

Sociology 204H1S LEC0101 – Winter 2018
Introduction to Qualitative Methods in Sociology

Prof. La Touche
725 Spadina Avenue, Rm. 270
Office Hours: Tuesdays 1:00-3:00pm and by appt.
Email: rachel.latouche@utoronto.ca

Location: Sidney Smith Hall 2118
Class Time: Monday 4pm-6pm
Web Page: portal.utoronto.ca

TAs: Cinthya Guzman
(c.guzman@mail.utoronto.ca)
Office Hours: Wednesday 1-2, by appointment only
(Sociology TA Office, Room 225F)

Andrew Cooper
(cal.cooper@mail.utoronto.ca)
Friday 12-1pm, by appointment only
(Sociology TA Office, Room 225E)

Tutorial: Wednesday 2-3pm (SS 1086)
 Wednesday 3-4pm (SS 1086)

Thursday 11-12pm (OI 5230)

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 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.

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

Requirements and Grading

Participation/BB Submissions	15%
Interview Questions – Friday Jan 26 th	(3%)
Interview Observation & Feedback – Friday Feb 16 th	(3%)
Transcribed Interview – Friday Feb 23 rd	(3%)
Preliminary Interview Notes - Friday March 9 th	(3%)
Preliminary Coding & Analysis - Friday March 23 rd	(3%)
Assignment 1	65%
Submission 1 (Research Mapping) – Jan 29	(15%)
Submission 2 (Interview Reflection) – Mar 2	(20%)
Submission 3 (Analysis & Write-Up) – April 2	(30%)
Final Exam	20%
TOTAL	100%

Required Readings

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

(AA) Aziz Ansari, with Eric Klinenberg. 2015. Modern Romance. Penguin Press: New York.

(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>)

Week #	Date	Course Outline	
1	Jan 8	Introduction & Course Outline Readings: No	Tutorials: No
2	Jan 15	Asking Sociological Questions Readings: Chapter 1 (LB), Chapter 1 (AA)	Tutorials: Research Questions
3	Jan 22	Research Design Readings: Chapter 2 (LB), Chapter 2 (AA)	Tutorials: Interview Questions Interview Questions – DUE Friday Jan 26th @ 4pm
4	Jan 29	Ethics Readings: Chapter 3 (LB), Chapter 3 (AA)	Tutorials: Ethics Submission # 1 (Research Mapping) DUE Monday Jan 29th @ 4PM
5	Feb 5	Observation Readings: Chapter 4 (AA), Chapter 6 (AA)	Tutorials: Interviewing, Observation & Constructive Feedback
6	Feb 12	Interviewing Readings: Chapter 4 (LB)	Tutorials: No – Students will use their tutorial hour to conduct interviews & observations Interview Observation & Feedback – Friday Feb 16th @ 4PM
7	Feb 19	Reading Week Transcribed Interview – Due Friday Feb 23rd @4PM	
8	Feb 26	Focus Groups Readings: Chapter 5 (LB)	Tutorials: Preliminary Coding Submission # 2 (Interview Reflection) DUE Friday March 2nd @ 4PM
9	Mar 5	Unobtrusive Methods Readings: Chapter 8 (LB)	Tutorials: Coding Preliminary Interview Notes – DUE Friday March 9th @ 4PM
10	Mar 12	Ethnography Readings: Chapter 6 (LB)	Tutorials: Preliminary Analysis
11	Mar 19	Coding Readings: Chapter 11 (LB)	Tutorials: Analysis Preliminary Coding & Analysis - DUE Friday March 23rd
12	Mar 26	Analysis and Write-Ups Readings: Chapter 12 (LB)	Tutorials: Summarizing Qualitative Findings
13	Apr 2	Wrap Up & Review	Tutorials: No Submission # 3 DUE (Analysis & Write-Up) DUE Monday April 2nd @ 4PM
	TBD	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 one of the mandatory tutorials associated with this course: TUT0101, TUT0201, TUT0301. Tutorial sessions are designed to help you practice methodological skills and will prepare you for the three submission deadlines associated with the course project (worth more than half of your grade). The tutorial schedule is included in the course outline above.

Course Website

The course website on Blackboard is available at portal.utoronto.ca. The site will contain the course syllabus, all handouts, links of interest and course announcements. Students are responsible for the content of all course materials. Discussion boards have been enabled on the course website.

Email

When emailing your professor or TAs, please use your 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. 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.

Office Hours

TA office hours are **by appointment only**. If you would like to meet with your TA to discuss assignment feedback, test 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.

Professor La Touche has drop-in office hours on Tuesday from 1-3pm. If you have a conflict with these regularly scheduled hours, please make an appointment by contacting Professor La Touche directly (rachel.latouche@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.

Late Assignments

Unless otherwise specified, all assignments are due online **before the beginning of class (i.e. by 4pm)** on the due date provided. Late assignments will be penalized 5 percentage points per day, including weekend days. **Late assignments will not be accepted via email.** Work handed in late should be put in the second-year mailbox in Room 225 in the Sociology Department (725 Spadina Avenue), Monday-Friday 9:00am-5:00pm, after it is date-stamped (date-stamp machine is located in Room 225).

Since the Participation/Blackboard submissions are low-stakes and designed to keep students on task with the larger course project, **late submissions will not be accepted and grades will not be reweighed to earlier or later assignments.**

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. Proper documentation consists of an original (not a photocopy or scan) Verification of Student Illness or Injury form completed by a doctor **on or before the day of the exam** (you may find the form at www.illnessverification.utoronto.ca). All documentation must be received via email or in a sealed envelope addressed to Prof. La Touche. If documentation is received and deemed sufficient **within one week of the exam**, a make-up will be scheduled. Students who do not attend the scheduled make-up will receive a grade of 0.

Re-Grading Assignments

All requests for re-grading the 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.

Turnitin.com

Normally, students will be required to submit their course essays 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 Professor La Touche 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: _____