

methodological and analytical choices are embedded in theoretical choices. Also discuss limitations of the method and the politics and ethics of its application.

Registrar scheduled final exam: No

All assignments must be completed or a course grade of F may be assigned at the discretion of the instructor.

Submission of Assignments: Please hand in your essays directly to your instructor if possible. If it is not possible to do so, a daytime drop box is available in SS320; a date stamp is provided for your use. A night drop box is also available for after-hours submission. Assignments will be removed the following morning, stamped with the previous day's date, and placed in the instructor's mailbox.

Please include your name and ID number on all assignments, and be prepared to provide picture ID to pick up assignments or look at final exams in SS 320 after classes have ended. Personal information is collected in accordance with the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) Act*. For more information, see <http://www.ucalgary.ca/secretariat/privacy>

Note: It is the student's responsibility to keep a copy of each submitted assignment. For courses in which assignments are submitted electronically, it is the student's responsibility to ensure that the correct copy of the assignment is submitted. Including the version date or version number in your file name may be useful.

Policy for Late Assignments: At the discretion of the instructor, assignments submitted after the deadline **may** be penalized with the loss of a grade (e.g.: A- to B+) for each day late.

Student Accommodations:

Students seeking an accommodation based on disability or medical concerns should contact Student Accessibility Services; SAS will process the request and issue letters of accommodation to instructors. For additional information on support services and accommodations for students with disabilities, visit www.ucalgary.ca/access/.

Students who require an accommodation in relation to their coursework based on a protected ground other than disability should communicate this need in writing to their Instructor. The full policy on Student Accommodations is available at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy.pdf>.

- Students seeking accommodation for transient illnesses (e.g., the flu) should contact their instructors. Whenever possible, students should advise their instructors in advance if they will be missing quizzes, presentations, in-class assignments, or group meetings.
- When accommodations are granted, they may take forms other than make-up tests or assignments. For example, the weight of a missed grade may be added to another assignment or test.

- For information on Deferrals of Final Exams and Term Work, see sections G.6 and G.7 of the *University Calendar* at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/g-6.html> and <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/g-7.html>

Writing Skills Statement

Department policy directs that all written assignments (including, to a lesser extent, written exam responses) will be assessed at least partly on writing skills. Writing skills include not only surface correctness (grammar, punctuation, sentence structure, etc.) but also general clarity and organization. Sources used in research papers must be properly documented. If you need help with your writing, you may use the Writing Centre. Visit the website for more details: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/ssc/writing-support>

Grading System & Dept. of Communication, Media and Film Grade Scale

Work in this course will be graded using letter grades.

Grade	Grade Point Value	Graduate Description
A+	4	Outstanding
A	4	Excellent—superior performance showing comprehensive understanding of the subject matter
A-	3.7	Very good performance
B+	3.3	Good performance
B	3	Satisfactory performance
B-	2.7	Minimum pass for students in the Faculty of Graduate Studies
C+	2.3	All grades below "B-" are indicative of failure at the graduate level and cannot be counted toward Faculty of Graduate Studies course requirements. Individual programs may require a higher passing grade.

Plagiarism

Using any source whatsoever without clearly documenting it is a serious academic offense. Consequences include failure on the assignment, failure in the course and possibly suspension or expulsion from the university.

You must document not only direct quotations but also paraphrases and ideas where they appear in your text. A reference list at the end is insufficient by itself. In-text citations must be provided, and readers must be able to tell exactly where your words and ideas end and other people's words and ideas begin. Wording taken directly from a source must be enclosed within quotation marks (or, for long quotations, presented in the format prescribed by the documentation style you are using). Paraphrased information must not follow the original wording and sentence structure with only slight word substitutions here

and there. These requirements apply to all assignments and sources, including those in non-traditional formats such as Web pages or visual media.

For information on citation and documentation styles (including APA, Chicago, IEEE, MLA, and others), visit the links provided at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/ssc/node/208> . If you have questions about how to document sources, please consult your instructor or the Writing Centre (3rd Floor TFDL, <http://www.ucalgary.ca/ssc/writing-support>).

Academic Misconduct

For information on academic misconduct and its consequences, please see the University of Calgary Calendar at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html>

Research Ethics

Whenever you perform research with human participants (i.e. surveys, interviews, observation) as part of your university studies, you are responsible for following university research ethics guidelines. I will apply for ethics approval for the class for the data gathering assignment and will approve your choice of interviewee. For more information about your research ethics responsibilities, see <http://arts.ucalgary.ca/research/research/research-ethics>.

