

COURSE OUTLINE

Research Methods in Human Geography

Office:	SS&M B312	Lectures:	M & Th 1:00-1:50PM
Phone:	472 4537	Location:	Cle C113
E-mail:	gutber@uvic.ca	Office Hours:	M & Th 2:00 to 2:50 PM

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The course will provide an introduction to the theoretical and methodological foundations of research in human geography. A range of paradigms (e.g. ethnography, action research, narrative analysis) and data collection techniques (e.g. questionnaires, participant observation, focus groups, in-depth interviews) will be examined and applied to issues in human geography.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

- Know about major research traditions in Human Geography from an epistemological and ontological perspective.
- Understand critical issues related to different techniques for handling data in Human Geography.
- Have an appreciation of key ethical issues involved in Human Geography research.
- Understand the importance of research reflexivity.
- Know about different key methods in data collection and analysis in Human Geography.
- Develop basic skills in data collection and data analysis.
- Some experience in communicating and presenting research findings.

LECTURE CONTENT

Wk	Dates	LECTURE TOPIC	LAB TOPIC
1	07 Sept.	Introduction to the course content. Reading: Hay Chapter 1	
2	11 Sept. 14 Sept.	Research traditions: qualitative, quantitative and mixed methods approach. Introduction to different research paradigms Reading: Hay Chapter 2	Introduction to the course and to qualitative research.
3	18 Sept. 21 Sept.	Research design: Where to start with the research proposal? Qualitative or quantitative approach? Reading: Hay Chapter 4 Research Ethics Reading: Hay Chapter 3	Tools and methods in qualitative research. (1st Assignment - 10%)
4	25 Sept. 28 Sept.	Questionnaire design: Data sampling and surveying Questionnaire data analysis Reading: Hay Chapter 10	Critical literature review, components of research proposal.
5	02 Oct. 05 Oct.	Interviews: Planning and conducting interviews Interview data analysis Reading: Hay Chapter 6	Research proposal writing workshop.
6	09 Oct. 12 Oct.	<i>No classes Thanksgiving</i> Focus groups Reading: Hay Chapter 8	Oral presentation of research proposals. (2nd Assignment - 10%)
7	16 Oct. 19 Oct.	Mapping information: Diagramming and mapping techniques Reading: Hay Chapter 12 Historical and archival research Reading: Hay Chapter 9	Data collection theory – Assigned readings and class discussion.
8	23 Oct. 26 Oct.	Participatory and community-based research Action oriented research Reading: Hay Chapter 13 Oral history and ethnography Reading: Hay Chapter 7	Data collection applied, model of an interview.
9	30 Oct. 02 Nov.	Arts-based research: Photo voice Participatory Video Reading:	Conduct sample focus group with class.
10	06 Nov. 09 Nov.	Introduction to data analysis and data coding Reading: Hay Chapter 14 Textual analysis	Data analysis.



11	13 Nov. 16 Nov.	Reading Break Data analysis (interview and questionnaire responses) Reading: Hay Chapter 15	Writing workshop on research report.
12	20 Nov. 23 Nov.	Writing up your research: Report writing Reading: Hay Chapter 16 The publishing process Reading: Hay Chapter 17	Peer review of research reports. (3rd Assignment - 10%)
13	27 Nov. 30 Nov.	Presenting your research findings Reading: Hay Chapter 18 No class but Research project presentation during Lab session Research Report DUE DATE: 30th Nov.	Research report presentations (10%)

COURSE TEXT

Hay, I. (Ed.) (2010). *Qualitative research methods in human geography*, (3rd Ed.). Oxford: Oxford University Press, 222 pp. (UVic Library on reserve)

Additional readings:

Aitken, S. & Valentine, G. (Ed.s) (2006). *Approaches to Human Geography*. London: Sage Publications

Bryman, A., Bell, E. and Teevan, J. J. (2013) *Social Research Methods*, Oxford: Oxford University Press, Third Canadian Edition, ISBN: 9780195442960.

Creswell, J. (2007). *Qualitative Inquiry and Research Design: Choosing Among Five Traditions*, (2nd Ed.). Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.

DeLyser, D.; Herbert, S.; Aitken, S.; Crang, M. and McDowel, L. (Eds.) (2010). *SAGE Handbook on Qualitative Geography*. (UVic Library Online)

Flowerdew, Robin & Martin, David (Eds.) (2005). *Methods in human geography: a guide for students doing a research project*, (2nd Ed.). Harlow, Prentice.

Limb, M. & Dwyer, C. (Eds.) (2003). *Qualitative methodologies for Geographers: Issues and debates*. London: Arnold. 303 pp.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND EVALUATION

Critical Research Journal Review (10%)

The student will choose a research article to critically review the methodology and outcomes in the specific research. The student will shortly present the article review. The research article should cover the week's lecture topic. The written assignment has a word limit of max. 1000 words.

