PSYC*6950, Course Outline: Fall 2017

General Information

Course Title: Qualitative Methods in Psychology

Course Description:
The purpose of this course is to provide students with foundational knowledge and skills to conduct qualitative research in psychology. Approaches that will be covered may include discursive psychology, critical discourse analysis, grounded theory, thematic analysis, ethnography, and interpretive phenomenological analysis.

Credit Weight: 0.50

Academic Department (or campus): Psychology

Semester Offering: F17

Class Schedule and Location: Tuesday 2:30-5:20pm, MACS 301

Instructor Information

Instructor Name: Kieran O'Doherty
Instructor Email: kieran.odoherty@uoguelph.ca
Office location and office hours: Mondays, 11am-12noon

GTA Information

GTA Name: n/a
GTA Email:
GTA office location and office hours:

Course Content

Specific Learning Outcomes:

At the end of this course the successful student will be able to:
1. **Conduct a qualitative analysis based on one chosen methodology on your topic of choice**
2. **Describe the major qualitative approaches in psychology**
3. **Develop research questions according to different types of qualitative approaches**
4. **Articulate the importance of epistemological assumptions underlying knowledge production**
5. **Differentiate between the major epistemological orientations in psychology**

Lecture Content:

This graduate level course provides students with a foundation in qualitative methodology, with a strong emphasis on qualitative data analysis. The approach to analysis will be theory driven, with primary attention given to the epistemological foundations of qualitative analysis. Students will be given an initial overview of some of the most prominent approaches to qualitative analysis in psychology, after which each student will be guided through their own process of analysis. Students are encouraged to bring their own data set to the course, which will form the basis for their experiential learning of qualitative analysis. Using their chosen data set, students will be guided through the development of an analytical approach, formulation of research questions, and conducting their analysis. Each student is encouraged to base their work for the course within the scope of their personal research interests. The course as a whole is intended to blend personalised individual learning with collegial dialogue and discussion to foster a deep understanding of the principles underlying qualitative inquiry.

There is increasing recognition in the discipline of psychology of the value offered by qualitative methods. However, most students of psychology have little or no previous exposure to qualitative data analysis. Even more critically, students often have no knowledge of the alternate epistemological foundations (relative to typical statistical methods) that can motivate systematic academic inquiry. This course will provide a foundation for students to conduct and critically evaluate qualitative analysis based on non-positivist epistemologies.

Labs: n/a
Seminars: n/a

Course Assignments and Tests:

Assignment or Test	Due Date	Contribution to Final Mark (%)	Learning Outcomes Assessed
Oral presentation	TBA	25	2,4
Major written paper	Dec 1, 2017	50	1
Class participation	n/a	25	2,3,4,5

Final examination date and time: n/a

Final exam weighting: n/a

Course Resources

Required Texts: n/a
Recommended Texts: *n/a*
Lab Manual: *n/a*

Other Resources:

Weekly reading materials will be made available on D2L

Field Trips: n/a
Additional Costs: n/a

Course Policies

Grading Policies

Written Paper Guidelines
- The purpose of the assignment is for you to develop skills in qualitative analysis using a method of your choice and based on a topic of personal interest to you
- Choose a suitable title for your assignment that reflects the issues you are addressing and the methodology you are following
- This course is about analysis, so the paper does not require a very substantial literature review. However, there should be sufficient background (based on peer-reviewed literature) to situate your analysis for the reader. Given that you are likely to write your paper on a topic with which you are already familiar this should not require a lot of work.
- The paper must demonstrate in-depth understanding of the principles underlying your chosen methodology – make sure you have a good understanding of the theory
- The paper must demonstrate in-depth understanding of the analytical process – make sure that you have read MANY papers that use the type of analysis you are using
- Please use 1.5 or double spacing and 12-point font
- Use page numbers, reasonable margins, and don't forget to include your name and student number
- Citations and references should follow the APA guidelines
- The assignment must be original
- AVOID PLAGIARISM – this means that all ideas you use in your paper that come from your readings need to be cited; where quotes are used, make sure you give page numbers; distinguish clearly between your own thinking and arguments, and what you have read somewhere else; READ the university guidelines regarding academic integrity here: http://www.academicintegrity.uoguelph.ca/
- Please submit a **hard-copy and an electronic version** of the assignment
- Penalties:
  - Marks will be subtracted for late essays at a rate of 10% per day to a maximum of 30%. Any essay that is more than 3 days late automatically receives 0%.

Graduate Grade interpretation

Course Policy on Group Work: n/a

Course Policy regarding use of electronic devices and recording of lectures:

Electronic recording of classes is expressly forbidden without consent of the instructor. When recordings are permitted they are solely for the use of the authorized student and may not be reproduced, or transmitted to others, without the express written consent of the instructor.

University Policies

Academic Consideration

When you find yourself unable to meet an in-course requirement because of illness or compassionate reasons, please advise the course instructor in writing, with your name, id#, and e-mail contact. See the academic calendar for information on regulations and procedures for

Academic Consideration:
[Grounds for Academic Consideration](#)

Academic Misconduct

The University of Guelph is committed to upholding the highest standards of academic integrity and it is the responsibility of all members of the University community, faculty, staff, and students to be aware of what constitutes academic misconduct and to do as much as possible to prevent academic offences from occurring.

University of Guelph students have the responsibility of abiding by the University's policy on academic misconduct regardless of their location of study; faculty, staff and students have the responsibility of supporting an environment that discourages misconduct. Students need to remain aware that instructors have access to and the right to use electronic and other means of detection. Please note: Whether or not a student intended to commit academic misconduct is not relevant for a finding of guilt. Hurried or careless submission of assignments does not excuse students from responsibility for verifying the academic integrity of their work before submitting it. Students who are in any doubt as to whether an action on their part could be construed as an academic offence should consult with a faculty member or faculty advisor.

The Academic Misconduct Policy is detailed in the [Graduate Calendar](#):

Accessibility

The University of Guelph is committed to creating a barrier-free environment. Providing services for students is a shared responsibility among students, faculty and administrators. This relationship is based on respect of individual rights, the dignity of the individual and the University community's shared commitment to an open and supportive learning environment. Students requiring service or accommodation, whether due to an identified, ongoing disability or a short-term disability should contact [Student Accessibility Services](#) as soon as possible.

For more information, contact SAS at 519-824-4120 ext. 54335 or email accessibility@uoguelph.ca or the [Student Accessibility Services Website](#)

Course Evaluation Information

Please refer to the [Course and Instructor Evaluation Website](#) .

Drop date

The last date to drop one-semester courses, without academic penalty, is November 3, 2017. For regulations and procedures for Dropping Courses, see the [Schedule of Dates in the Academic Calendar](#).
[Current Graduate Calendar](#)