Important information, services, and contacts for students

For information about ...	Visit or contact ...
FACULTY OF GRADUATE STUDIES	http://grad.ucalgary.ca/home or 403-220-4938
CAMPUS SECURITY <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Calgary Police Service • Emergency Text Messaging • Emergency Evacuation & Assembly • Safewalk Program 	http://www.ucalgary.ca/security/ 403-220-5333 403-266-1234 Emergency: call 911 http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/textmessage http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints If you feel uncomfortable walking alone at any time, call Campus Security for an escort (220-5333). For more information, see http://www.ucalgary.ca/security/
DESIRE2LEARN (D2L) Support <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IT help line 	http://elearn.ucalgary.ca/desire2learn/home/students 403-220-5555 or itsupport@ucalgary.ca
STUDENT SUCCESS CENTRE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Writing Support Services 	http://ucalgary.ca/ssc http://www.ucalgary.ca/ssc/writing-support

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student Services Mobile App 	http://ucalgary.ca/currentstudents
GRADUATE STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student Ombudsman 	http://gsa.ucalgary.ca/ http://gsa.ucalgary.ca/ombudsperson (403) 220-6420 or ombuds@ucalgary.ca
STUDENTS' UNION CONTACTS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Faculty of Arts Reps 	http://www.su.ucalgary.ca/governance/elections/home.html
SU WELLNESS CENTRE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Counselling Services • Health Services • Distress centre 24/7 CRISIS LINE • Online resources and tips 	403-210-9355 (MSC 370), M-F, 9:00–4:30 pm http://ucalgary.ca/wellnesscentre/counselling http://ucalgary.ca/wellnesscentre/health 403-266-HELP (4357) http://ucalgary.ca/wellnesscentre/healthycampus <p>If you're concerned about a friend or your own well-being, it is important to seek help early. Call or visit the SU Wellness Centre or the 24-hour crisis line.</p>

Reading List

- Crotty, M. (1998). *The foundations of social research: Meaning and perspective in the research process*. Thousand Oaks: Sage. Ch. 1.
- Felt, M. (2016). Social media and the social sciences: How researchers employ big data analytics. *Big Data and Society*,
- Gubrium, J. F. & Holstein, J. A. (2000). Analyzing interpretive practice. In Denzin, N. K. & Lincoln, Y. S. (Eds.), *Sage handbook of qualitative research*, second edition. Pp. 487-508. Thousand Oaks: Sage.
- Hesse-Biber, S. N. (2012). Feminist research: Exploring, interrogating, and transforming the interconnections of epistemology, methodology, and method. In S. N. Hesse-Biber (Ed.), *Handbook of feminist research: Theory and praxis*, second edition. Thousand Oaks: Sage. Ch. 1. pp. 2-26.
- Schneider, B. (2012). Participatory action research, mental health service user research, and the Hearing (our) Voices projects. *International Journal of Qualitative Methods*, 11(2), p. 152-165.
- Sparkes, A. (2002). Autoethnography: Self-indulgence or something more? In A. Bochner & C. Ellis (Eds.), *Ethnographically speaking: Autoethnography, literature, and aesthetics* (pp. 209-232). New York: Altamira Press.

**COMS 615, Fall 2016
Tentative Class Schedule**

Sept. 13	Introduction and course overview. The research process.
Sept. 20 Crotty, Seale 2, 3, 4, 5	Paradigm, methodology, method. The qualitative-quantitative dichotomy. Ethics in research.
Sept. 27 Seale, 8, 9	The logic of positivism. Introduction to quantitative research. Causality, sampling, measurement, reliability, validity.
Oct. 3 Seale, 11, 26, 18, 19	<i>Surveys. Content Analysis</i>
Oct. 11 Seale, 12, 13	<i>Interviews. Focus Groups.</i> Doing an interview.
Oct. 18 Seale 14, Sparkes	<i>Ethnography. Autoethnography.</i>
Oct. 25 Seale, 23, 25 Gubrium & Holstein	<i>Discourse analysis. Narrative.</i> Qualitative data analysis. Bring Seale textbook to class.
Nov. 1 Seale 22, 7, Schneider,	<i>Grounded theory. Participatory Action Research.</i> Writing a proposal and a thesis. Interview assignment due.
Nov. 8 Hesse-Biber, TBA	<i>Feminist Research. Indigenous Methods.</i> <i>Cultural Studies.</i>
Nov. 15 Felt, Seale, 27	<i>Big Data/Internet research.</i> <i>Combining qualitative and quantitative approaches.</i> Proposal due
Nov. 22 Seale, 15, 16,	<i>Historical Research. Visual images.</i>
Nov. 29	The Politics of Research.
Dec. 6	Wrap up. Critical essay due Dec. 9