

Western University
Faculty of Health Sciences
School of Kinesiology

**KIN 3370G - Special Topic: Introduction to Qualitative Health Research
Winter 2020**

<p>Instructor: Carla Silva Office: HSB345 Email: csilva42@uwo.ca</p> <p>Phone: 519/661-2111 x8 Office Hrs: by appointment TAs: Darda Sales dgeiger@uwo.ca</p>	<p>Lectures: Tu 2:30pm - 5:30pm</p> <p>Room: 2:30 PM 3:30 PM SEB-2202 3:30 PM 5:30 PM FNB-2240</p>
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NOTE: All course information including grades, assignment outlines, deadlines, etc. are available via OWL. Check the website regularly for course announcements.

Calendar Course Description (including prerequisites/anti-requisites):

Selected topics in the areas of sport, exercise, play and dance. Topic and course description available in the Undergraduate Program Office. Antirequisites and/or additional prerequisites to be determined based on the topic offered.

Prerequisite(s): Completion of second year Kinesiology.

Extra Information: 3 lecture hours.

You are responsible for ensuring that you have successfully completed all course pre-requisites, and that you have not taken an anti-requisite course.

Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

NOTE: If you wish to enrol in this course without the stated pre-requisite(s), you must obtain written approval from the course instructor. The approval should then be forwarded to your academic counsellor.

My Course Description

In this course, you will learn the core principles and practices of qualitative research in health, sport and exercise through actively engaging in the development of a small research project of interest to you and reflecting on the process. While engaging with important academic sources, you will be experimenting with different methods of data collection and analysis, in an atmosphere of true collaboration with your fellow peers and instructors. This 'hands-on' approach to qualitative research methodology will enable you to develop more confidently your own research projects, both in an academic and non-academic contexts. This course is especially important for students who would like to pursue graduate training. A committed engagement with the proposed academic readings and weekly tasks as well as active participation in all sessions is expected.

Learning Outcomes/Schedule:

Upon completion of this course, you will be able to:

1. Identify and describe the core characteristics and principles of qualitative research;
2. Explain key concepts related to ontology, epistemology and research traditions in qualitative research;
3. Describe, plan and apply diverse methods of collecting qualitative data;
4. Describe and apply methods of qualitative data analysis;
5. Identify ethical concerns in all phases of qualitative research;
6. Appraise your learning journey, identifying strengths and weaknesses to delineate actions for improvement.

Required Course Material/Text:

Green, J., & Thorogood, N. (2018). *Qualitative methods for health research*. London: Sage.

Supplemental materials:

Sparkes, A. C., & Smith, B. (2013). *Qualitative research methods in sport, exercise and health: From process to product*. London and New York: Routledge.

Any additional readings and course materials will be posted on OWL.

Week #	Date	Topic
Part I. Qualitative Ways of Knowing and Doing		
1	Jan 7	<i>What I like to know? Defining my research question.</i> Qualitative Ways of Knowing Research traditions and theory What about Ethics?
Part 2. Mapping the field: the importance of a good literature review		
2	Jan 14	<i>Finding out past answers to my question. What do others have to say?</i> Mapping the field: the importance of a good literature review. Literature review workshop. (To be confirmed)
Part II. Methods: Techniques of Data Collection and Analysis		
3	Jan 21	<i>Going to primary sources. What can others say to help me answer my question?</i> Designing, preparing, Conducting and Recording Interviews.
4	Jan 28	<i>Is the information different, if collected from groups? Do I need to prepare this differently from an individual interview?</i> Designing, preparing, Conducting and Recording focus- groups.
5	Feb 4	<i>How do I go from what others say to answer my question?</i> Techniques of data analysis. Start analyzing collected research data.
6	Feb 11	<i>What does the world around tells me that helps me answer my question?</i> Ethnographic research Designing, preparing conducting and recording observations.
Feb 17 Reading week		
7	Feb 25	<i>What is already out there?</i> Data Collection and Analysis III – Sampling and Analyzing secondary data: media and Internet research
8	March 3	<i>Is not all about words. Can I collect data through images?</i> Visual research methods.
9	March 10	<i>Answering my question by making sense of the research data.</i> Techniques of Qualitative Data Analysis.
Part 4. Telling the story of my research		
10	March 17	<i>Telling the story of my research.</i> Representing, reporting, 'writing up' research.
11	March 24	<i>Working with others to improve my project...</i> Preparing final assignments. Peer and instructors' support and feedback.
12	March 31	<i>Communicating my journey to others...</i> Student research symposium. Course plenary.

This is a tentative schedule for our weekly topics and lectures. Note that this schedule may change. An up-to-date lecture schedule will be provided timely on OWL; it is the student's responsibility to be aware of changes made.

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Course Evaluation:

Assignments are due as stated in the course syllabus and will not be accepted late, except under medical or other compassionate circumstances. Submitting a late assignment without appropriate documentation will result in a zero (0) grade. A missed mid-term examination, without appropriate documentation will result in a zero (0) grade. Acceptable reasons might include hospital stays, serious illness, family emergencies (like serious accidents, illness or death) or similar circumstances.

