Course Instructor: Dr. Christine Grossutti  
Email: gc43@queensu.ca

Offices: Online by appointment

Contact Time: Thursdays 8:30-10 am optional synchronous sessions in Teams

Format: Remote

Class Assessment:  
- Weekly Exit Tickets 20%
- Critical Reflection Journal 5%
- Assignments 30%
- Peer Evaluation 5%
- Major Term Project 40%

COURSE OVERVIEW
Qualitative research in human geography seeks to investigate the complex phenomena of people and place including individual experience, social processes, and human environments. Qualitative Methods refers to the entire research process from the definition of a research problem, research design, data collection, and analysis. This course will introduce students to the specific skills involved in performing qualitative research and attend to power, subjectivity, and ethics. Over the semester students will develop and refine a research proposal with feedback from the teaching team and their peers.

As the course is being offered remotely this semester, students will access most of the content asynchronously, however there will be regular opportunities for students to interact remotely with the teaching team and other students.

LEARNING OUTCOMES
1. Explain the art and science of qualitative inquiry within the field of human geography.
2. Explain the alignment of qualitative methods with some geographic research questions and the importance of that alignment for appropriate research design.
3. Consider and document power dynamics, relationality, temporality and space/place concerning the ethical process of 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 such as interview transcripts or archival sources.
7. Give and receive, and importantly implement, constructive criticism on a research proposal.
8. Critically reflect on research experiences and ideas.

COURSE TOPICS
- Designing qualitative research
- Research ethics and positionality
- Feminist and Indigenous approaches to research
- Practicing specific research techniques (interviews, focus groups, observation, oral history, archives, participatory research, visual methods, digital research, discourse analysis, analyzing data, sharing research results).

COURSE READINGS
Iain Hay (2016) Qualitative Research Methods in Human Geography. 4th Edition. (Other readings may be made available online)