COURSE INSTRUCTORS
Dr. Peter Anderson  
Email: peter.anderson@queensu.ca

Office

Contact Time  
Lecture: Wed 18:30-21:30  
Practicum: Mon 11:30-13:00 or Mon 13:00-14:30

Format  
Active Learning Lectures and Practicums

Class Assessment  
1) Attendance and Participation – 20%  
2) Reading Responses – 20%  
3) Major term project (proposal + final project) – 35%  
4) Research Journal/Take-home – 25%

COURSE OVERVIEW
Qualitative research seeks to understand how people perceive, understand, and build the world around them. This course will provide an introduction and overview to key techniques and themes in qualitative research. We will explore the fundamentals of qualitative research methods: what are qualitative methods? What kinds of questions can be answered through qualitative research? What ethical and political concerns must qualitative researchers be aware of? Next, we examine a series of methods in detail and apply them in a term-spanning project. This will involve a mix of lecture, discussion, and hands-on application of qualitative methods. Finally, we will explore the application of qualitative methods to different kinds of research questions.

This is an active learning course. Attendance, participation, and respectful engagement are essential to succeeding in this course. You will be assessed on the quality, not just the quantity, of your interventions. Come prepared to discuss assigned readings and bring any questions you have to lecture and practicum.

LEARNING OUTCOMES
1. Explain the art and science of qualitative inquiry.
2. Articulate why qualitative methods are the best tools for many research questions.
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.
7. Give and receive, and importantly implement, constructive criticism.
8. Express introductory abilities in thinking and writing qualitatively.

COURSE TOPICS
- Formulating qualitative research questions and designing a qualitative research project.
- Research ethics and positionalality.
- Theoretical and hands-on practice of qualitative research methods.
- Applying qualitative research methods.

COURSE READINGS
- Other readings and content may be assigned and made available through the course website.