

**Sociology 204H1F LEC0101**  
**Summer 2019**  
**Introduction to Qualitative Methods in Sociology**  
**Room: Ramsay Wright Laboratories, Room 142**

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**Time: Mon and Wed 6pm-9pm**

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Instructor: James Lannigan  
Office Hours: Mon and Wed 5pm-6pm  
Office Location: Dept. Of Sociology, 725 Spadina Avenue, Room 335

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TAs: TBD

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*Course Description*

In this course, you will become familiar with how and why social research is done and develop the skills necessary to evaluate and design qualitative research studies. In the first part of the course, you will confront issues regarding the nature of knowledge and learn how to ask good research questions. In particular, we focus on applying the methodological techniques of ethnography and qualitative unobtrusive methods. In the second part we will complete our survey of qualitative methods, concluding with final project presentations. As with any skill, learning how to conduct social research requires practice, and this course will give you hands-on experience so you will gain competence in the logic of qualitative research.

The prerequisite to take this course is 1.0 SOC FCE at the 100 level. Students without this prerequisite can be removed at any time without notice.

*Course Goals*

After completing this course, students should be able to:

- Create thoughtful, qualitative research questions
- Describe, develop, and evaluate qualitative research methodologies
- Code, analyze, and synthesize insights from collected qualitative data

*Requirements and Grading*

|   |                |
|---|----------------|
| <b>Scaffolding assignments</b>          | <b>30%</b>     |
| Picking a field site – May 8            | (5%)           |
| First impressions – May 13              | (5%)           |
| Polished fieldnotes – May 22            | (10%)          |
| Fieldnote and Text Analysis – June 3    | (10%)          |
| <br><b>Midterm Test – Monday May 27</b> | <br><b>20%</b> |

## Final Project

|  |              |
|--|--------------|
| Submission 1 (Analysis & Write-Up) – June 10 | 50%<br>(20%) |
| Submission 2 (Presentation) – June 12/17     | (10%)        |
| Submission 3 (Reflection) – June 17          | (20%)        |

## Required Readings

(LB) Lune, Howard and Bruce L. Berg. 2017. *Qualitative Research Methods for the Social Sciences*. New York: Pearson. 9<sup>th</sup> edition

- The e-book for Lune & Berg (2017) is available to rent through VitalSource <https://www.vitalsource.com/products/qualitative-research-methods-for-the-social-howard-lune-v9780134416199>. Note: Prices are in US\$.

| Course Schedule  |         |   |  |
|--|---------|---|--|
| Subject to change at the discretion of the course instructor         |         |   |  |
| (G) denotes group submission; (I) denotes individual submission/test |         |   |  |
| Week   | Date    | Topic   | Assignments due/important tasks  |
| 1  | May 6   | Introduction<br>No assigned readings  | Pick a group (G)   |
| 2  | May 8   | Asking Sociological Questions<br>Readings: Chapter 1 (LB)                   | Pick a field site (5%) (G)   |
| 3  | May 13  | Research Design<br>Readings: Chapter 2 (LB)                                 | First impressions (5%) (G)   |
| 4  | May 15  | Ethnography<br>Readings: Chapter 6 (LB)                                     | Visit your field site again, begin picking webpages and social media platforms                     |
| 5  | May 22  | Unobtrusive Methods and Content Analysis<br>Readings: Chapter 8 and 11 (LB) | Polished fieldnotes (10%) (G)  |
| 6  | May 27  | <b>In-class midterm test</b><br>No assigned readings                        | Midterm test (20%) (I)   |
| 7  | May 29  | Interviewing/Observation<br>Readings: Chapter 4 (LB)                        |  |
| 8  | June 3  | Case Studies<br>Readings: Chapter 10 (LB)                                   | Fieldnote and text analysis (10%) (G)  |
| 9  | June 5  | Analysis and Write-Ups Readings:<br>Chapter 12 (LB)                         |  |
| 10   | June 10 | Ethics<br>Readings: Chapter 3 (LB)  | Submit group analysis and write up (20%) (G)   |
| 11   | June 12 | Final Project Presentations 1 of 2  | Present your work to the class, submit slides online (10%) (G)                                     |
| 12   | June 17 | Final Project Presentations 2 of 2  | Present your work to the class, submit slides online (10%) (G)<br>Submit your reflection (20%) (I) |

## Course Policies

### *Attendance and Preparation*

Attendance is mandatory. Students are responsible for all material presented in class. Students who are unable to attend class on a given day are responsible for obtaining notes on all material covered, including lecture material and course announcements. In addition, students are expected to complete all assigned readings in advance of the class period for which they are assigned.

### *Course Website*

The course website on Quercus is available at <https://q.utoronto.ca/>. The site will contain the course syllabus, all handouts, links of interest and course announcements. Students are responsible for the content of all course materials.

### *Email*

When contacting your professor or TAs, use your utoronto.ca address only. Please also include "SOC204" and a brief description in the subject line, so your email can be easily prioritized. Emails will typically be answered within 72 hours, during the workweek (i.e. Monday through Friday, between 9am-6pm). Keep in mind that for simple questions, email is the preferred method of communication. However, for longer questions, students should attend office hours with the appropriate TA or the professor.

