Course Outline - Fall 2012

CHL5221

Community Health Appraisal Methods (CHAM): Introduction to Qualitative Research Methods

Wednesdays 1:00- 4:00 p.m., HS 614 (Community Nutrition)

Course Instructor
Ann Fox (FG 141, 416-978-3617, ann.fox@utoronto.ca)

Teaching Assistants
Kevin Black (Community Nutrition) kevin.black@utoronto.ca

Prerequisites
There are no prerequisites for this course. CHL 5221 is a requirement for MPH Community Nutrition students. Students from other programs and fields will be admitted space permitting with permission of the instructor.

Course Description
This is an introductory course intended for Masters students in public health with limited prior exposure to qualitative research. It is a required part of the program for MPH students Community Nutrition. Students can expect to acquire a sound introductory-level understanding of the qualitative research enterprise, be informed consumers of qualitative research, and be able to participate in the conduct of needs assessments, program evaluations and other applied qualitative public health research. Since this is an introductory course, students pursuing qualitative research for masters and doctoral thesis work will need to take additional courses to acquire the required proficiency for that level of research.

This course covers a range of issues, from the framing and theoretical grounding of qualitative research, to generating and analyzing data, writing up qualitative research ‘findings’, key thorny issues (situating data in context, reflexivity, voice and representation, cross-cultural research and researching the ‘Other’), selected approaches (e.g. institutional ethnography, case study research, participatory inquiry, Photovoice), and the application of qualitative research to public health issues (e.g. inequalities in health). The assigned readings for each session include both theoretical and applied material. Assignments will give students an opportunity to use their new skills and learn by doing, as well as by reflecting on aspects of qualitative research. Students will be encouraged to pay close attention to their own experiences of learning qualitative research.
Course Objectives

Through course readings, learning activities, assignments and other related work, students will be able to:

1. Discuss the diversity, breadth, distinctive nature, complexity, and application of the qualitative research enterprise
2. Apply skills in critical reflexivity in (qualitative) public health research
3. Conduct, transcribe and analyse qualitative interviews
4. Conduct and describe in writing, a field observation experience.
5. Interpret and describe qualitative research findings.
6. Evaluate/assess qualitative literature
7. Identify philosophical and theoretical underpinnings of selected qualitative research projects.
8. Identify potential strengths and limitations of qualitative research for students’ own areas of research and public health practice

Course Format

This course draws on a variety of approaches to teaching and learning about qualitative research: mini-lectures, guest presentations, individual experience and group discussion of readings (literature on qualitative research & exemplars of qualitative research), fieldwork exercises, in-class exercises, and take home assignments. Because qualitative research methodology is best learned by doing, this course requires students to complete a series of individual and group exercises. As a seminar, the success of this course relies on the active participation of students. You will be expected to do the assigned readings, attend all classes, participate in group discussions and share your research, practice and reading experiences. An important premise of the course is that teaching and learning are shared.

Kevin Black (TA) will also be available for support by appointment and via utoronto email.

Relevant Journals: Qualitative Health Research; Qualitative Inquiry; Qualitative Research; Qualitative Research in Psychology; Qualitative Social Work; Qualitative Sociology; Qualitative Sociology Review (all available online through UofT Library)
Course Readings

Required textbook (available from the UofT Bookstore, Community Health section): ISBN 9780761947714

Supplementary readings (listed below) - these are all available electronically on Blackboard, the password-protected web space for this course. All eligible/enrolled students will have received an email with instructions on how to log on and access materials. You will need software that can read pdf files as all documents are saved in this format on the course website.

Course Requirements:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>To be Completed</th>
<th>Length (single spaced)</th>
<th>Grade Weight</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Observation reflective paper</td>
<td>Individually</td>
<td>3 pages + attachments</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>Oct. 22*</td>
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<tr>
<td>Article presentation</td>
<td>In small groups</td>
<td>15 minutes</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>In class, Nov. 21</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final paper</td>
<td>In Small Groups (2-3)</td>
<td>4000 words + appendices</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>Dec. 10*</td>
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* Students must submit electronically via Blackboard by noon on the due date.

Assignment requirements are described in detail in a separate course handout.

Course Policies

Course Teaching Assistant: This course has been allocated a TA, Kevin Black, who will assist the instructor in responding to student inquiries, marking assignments and maintaining the course webspace on Blackboard. Unless otherwise noted, initial inquiries should be directed to Kevin.

Communication: Please email the instructor/teaching assistant to arrange meeting times or ask questions not addressed in class (ann.fox@utoronto.ca/kevin.black@utoronto.ca). Ann’s office location: 150 College, room 141, 416-978-3617.

Assignment Format: Student assignments should be submitted electronically to the TA. Assignments should be double spaced in 12 point font, with no title page, and saved as a MS Word document (no separate files for attachments/appendices please). Your name should be in the document header and part of the filename.

Due Dates: Specified due dates must be adhered to unless prior permission has been sought and granted on medical or other compelling grounds (in which case a new due date will be specified). Penalties will be incurred for late assignments.

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Plagiarism (the presentation or paraphrasing of the work of another author as if it was one’s own) is a form of academic fraud with potentially serious consequences. All university policies regarding plagiarism will be upheld in this course. The instructor reserves the right to submit student papers to Turnitin.com, a computer-based service which checks for originality in submitted papers.

