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 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, Family Studies 3230A/B.
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 photo voice.
- Analyze and interpret qualitative data.
- Write an effective research report.
- Prepare an effective oral presentation that presents key information in a narrow time frame.

Required Texts:
- Additional required readings will be posted on OWL

Evaluation:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Interview project proposal</td>
<td>January 30th, 2020</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Photo-voice assignment</td>
<td>February 27, 2020</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In-class test</td>
<td>March 12th, 2020</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ethnography assignment</td>
<td>March 19th, 2020</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interview project/term paper</td>
<td>March 26th, 2020</td>
<td>35%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Group Presentation</td>
<td>April 2nd, 2020</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class attendance</td>
<td>Throughout</td>
<td>10%</td>
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</tbody>
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Evaluation Details (detailed information provided on OWL)

Interview project proposal (10%): As a group, you will submit a proposal for your interview project. Identify a sociological problem. Provide a short literature review. Identify research questions. Create a draft interview guide; describe your recruitment strategy; produce your letter of information and consent form.

Photo-voice assignment (10%): You will act as both the researcher and research participant, and conduct a photo-voice that has meaning to you. Your submission will include two parts, the first from the researcher’s point of view and the second from the participants point of view.
In-class Test (10%): At the beginning of class, you will be given a test of key concepts and ideas learned throughout the term. The test will be 30 minutes long and contain short answer questions.

Ethnography Assignment (15%): Spend some time observing a site; collect field notes. Write a brief report summarizing your observations. Answer the questions posed to you on the assignment sheet; hand in a sample of your rough notes.

Interview Project/Term Paper (35%): Each group member will conduct 1 interview with one participant. Transcribe your interview and share with other group members. Use all interviews from your group to analyze for themes and write a research report individually. Each group member should submit your transcription, your thematic coding notes, and your research report.

Group Presentation on Research (10%): You will combine the findings from your individual term papers to prepare a short group presentation for the class. Presentation held last class, April 2, 2020.

Class Attendance (10%): Attendance in class is expected. If you cannot attend a class due to illness or other reasons please inform the instructor ahead of time. More than 3 absences will result in a grade of 0. You will be informed after two unaccounted for absences. Continued absence may result in a failing grade for the course as per university policy.

How to Contact Us:
The best ways to contact me are through email (jelgie3@uwo.ca), in class, or during my office hours.

Teaching Assistant: Lyn Hoang (lhoang3@uwo.ca)

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

Course Attendance Requirements:
With the exception of legitimate medical/personal excuses (documentation required to be submitted) students are expected to attend at least 80% of the class meetings for this course. A passing grade in the course cannot be obtained without meeting this attendance requirement.

Policies for Assignment Deadlines:
If you miss the due date for an assignment due to illness or for any other unforeseen reason, you must provide notification of and documentation for the reasons for your circumstances to your Academic Counselor within 48 hours. If your problem is medical in nature, you should be seen by your doctor on the date of the exam or on the date the assignment is due. If your Academic Counselor agrees that your reasons are legitimate and are supported by your medical doctor’s documentation, you will be allowed to hand in your assignment at a later date.

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:
Students may be required to submit their assignments to turnitin.com on the class WebCT website after they are completed. These papers will be subject to submission for textual originality.

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.

Academic Consideration for Missed Work
Students who are seeking academic consideration for missed work during the semester may submit a self-reported absence form online provided that the absence is 48 hours or less and the other conditions specified in the Senate policy are met. Two important exceptions to this rule: SRAs will not be allowed for final examinations or assessments worth more than 30% of a given course.
Students whose absences are expected to last **longer than 48 hours**, or where the other conditions detailed in the policy are not met (e.g., work is worth more than 30% of the final grade, the student has already used 2 self-reported absences, the absence is during the final exam period), may receive academic consideration by submitting a Student Medical Certificate (for illness) or other appropriate documentation (for compassionate grounds).

All students pursuing academic consideration, regardless of type, must contact their instructors no less than 24 hours following the end of the period of absence to clarify how they will be expected to fulfill the academic responsibilities missed during their absence. Students are reminded that they should consider carefully the implications of postponing tests or midterm exams or delaying submission of work, and are encouraged to make appropriate decisions based on their specific circumstances.

https://counselling.ssc.uwo.ca/procedures/having_problems/Self_Reported_Absence.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.

**Compassionate Grounds**

**Serious Illness of a Family Member:** Inform your instructor as soon as possible and submit a medical certificate from the family member’s physician to your home faculty’s Academic Counseling office.
**In Case of a Death**: Inform your instructor as soon as possible and submit a copy of the newspaper notice, death certificate or documentation provided by the funeral director to your home faculty’s Academic Counseling office.

**Grade Guidelines**
The Department of Sociology has grade distribution guidelines that all instructors are required to follow. For Sociology courses at the 3000 level, class averages must be in the range of 70-74%.
Course Schedule
(Note: readings subject to change)

January 9  Week 1: Introduction to course
Reading 1: Hesse-Biber, chapter 1

January 16  Week 2: Designing Qualitative Research
Reading 1: Hesse-Biber, chapter 3
Reading 2:

***One group member email with interview topic by January 20th, 2020 for approval***

January 23  Week 3: Ethics in Qualitative Research
Reading 1: Hesse-Biber, chapter 4
Reading 2:
Optional Readings: Tri-Council Policy Statement

January 30  Week 4: In-depth Interviewing
Reading 1: Hesse-Biber, chapter 5
Reading 2:
  ● Interview proposal due

February 6  Week 7: Research with Indigenous Peoples
Reading 1:
Reading 2:

February 13  Week 6: Photo voice, Storytelling, and Narrative Research Practices
Reading 1:
Reading 2:

February 20  Reading Week: No Class

February 27  Week 5: Ethnography
Reading 1: Hesse-Biber, chapter 7
Reading 2
  ● Photo voice assignment due

***Exchange interview transcripts with group members no later than Mar 5th***

March 5  Week 8: Participatory Action Research
Reading 1:
Reading 2:

***Email instructor with ethnography location by March 9th, 2020 for approval***

March 12    Week 9: Content Analysis and Case Studies
Reading 1: Hesse-Biber, chapter 8
Reading 2: Hesse-Biber, chapter 9
• In-class test of learning

March 19    Week 10: Transcribing and Coding, Analysis, and Interpretation
Reading 1:
Reading 2:
• Ethnography assignment due

March 26    Week 11: Writing and Presenting your Research
Reading 1:
• Interview project and term paper due

April 2     Week 12: Group Presentations, Course Wrap Up
No readings this week
• Group presentation on Research