exact wording of other people or sources without giving proper credit to others for the work, ideas and/or words in their papers. Students can unintentionally commit misconduct because they do not know how to reference outside sources properly or because they don't check their work carefully enough before handing it in. Whether or not a student intended to commit academic misconduct is not relevant for a finding of guilt. Hurried or careless submission of assignments does not excuse students from responsibility for verifying the academic integrity of their work before submitting it. Students who are in any doubt as to whether an action on their part could be construed as an academic offence should consult with a faculty member or faculty advisor.

In this course, your instructor will be using Turnitin.com to detect possible plagiarism, unauthorized collaboration or copying as part of the ongoing efforts to prevent plagiarism in the College of Social and Applied Human Sciences.

A major benefit of using Turnitin is that students will be able to educate and empower themselves in preventing misconduct. In this course, you may screen your own assignments through Turnitin as many times as you wish before the due date. You will be able to see and print reports that show you exactly where you have properly and improperly referenced the outside sources and materials in your assignment.