	Submission date (OWL)	%
1. Participation	See below	30%
2. Research reflective report	3 rd February	25%
3. Final research reflective report	4 th April	45%

All the assignments are to be submitted as a Word file through the assignment tool in OWL, by the end of the submission date (11.00 pm).

1. *Participation.* All the sessions in the course require not only your attendance, but also your active participation. Excellent participation entails timely engagement with the requested readings and tasks. See below for a breakdown of the percentage assigned for participation.

Week	Attendance/ participation	Task submission %	Task submission date
1.			
2.	1%	1%	Jan. 6
3.	1%	1%	Jan.13
4.	1%	1%	Jan. 20
5.	1%	1%	Jan. 27
6.	1%	1%	Feb. 3
7.	1%	1%	Feb. 10
8.	1%	1%	Feb. 24
9.	1%	1%	March 2
10.	1%	1%	March 9
11.	1%	1%	March 16
12.	5%	5%	March 23
total	15%	15%	

The 1% mark for attendance/ participation is granted for positive contribution in each session. *In case of (justified) non-attendance, a student can submit an **additional** individual task to be granted 1%. This opportunity can be used only twice. In case of non-justified attendance, this opportunity is not available.* Be aware that in each lab, you will be receiving guidance and working towards your assignments.

In session 12, each student will present, in small groups, their own research/reflection to fellow students, preceded by the submission of a presentation plan. Further details will be timely provided.

2. Reflective Research report. During the course, you will develop a small research project by undertaking specific tasks in and out of class every week. These will be organized and presented in the form of a research report. Alongside this work, you will also reflect upon your only learning journey, documenting difficulties and doubts, milestones, new understandings and insights. The requirement length for this assignment is between **1400 and 1600 words**. Submit your research reflective report as one Word file through the assignment tool in OWL **no later than 11.00 pm on 2020.02.03**. A guide for this assignment will be timely available on OWL.
3. Final reflective research report. Expanding your first submission, and taking into account the feedback provided by the instructors and peers, you will be required to present the full version of your research reflective report. The requirement length for this assignment is **between 2600 and 2800 words**. Submit your research reflective report as one Word file through the assignment tool in OWL **no later than 11.00 pm on 2020.04.04**.

Formatting: The word count for all assignments exclude the references and title page, if included. Documents should be double-spaced and formatted using a font size no smaller than 12 points. Referencing must follow the APA guidelines.

Note: All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (<http://www.turnitin.com>).

Late policy: All assignments are due on the date and at the time indicated. Late assignments will be penalized at a rate of **1% for each hour** after the deadline. No assignments will be accepted more than four days late.

Course/University Policies

1. **Statement on Use of Personal Response Systems (“Clickers”)**

If Personal Response Systems (“Clickers”) are used in the course, a reference to the Guidelines for their use (Guidelines are shown below). Instructors are to communicate clearly to students information on how clickers are used including: how the student’s privacy will be protected, how clickers may be used by the instructor for data gathering and for evaluating the students, and why they cannot be used by anyone but the student (since the students involved in misuse of a clicker may be charged with a scholastic offence).

2. **Academic offences:** They are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following Web site: https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf

A) Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea, or a passage from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offence (see Scholastic Offence Policy in the Western Academic Calendar). All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between Western University and Turnitin.com <http://www.turnitin.com>

B) Computer marked multiple-choice tests and/or exams may be subject to submission for similarity review by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating.

3. Electronic Device Usage:

During Exams - Unless you have medical accommodations that require you to do so, or explicit permission from the instructor of the course, you may not use any of the following electronic devices during ANY of the tests, quizzes, midterms, examinations, or other in-class evaluations: cellphones, smart phones, smart watches, smart glasses, audio players or recorders of any sort, video cameras, video games, DVD players, televisions, laptop/notebook/netbook computers, flashlights or laser pointers.

During Lectures and Tutorials: Although you are welcome to use a computer during lecture and tutorial periods, you are expected to use the computer for scholastic purposes only, and refrain from engaging in any activities that may distract other students from learning. Please be respectful to your fellow students and turn the sound off. If the professor receives complaints from other students regarding noise or other disruptive behavior (e.g. watching videos on YouTube.com, updating your Facebook status, playing Solitaire), your classroom privileges will be revoked. From time to time, your professor may ask the class to turn off all computers, to facilitate learning or discussion of the material presented in a particular class. **Unless explicitly noted otherwise, you may not make audio or video recordings of lectures – nor may you edit, re-use, distribute, or re-broadcast any of the material posted to the course website.**

4. Health and Wellness:

Information regarding health and wellness-related services available to students may be found at <http://www.health.uwo.ca/>.