Accessibility: students with unique learning needs or requiring specific accommodations are encouraged to make these known to the instructor early in the course so that they can be proactively addressed.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Session</th>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>S1</td>
<td>September</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>Course introduction; what is qualitative research?</td>
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<tr>
<td>S2</td>
<td>October</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>Paradigms / situating &amp; framing qualitative research</td>
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<tr>
<td>S3</td>
<td>October</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Observation</td>
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<tr>
<td>S4</td>
<td>October</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>Paradigms -continued</td>
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<td>S5</td>
<td></td>
<td>17</td>
<td>Interviews and focus groups</td>
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<td>S6</td>
<td>November</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>Media and Arts Informed research</td>
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<td>Documentary sources &amp; images (Kevin Black)</td>
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<tr>
<td>S7</td>
<td>November</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>Analyzing qualitative data (1)</td>
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<td>Photovoice exercise</td>
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<td>S8</td>
<td>November</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>Analyzing qualitative data (2)</td>
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<td>Interview data</td>
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<tr>
<td>S9</td>
<td>November</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>Selected approaches &amp; traditions</td>
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<td>• Institutional ethnography</td>
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<td>• Narrative inquiry</td>
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<td>• Participatory inquiry</td>
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<td>• Grounded Theory</td>
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<tr>
<td>S10</td>
<td>November</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>Applying qualitative research in public health</td>
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<td>• Group presentations of article reviews</td>
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<td>S11</td>
<td>November</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>Learning to play with fire (Guest speaker Carol Strike)</td>
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<td>• ethical considerations</td>
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<td>• researching” the vulnerable”</td>
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<td>• doing sensitive research</td>
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<td>• confronting racism and other challenges</td>
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### Required Readings

*(NB: it is recommended that you do the readings in the order they are listed)*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Session</th>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>S12</td>
<td>December</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Writing it up; Dissemination; Wrap up</td>
</tr>
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</table>

**S1 - Sept 19 - Course Introduction: What is qualitative research?**


Course Reserves at Robarts: [http://go.utlib.ca/cat/4619586](http://go.utlib.ca/cat/4619586)


Course Reserves at Faculty of Information: [http://go.utlib.ca/cat/7664221](http://go.utlib.ca/cat/7664221)

**S2 & S4 - Sept 26 and Oct 10 - Paradigms / Situating & framing qualitative research**

Green & Thorogood, Chapter 1


[http://knowledge.sagepub.com.myaccess.library.utoronto.ca/view/cartographies-of-knowledge/n2.xml](http://knowledge.sagepub.com.myaccess.library.utoronto.ca/view/cartographies-of-knowledge/n2.xml)


Course Reserves at Robarts: [http://go.utlib.ca/cat/4619586](http://go.utlib.ca/cat/4619586)


[http://simplelink.library.utoronto.ca/url.cfm/292119](http://simplelink.library.utoronto.ca/url.cfm/292119)

**S3 – Oct.3 - Generating data: observational methods**

Green & Thorogood, Chapter 6


Bogdewic, SP (1992) Participant observation. Chapter 3 (pp.45-69) in BF Crabtree & WL Miller (Eds), *Doing Qualitative Research*, Sage. [In Course Reserves at Gerstein](http://go.utlib.ca/cat/398641)

**S5 – Oct 17 - Generating data: Interviews and Focus groups**

Green & Thorogood, Chapters 4 and 5


Breslin, F. et al. (2007). Workplace injury or "part of the job"? Towards a gendered understanding of injuries and complaints among young workers. *Social Science & Medicine*, 64, 782-793. [http://simplelink.library.utoronto.ca/url.cfm/292125](http://simplelink.library.utoronto.ca/url.cfm/292125)

Bauer, K.W., Yang, Y.W., & Austin, S.B. (2004). “How can we stay healthy when
you’re throwing all of this in front of us?” Findings from focus groups and interviews in middle schools on environmental influences on nutrition and physical activity. *Health Education and Behaviour*, 31(1), 34-46.

http://simplelink.library.utoronto.ca/url.cfm/292126


http://simplelink.library.utoronto.ca/url.cfm/292127

**S6 Oct 24 Media and Arts Informed Research**
Green & Thorogood, Chapter 7


http://simplelink.library.utoronto.ca/url.cfm/292128

Boero, N. (2007). All the news that's fat to print: the American 'obesity epidemic' and the media. *Qualitative Sociology*, 30, 41-60

http://simplelink.library.utoronto.ca/url.cfm/292129


http://knowledge.sagepub.com.myaccess.library.utoronto.ca/view/arts-based-research/n1.xml


http://simplelink.library.utoronto.ca/url.cfm/292130


http://simplelink.library.utoronto.ca/url.cfm/292131

**S7 - Oct 31 - Analysis & interpretation of qualitative data**
Green & Thorogood, Chapter 8


http://simplelink.library.utoronto.ca/url.cfm/292132


http://simplelink.library.utoronto.ca/url.cfm/292134

S8 - Nov 7 - Analysis & interpretation of qualitative data (2)


http://srmo.sagepub.com.myaccess.library.utoronto.ca/view/handbook-of-interview-research/d40.xml


http://srmo.sagepub.com.myaccess.library.utoronto.ca/view/qualitative-research-practice/d24.xml


http://simplelink.library.utoronto.ca/url.cfm/292136

S9 - Nov 14 - Selected approaches & traditions

Liamputtong & Ezzy (2005). Types of Qualitative Research methods (Chapter 9 *Participatory Action Research*).

Course reserves at Gerstein: http://go.utlib.ca/cat/7021960


http://simplelink.library.utoronto.ca/url.cfm/292136


http://knowledge.sagepub.com.myaccess.library.utoronto.ca/view/hdbk_interviewresearch2ed/n27.xml

Link is to 2nd ed


Course reserves at Gerstein: http://go.utlib.ca/cat/4775448

S10 - Nov 21 - Group Presentations- selected readings
S11 – Nov 28 Learning to play with fire
Green & Thorogood, Chapter 3

http://simplelink.library.utoronto.ca/url.cfm/292150

http://simplelink.library.utoronto.ca/url.cfm/292151

S12 - Dec 5 - Writing it up; dissemination
Green & Thorogood, