



The University of Western Ontario
SOCIOLOGY 3307G - 001
Investigating the Social World:
Qualitative Research

DRAFT OUTLINE

Winter 2019

Tuesdays, 9:30am- 12:30pm, SSC 3006

Instructor: Professor T.L. Adams

Office Hours: TBA

Department of Sociology, Office: SSC 5316

Email: tladams@uwo.ca

Course Description:

In this course, students will learn to investigate the social world using a variety of qualitative research approaches, such as in-depth interviewing, observation, and content analysis. Students will explore the principles underlying qualitative inquiry and acquire a general understanding of the theoretical positions that underlie qualitative methodology. Through lectures, readings, and hands-on research activities, students will explore different ways of investigating the social world in a scientific but non-statistical way that gives voice to the people we are studying. The ultimate goal is to let students obtain some hands-on experience with qualitative research.

Prerequisites: Sociology 2205a/b and 2206a/b.

Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. The decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

Antirequisite(s): Sociology 3310F/G, 3311F/G

Learning Outcomes:

By the end of this course, students should be able to do the following:

- * Evaluate different research methods and their usage.
- * Formulate research questions and choose a qualitative research design to examine those questions.
- * Understand and meet the ethical standards for conducting research with human subjects
- * Design and carry out a research project, including conducting in-depth interviews, ethnographic field observations, and content analysis.
- * Analyse and interpret qualitative data.

Required Text(s):

Hesse-Biber, Sharlene Nagy. 2017. *The Practice of Qualitative Research: Engaging Students in the Research Process*. Third edition. Sage Publishing.

Evaluation:

Quiz on key terms -- Week 4 -- 15%

In-depth interview proposal – Week 6 – 15%

Ethnography Assignment – Week 8 – 20%

Content Analysis in-class assignment – Week 8 or 9 – 15%

Interview transcription, analysis and write-up – Week 12 -- 25%

Class attendance -- 10%

Evaluation Details:

To follow

How to Contact Me:

The best ways to contact me are through email (tladams@uwo.ca), in class, or during my office hours.

How to get important information:

Make sure to check the course OWL site regularly for course updates, cancellations, and other course-related material.

Important Policies

Policies for Assignment Deadlines:

In-class assignments must be completed in class. For all other assignments, late marks of 5% per day will be deducted.

A Note on Plagiarism:

Students must write their assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major scholastic offence (the Scholastic Offence Policy can be viewed in the Western Academic Calendar).

Plagiarism Checking:

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism

of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (www.turnitin.com).

Policies on Examinations

No electronic devices will be allowed during the quiz.

Policy on Laptops and other Electronics/Phones in Class:

Laptops are permitted in class but if it is observed that students are on social networking sites such as Facebook or Twitter, they will be told to close the lid and they will not be permitted to use it for the remainder of the class. Be sure that all cell phones are turned off at the beginning of class.

Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness

Western's policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness can be found at www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf.

Students must see the Academic Counsellor and submit all required documentation in order to be approved for certain accommodation: http://counselling.ssc.uwo.ca/procedures/medical_accommodation.html

Accessibility Options:

Please contact the course instructor if you require material in an alternate format or if you require any other arrangements to make this course more accessible to you. You may also wish to contact Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) at 519 661-2111 x 82147 for any specific question regarding an accommodation. Information regarding accommodation of exams is available on the Registrar's website: www.registrar.uwo.ca/examinations/accommodated_exams.html

Scholastic Offences

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following web site: www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf

Mental Health

Students who are in **emotional/mental distress** should refer to Mental Health@Western (http://uwo.ca/health/mental_wellbeing/index.html) for a complete list of options how to obtain help.

Course Schedule and Readings:

Week 1 Introduction to course – what is qualitative research?

Reading: Hesse-Biber, chapter 1

Week 2 Approaches to Qualitative Research, Designing Qualitative Research

Reading: Hesse-Biber, chapter 2

Week 3 Ethics in Research

Reading: Hesse-Biber, chapter 3

Week 4 Quiz & In-depth interviews

Reading: Hesse-Biber, Chapter 4

** In-class quiz

Week 5 Research Week

No readings

Week 6 Ethnography

Reading: Hesse-Biber, Chapter 8

** In-Depth interviewing proposal due

Week 7 Hands-on Research

No reading this week. Work on assignments.

Week 8 Content Analysis

Reading: Hesse-Biber, Chapter 9

* Ethnography Assignment due.

* In-class Assignment

Week 9 Case Study and Institutional Ethnography

Reading: Hesse-Biber, Chapter 10

* Last Day in-class assignment can be submitted

Week 10 Analysis, Interpretation, and Writing

Reading: Hesse-Biber, Chapter 12

Week 11 Hands-on Research & Writing

No reading this week

Week 12 Course Wrap-Up and Reflections

* No reading this week.

* In-depth interviewing assignment due.