### *Office Hours*

TA office hours are by appointment only, and are outlined on the first page of the syllabus. If you would like to meet with your TA to discuss assignment feedback, test preparation, course content or concerns, please contact them with 24-hour notice (via email). TAs will not hold office hours unless notified of a student's intent to arrive.

James Lannigan has drop-in office hours on Mondays and Wednesdays from 5pm-6pm in the Department of Sociology, 725 Spadina Avenue, Room 335

### *Late Assignments*

Unless otherwise specified, all assignments must be submitted on Quercus **before the beginning of class (i.e. by 6pm)** on the due date provided. Since the scaffolding assignments are low-stakes (5 or 10% each) and designed to keep students on task with the larger course project, **late submissions will not be accepted and grades will not be reweighed to earlier or later assignments.**

For the final project submissions, late assignments will be penalized 10 percentage points per day (starting at 6:01pm on the due date), including weekend days. Work handed in late should be submitted to Quercus per usual. **Late assignments will not be accepted via email.**

### *Requests for Extensions*

Students are responsible for submitting term work in accordance with the timeline outlined on the course schedule. Requests for extensions **will not** be considered within 72 hours of an assignment deadline, with the exception of students experiencing serious illness and/or unforeseen circumstances (such as a death in the family). In these cases, students are expected to contact the professor at the earliest available opportunity, so that accommodations can be arranged. It is additionally advised that students take the proactive step of contacting their college Registrar.

### *Missed Test*

Students who miss the mid-term test will be assigned a grade of 0. However, students may have an absence excused with proper documentation in the case of illness or unforeseen personal circumstance. Proper documentation consists of a “**Verification of Student Illness or Injury Form**” or a **doctor’s note**, completed by a medical practitioner **on or before the day of the test** (you may find the form at [www.illnessverification.utoronto.ca](http://www.illnessverification.utoronto.ca)). All documentation must be received via email by the **instructor within six calendar days of the test**. If documentation is received and deemed sufficient, a make-up test will be scheduled for one week from the original test date. Makeup tests are held during class time and will cover the same content as the original test. However, the format of the makeup test may change (e.g. a written test may be replaced by an oral test). Students who do not attend the scheduled make-up test will receive a grade of 0.

### *Re-Grading Assignments*

All requests for re-grading course assignments should be made to your TA within **one week** of the date when the assignments are returned to the class. A short memo that clearly states specific reasons to justify the request and backs up these reasons with evidence from your assignment **must** be submitted to your TA. No re-grading requests will be considered if they are submitted more than one week after the assignments are returned to the class. This deadline applies to all students including those who missed the class when the assignments were returned.

### *Turnitin.com*

Normally, students will be required to submit their course essays to Turnitin.com for review of textual similarity and detection of possible plagiarism. In doing so, students will allow their assignments to be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference database, where they will be used solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism. The terms that apply to the University’s use of the Turnitin.com service are described at <http://www.teaching.utoronto.ca/teaching/academicintegrity/turnitin/conditions-use.htm>

Assignments not submitted through *Turnitin* will receive a grade of zero (0%) **unless a student instead provides, along with their assignment**, sufficient secondary material (e.g., reading notes, outlines of the paper, rough drafts of the final draft, etc.) to establish that the paper they submitted was truly their own. The alternative (not submitting via *Turnitin*) is in place because, strictly speaking, using *Turnitin* is voluntary for students at the University of Toronto.

### *Writing Centres*

All students are encouraged to visit and make use of the available writing centres. Writing tutors may help you brainstorm ideas, develop a thesis, structure and organize your paper, present your evidence effectively, argue logically, cite appropriately and express yourself clearly and concisely. However, proofreading and copyediting for spelling, grammar, or format are not within the primary scope of the writing centres. Please visit <http://www.writing.utoronto.ca/writing-centres/arts-and-science>

### *Accessibility*

The University of Toronto is committed to accessibility. If you require accommodations or have any accessibility concerns, please visit <http://studentlife.utoronto.ca/accessibility> as soon as possible. **If you are registered with Accessibility Services, please forward your accommodations paperwork to the professor within the first two weeks of the course so that arrangements can be made.** Accommodations must be requested and arranged for each course assignment/test/exam for which they are sought. Accommodations will not be implemented retroactively.

### *Academic Integrity/Academic Misconduct*

The University of Toronto treats academic integrity and academic misconduct very seriously. To participate honestly, respectfully, responsibly, and fairly in the academic community at U of T, you should familiarize yourself with the University of Toronto's Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters (<http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/Assets/Governing+Council+Digital+Assets/Policies/PDF/ppjun011995.pdf>).

In addition, students should acquaint themselves with the rules concerning plagiarism and other forms of academic misconduct, including but not limited to:

- Using someone else's ideas or words without appropriate acknowledgement.
- Copying material word-for-word from a source without quotation marks.
- Including references to sources that you did not use.
- Obtaining or providing unauthorized assistance on any assignment including (e.g.) working in groups on assignments that are supposed to be individual work
- Lending your work to a classmate who submits it as his/her own.
- Letting someone else look at your answers on a test.
- Falsifying or altering any documentation required by the University.