

Course Instructor	Dr. Heather Castleden	Email: heather.castleden@queensu.ca
Office	E-330 Mackintosh-Corry Hall	
Contact Time	One 3.0 hour lecture; One 1.5 hour practical	
Format	Lecture and Practical sessions	
Class assessment	A combination of course-based activities and assignments	

COURSE OVERVIEW

Qualitative research seeks to understand how people perceive and interact with the world around them. Qualitative researchers are thus driven to understand particular phenomena based on “discourse, actions and documents, and *how* and *why* individuals interpret and ascribe meaning to what they say and do, and to other aspects of the world (including other people) they encounter” (TCPS2; emphasis added). This course *introduces* students to the nature and scope of qualitative research methods in human geography with respect to data collection and analysis, giving them theoretical and practical foundations to build upon.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

To complete this course, students will demonstrate their ability to:

1. Explain the art and science of qualitative inquiry.
2. Articulate why qualitative methods are the best tools for many research questions.
3. Grasp power dynamics and the ethical issues associated with research involving human participants.
4. Actively engage with and compare a number of different qualitative methods of data collection and analysis.
5. Analyze texts for qualitative rigour (i.e., credibility, dependability, transferability, and confirmability).
6. Critically analyze qualitative data.
7. Give and receive, and importantly *implement*, constructive criticism.

COURSE TOPICS

1. Qualitative research methods (i) Define qualitative research; (ii) Explore a diversity of qualitative approaches;
2. Experience qualitative data collection; (i) Conduct semi-structured interviews; (ii) interview transcriptions
3. Research Ethics (i) TCPS2 Protocols; (ii) positionality in qualitative research
4. Data Analysis (i) Coding qualitative data

COURSE READINGS

Textbook:

Hay, I. (Ed). (2016). *Qualitative Research Methods in Human Geography*. Don Mills, ON: Oxford University Press

Journal Articles:

A selection of journal articles may accompany the main course text each week.