

Sociology 204H1F LEC0201 Fall 2018
Introduction to Qualitative Methods in Sociology

Instructor: Bogović
725 Spadina Avenue, Rm. 335
Office Hours: Thursday 12:30-1:30pm
Email: rene.bogovic@mail.utoronto.ca

Location: Ramsay Wright Laboratories 110
Class Time: Thursday 2-4pm

TAs: Anna Kaplunovich
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TA: Christos Orfanidis
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Tutorial 01: Thursday 4-5pm
Location: Wilson Hall – New College 524
Tutorial 02: Friday 12-1pm
Location: Sidney Smith Hall 2111

TA Office Hours: 725 Spadina Avenue, Room 225F, 12:30-1:30pm
(by appointment only – email TA 24 hours ahead of time)

Course Description

In this course, you will become familiar with how and why social research is done and develop the skills necessary to evaluate and design qualitative research studies. In the first part of the course, you will confront issues regarding the nature of knowledge and learn how to ask good research questions. In the second part, you will learn how to pursue those questions ethically, rigorously and systematically using several qualitative techniques. As with any skill, learning how to conduct social research requires practice, and this course will give you hands-on experience, so you will gain competence in the logic and conduct of qualitative research.

Towards the end of the course, you will be introduced to important conversations on the framing, significance and challenges pertaining to subjectivity, gender, race and ethnicity in qualitative research.

The prerequisite to take this course is 1.0 SOC FCE at the 100 level. Students without this prerequisite can be removed at any time without notice.

Course Goals

After completing this course, students should be able to:

- create thoughtful, qualitative research questions
- describe, develop and evaluate qualitative research methodologies
- code, analyze and synthesize insights from collected qualitative data
- harness the insights of qualitative research in approaching other substantive areas in sociology

Requirements and Grading

Stepping Stone Submissions	45%
Interview Questions – Monday Sep 24th @ 4pm	4%
Research Mapping – Thursday Oct 4th @ 2pm	10%
Interview Observation & Feedback – Monday Oct 15th @ 4pm	4%
Transcribed Interview – Monday Oct 22nd @ 4pm	4%
Interview Reflection – Thursday Nov 1st @ 2pm	15%
Interview Notes – Monday Nov 5th @ 4pm	4%
Coding & Analysis – Monday Nov 12th @ 4pm	4%
Final Project Submission - Thursday Nov 29th @ 2pm	25%
Tutorials – ongoing (see schedule below)	10%
Final Exam - TBA	20%
TOTAL	100%

Required Readings

Available from the U of T bookstore or your preferred online retailer:

(LB) Lune, Howard and Bruce L. Berg. 2017. *Qualitative Research Methods for the Social Sciences*. New York: Pearson. 9th edition

- The e-book for Lune & Berg (2017) is available for students to rent through VitalSource (<https://www.vitalsource.com/products/qualitative-research-methods-for-the-social-howard-lune-v9780134416199>)

Available from the U of T library website (will also be posted on Quercus):

Goodwin, Jeff, and Ruth Horowitz. 2002. "Introduction: The Methodological Strengths and Dilemmas of Qualitative Sociology." *Qualitative Sociology* 25(1):33-47.

Atkinson, Paul, and Amanada Coffey. 2002. "Revisiting the Relationship Between Participant Observation and Interviewing." Pp. 801-14 in *Handbook of interview research : context & method*. Thousand Oaks, Calif.: Sage Publications.

Park, Peter. 1993. "What is Participatory Research? A Theoretical and Methodological Perspective." in *Voices of change: participatory research in the United States and Canada*, edited by Peter Park and Education Ontario Institute for Studies in. Toronto: OISE Press.

Krieger, Susan. 1985. "Beyond "Subjectivity": The Use of the Self in Social Science." *Qualitative Sociology* 8(4):309-24.

DeVault, Marjorie L. 2002. "Talking and Listening from Women's Standpoint: Feminist Strategies for Interviewing and Analysis." Pp. 88-111 in *Qualitative research methods*: Blackwell Publishers. Stacks H62 .Q38 2002

Twine, France Winddance. 2000. "Racial Ideologies and Racial Methodologies." Pp. 1-34 in *Racing research, researching race : methodological dilemmas in critical race studies*: New York University Press

Hsiung, Ping-Chun. 2010 "Lives & Legacies. A Guide to Qualitative Interviewing." Retrieved February 9, 2018 (<http://www.uts.utoronto.ca/~pchsiung/LAL/home>).