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western (<http://www.health.uwo.ca/>) for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

5. Support Services

There are various support services around campus and these include, but are not limited to:

1. *Student Development Centre* -- <http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/ssd/>
2. *Student Health & Wellness* -- <http://www.health.uwo.ca/>
3. *Registrar's Office* -- <http://www.registrar.uwo.ca/>
4. *Ombudsperson Office* -- <http://www.uwo.ca/ombuds/>

6. Documentation for Academic Accommodation (Illness, Medical/Non-Medical Absences):

http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=1&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page_12

Students who experience an extenuating circumstance (illness, injury, or other extenuating circumstance) sufficiently significant to temporarily render them unable to meet academic requirements may submit a request for academic consideration through the following routes:

- (i) Submitting a Self-Reported Absence (see below for conditions)
- (ii) For medical absences exceeding 48 hours, submitting a Student Medical Certificate (SMC) signed by a licensed medical or mental health practitioner to their Academic Counselling in their Faculty of registration in order to be eligible for Academic Consideration; or
- (iii) For non-medical absences exceeding 48 hours, submitting appropriate documentation (e.g., obituary, police report, accident report, court order, etc.) to Academic Counselling in their Faculty of registration in order to be eligible for academic consideration. Students are encouraged to contact their Academic Counselling unit to clarify what documentation is appropriate.

Students seeking academic consideration **must communicate with their instructors no later than 24 hours** after the end of the period covered by either the self-reported absence or SMC, or immediately upon their return following a documented absence.

The following conditions are in place for self-reporting of medical or extenuating circumstances:

- a. a maximum of two self-reported absences between September and April and one self-reported absence between May and August;
- b. any absences in excess of the number designated in clause a above will require students to present a Student Medical Certificate (SMC) or appropriate documentation supporting extenuating circumstances to the Academic Counselling unit in their Faculty of registration no later than two business days after the date specified for resuming responsibilities.
- c. The duration of the excused absence will be for a maximum of 48 hours from the time the Self-Reported Absence form is completed through the online portal, or from 8:30 am the following morning if the form is submitted after 4:30 pm;
- d. The duration of the excused absence will terminate prior to the end of the 48 hour period should the student undertake significant academic responsibilities (write a test, submit a paper) during that time;
- e. The duration of an excused absence will terminate at 8:30 am on the day following the last day of classes each semester regardless of how many days of absence have elapsed;
- f. Self-reported absences will not be allowed for scheduled final examinations; for midterm examinations scheduled during the December examination period; or for final lab examinations scheduled during the final week of term;
- g. Self-reporting may not be used for assessments (e.g. midterm exams, tests, reports, presentations, or essays) worth more than 30% of any given course;

For medical and non-medical absences that are not eligible for self-reporting Kinesiology students must submit an Academic Consideration Request form found online https://www.uwo.ca/fhs/kin/undergrad/files/accommodation_request.pdf in addition to an SMC or appropriate documentation in the event of a non-medical absence. These documents will be retained in the student's file, and will be held in confidence in accordance with the University's Official Student Record Information Privacy Policy.

7. **Grades:** Where possible assignment objectives and rubrics will be posted on OWL. Should you have a concern regarding the grade you received for an assignment or feel that it is unfair in any way, you must wait 24 hours from the receipt of the assignment to approach the instructor or TA. In doing so, please make an appointment and prepare in writing, with evidence, why you feel your grade is inappropriate. Please be aware that in requesting a grade reassessment, your grade could go up/down/or stay the same. Note that calculations errors (which do occur!) should be brought to my attention immediately.

Generally, students can expect some form of feedback on their performance in a course before the drop date.

- November 9th, 2019 (for first term half-courses)
- November 27th, 2019 (for full-year courses)
- March 4th, 2020 (for second term half-or full year courses)

A+	90-100	<i>One could scarcely expect better from a student at this level</i>
A	80-89	<i>Superior work that is clearly above average</i>
B	70-79	<i>Good work, meeting all requirements and eminently</i>
C	60-69	<i>Competent work, meeting requirements</i>
D	50-59	<i>Fair work, minimally acceptable.</i>
F	below 50	<i>Fail</i>

Rounding of Grades (for example, bumping a 79 to 80%):

This is a practice some students request. **This practice will not occur here.** The edges of this course are clear and sharp. The mark attained is the mark you achieved and the mark assigned; there is no rounding to the next grade level, or 'giving away' of marks. Please don't ask me to do this for you; the response will be "please review the course outline where this is presented".

8. **Classroom Behaviour:** Class will begin promptly at the time specified at the top of page one of this syllabus. In the event that you must arrive late, please enter the classroom with a minimal disturbance to the class. Please keep all electronic devices on silent and avoid distracting classmates.

9. **Student Code of Conduct**

The purpose of the Code of Student Conduct is to define the general standard of conduct expected of students registered at Western University, provide examples of behaviour that constitutes a breach of this standard of conduct, provide examples of sanctions that may be imposed and set out the disciplinary procedures that the University will follow. For more information, visit <https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/board/code.pdf>