Research Report (30%)

In groups of two the students will conduct a small research project and write a report (max. 2000 words) on the specific research topic, under the overall thematic umbrella. DUE DATE: 30th November 2017.

Research Report Presentation (10%)

Short presentation.

Four Quizzes (@ 2.5 each Total 10%)

Participation (10%)

Attendance and active engagement in class

Lab Assignments (30%)

Three assignments to be explained by the Lab instructor.

1st Assignment Research tool presentation (LAB 2)

2nd Assignment: Oral presentation of research proposals (LAB 5)

3rd Assignment: Peer review of research reports (LAB 11)

GRADING SYSTEM as per the Academic Calendar

Grade	Grade point value	Grade scale	Description
A+ A A-	9 8 7	90-100% 85-89% 80-84%	Exceptional, outstanding and excellent performance. Normally achieved by a minority of students. These grades indicate a student who is self-initiating, exceeds expectation and has an insightful grasp of the subject matter.
B+ B B-	6 5 4	77-79% 73-76% 70-72%	Very good, good and solid performance. Normally achieved by the largest number of students. These grades indicate a good grasp of the subject matter or excellent grasp in one area balanced with satisfactory grasp in the other area.
C+ C	3 2	65-69% 60-64%	Satisfactory, or minimally satisfactory. These grades indicate a satisfactory performance and knowledge of the subject matter.
D	1	50-59%	Marginal Performance. A student receiving this grade demonstrated a superficial grasp of the subject matter.
F	0	0-49%	Unsatisfactory performance. Wrote final examination and completed course requirements; no supplemental.
N	0	0-49%	Did not write examination or complete course requirements by the end of term or session; no supplemental.



GEOGRAPHY DEPARTMENT INFO

- Geography Department website: <http://geog.uvic.ca>
- Undergraduate Advisor: Dr. Phil Wakefield – geogadvisor@uvic.ca

COURSESPACES

Please submit your assignments electronically on the date specified by the instructor through Course Space. Regularly check for updates and posted additional information.

POLICY ON LATE ASSIGNMENTS

Work submitted late will be accepted with a 5% daily penalty (including weekend days), up to seven days after the due date. If needed, you may submit your assignment during the weekend as a way to minimize late penalties. In case of an outstanding valid situation you must contact me, preferably in advance. I cannot consider a particular situation unless I know about it, so do not wait until the end of the term to communicate with me if something did come up. For health reasons, a doctor's certificate must be submitted. No extensions will be granted unless you have communicated with the instructor and your reasons have been deemed valid.

POLICY ON ATTENDANCE

Class will start on time. If you have to come into class late, please do so in the least disruptive manner possible. **As a sign of respect to the instructor and the rest of the class, late arrivals are discouraged, as are early departures.** Students are expected to do the assigned readings in advance and be prepared to participate in class discussions and in-class activities. Please note that participation does count towards your grade. The use of computers and other electronic devices in class should be limited to activities related to the course. Please turn cell phones off during class—**ringers, earphones and texting are disruptive and unacceptable.**

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

It is every student's responsibility to be aware of the university's policies on academic integrity, including policies on **cheating, plagiarism, unauthorized use of an editor, multiple submission, and aiding others to cheat.**

Policy on Academic Integrity:

<http://web.uvic.ca/calendar/undergrad/info/regulations/academic-integrity.html>

If you have any questions or doubts, talk to me, your course instructor. For more information, see <http://www.uvic.ca/learningandteaching/students/resources/expectations/>.

ACCESSIBILITY

Students with diverse learning styles and needs are welcome in this course. In particular, if you have a documented disability or health consideration that may require accommodations, please feel

free to approach me and/or the Resource Centre for Students with a Disability (RCS D <http://rcsd.uvic.ca/>) as soon as possible. The RCS D staff is available by appointment to assess specific needs, provide referrals, and arrange appropriate accommodations. The sooner you let us know your needs, the quicker we can assist you in achieving your learning goals in this course.

POSITIVITY AND SAFETY

The University of Victoria is committed to promoting, providing and protecting a positive and safe learning and working environment for all its members.

COURSE EXPERIENCE SURVEY (CES)

I value your feedback on this course. Towards the end of term, as in all other courses at UVic, you will have the opportunity to complete an anonymous survey regarding your learning experience (CES). The survey is vital to providing feedback to me regarding the course and my teaching, as well as to help the department improve the overall program for students in the future. The survey is accessed via MyPage and can be done on your laptop, tablet, or mobile device. I will remind you and provide you with more detailed information nearer the time but please be thinking about this important activity during the course.

DISCLAIMER

The above schedule, policies, procedures, and assignments in this course are subject to change in the event of extenuating circumstances.