Week #	Date	Course Schedule	
1	Sep 6	Introduction & Course Outline Readings: Chapter 1 (LB)	Tutorials: No
2	Sep 13	Asking Sociological Questions Readings: Chapter 2, Sections 1,2, 4,5,6. (LB)	Tutorials: Research Questions
3	Sep 20	Research Design Readings: Chapter 2, Sections 3, 7-11. (LB) Goodwin and Horowitz 2002	Tutorials: Interview Questions
4	Sep 27	Ethics Readings: Chapter 3 (LB)	Tutorials: Ethics put students into groups of 3 for interviews
5	Oct 4	Interviewing Readings: Chapter 4 (LB)	Tutorials: Interviewing, Observation & Constructive Feedback / Interview Guide
6	Oct 11	Observation Readings: Chapter 6, Sections 1-3 (LB), Atkinson and Coffey 2002	Tutorials: No – Students will use their tutorial hour to conduct interviews & observations
7	Oct 18	Coding Readings: Chapter 11 (LB)	Tutorials: Preliminary Coding
8	Oct 25	Analysis and Write-Ups Readings: Chapter 12 (LB)	Tutorials: Coding + Analysis
9	Nov 1	Focus Groups / PAR Readings: Chapter 5 (LB) Park 1993	Tutorials: Preliminary Analysis
Nov 5-9		Reading Week	
10	Nov 15	Unobtrusive Methods Readings: Chapter 8 (LB)	Tutorials: TBD
11	Nov 22	Ethnography and Subjectivity Readings: Chapter 6, Sections 4-10 (LB), Krieger 1985	Tutorials: TBD
12	Nov 29	Standpoint, Race and Gender in Qualitative Research Readings: Devault 1990, Twine 2000, Ping-Chun Hsiung 2010	Tutorials: Exam Review
Exam Period Dec 8-21		Final Exam	

Course Policies

Attendance and Preparation

Attendance is mandatory. Students are responsible for all material presented in class. Students who are unable to attend class on a given day are responsible for obtaining notes on all material covered, including lecture material and course announcements. In addition, students are expected to complete all assigned readings in advance of the class period for which they are assigned.

Tutorials

Students are required to participate in the mandatory tutorials associated with this course. Tutorial sessions are on either Thursday right after class 4-5pm in Sidney Smith Hall 1069, or on Friday 12-1pm in Sidney Smith Hall 2111. Tutorials will take place on each week of the term but the first one. Tutorials are designed to help you practice methodological skills and will prepare you for the final project associated with the course. Attendance and activities in tutorial are graded.

Course Website

The course website is available at TBD. The site will contain the course syllabus, resources, and course announcements. Students are responsible for the content of all course materials.

Email

When emailing your professor or TA, please use your utoronto.ca or mail.utoronto.ca address. Please also include “SOC204” and a brief description in the subject line, so your email can be easily prioritized. Emails will typically be answered within 48 hours on work days. Neither the instructor nor the TAs will check their email on weekends. Keep in mind that for simple questions, email is the preferred method of communication. However, for longer questions, students should attend office hours and/or schedule an appointment with a TA or the professor. Emails regarding information that is covered in the syllabus and email missing the appropriate subject line will not be replied to.

Office Hours

TA office hours are **by appointment only**. If you would like to meet with the TA to discuss assignment feedback, exam preparation, course content or concerns, please contact them with 24-hour notice (via email). TAs will not hold office hours unless notified of a student’s arrival.

Instructor Bogović has drop-in office hours on TBD. If you have a conflict with these regularly scheduled hours, please make an appointment by contacting Instructor Bogović directly (rene.bogovic@mail.utoronto.ca). In your email, include details about the nature of your meeting request and a list of dates/times when you are available. You will typically receive a response within 48 hours on weekdays.

Late Assignments/Submissions

This course relies on several smaller assignments which build upon each other. It is important that students record due dates in their personal calendars and follow the course schedule meticulously.

Under no circumstances will course assignments and/or exams be reweighed or substituted.

If you are experiencing extenuating circumstances (such as illness and/or injury), you **must** contact Instructor Bogović immediately and provide relevant documentation. Proper documentation consists of an original (hardcopy or scanned copy sent via email) Verification of Student Illness or Injury form completed by a doctor **and submitted on or before the due date of the assignment** (you may find the form at www.illnessverification.utoronto.ca). You should also contact your college Registrar to inform them of your situation. While extensions are rarely granted, they may be considered in the case of students encountering grave, unforeseen circumstances. **Requests for extensions will not be considered retroactively (i.e. after a due date has passed).**

Unless otherwise specified, all assignments are due on Quercus, by the due date and time provided. Late assignments will be penalized 5 percentage points per day, including weekend days. **Late assignments will not be accepted via email.**

Re-Grading Assignments

All requests for re-grading course assignments should be made to your TA within **one week** of the date when the assignments are returned to the class. A short memo that clearly states specific reasons to justify the request and backs up these reasons with evidence from your assignment must be submitted to your TA. No re-grading requests will be considered if the request is submitted more than one week after the assignments are returned to the class. This deadline applies to all students including those who missed the class when the assignments were returned. It is the responsibility of the student to pick up their assignments on time in class.

Missed Exam

Students who miss an exam will be assigned a grade of 0. However, students may have an absence excused with proper documentation in the case of illness or unforeseen personal circumstance. All make-up exams are scheduled through FAS and must be arranged with your college Registrar. Students who do not attend the scheduled make-up will receive a grade of 0.

Turnitin.com

Normally, students will be required to submit their course assignments to Turnitin.com for review of textual similarity and detection of possible plagiarism. In doing so, students will allow their assignments to be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference database, where they will be used solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism. The terms that apply to the University's use of the Turnitin.com service are described at:

<http://www.teaching.utoronto.ca/teaching/academicintegrity/turnitin/conditions-use.htm>

Assignments not submitted through *Turnitin* will receive a grade of zero (0 %) **unless a student instead provides, along with their assignment**, sufficient secondary material (e.g., reading notes, outlines of the paper, rough drafts of the final draft, etc.) to establish that the paper they submitted was truly their own. The alternative (not submitting via *Turnitin*) is in place because, strictly speaking, using *Turnitin* is voluntary for students at the University of Toronto.

Writing Centres (<http://www.writing.utoronto.ca/writing-centres/arts-and-science>)

All students are encouraged to visit and make use of the available writing centres. Writing tutors may help you brainstorm ideas, develop a thesis, structure and organize your paper, present your

evidence effectively, argue logically, cite appropriately and express yourself clearly and concisely. However, proofreading and copyediting for spelling, grammar, or format are not within the primary scope of the writing centres.

Accessibility

The University of Toronto is committed to accessibility. If you require accommodations or have any accessibility concerns, please visit <http://studentlife.utoronto.ca/accessibility> as soon as possible. If you are registered with Accessibility Services, please forward your accommodations paperwork to Instructor Bogović within the first two weeks of the course so that arrangements can be made.

Academic Integrity/Academic Misconduct

The University of Toronto treats academic integrity and academic misconduct very seriously. To participate honestly, respectfully, responsibly, and fairly in the academic community at U of T, you should familiarize yourself with the University of Toronto's Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters (<http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/policies/behaveac.htm>).

In addition, students should acquaint themselves with the rules concerning plagiarism and other forms of academic misconduct, including but not limited to:

- Using someone else's ideas or words without appropriate acknowledgement.
- Copying material word-for-word from a source without quotation marks.
- Including references to sources that you did not use.
- Obtaining or providing unauthorized assistance on any assignment including (e.g.) working in groups on assignments that are supposed to be individual work
- Lending your work to a classmate who submits it as his/her own.
- Letting someone else look at your answers on a test.
- Falsifying or altering any documentation required by the University.

Student Contacts

You are responsible for all material presented in class, including announcements. If you are unable to attend class, you should obtain notes from a classmate. Write down the contact information for two of your classmates below in case you need notes.

Name: _____	Name: _____
E-mail: _____	E-mail: _____
Phone: _____	Phone: _____
Other: _____	Other: _____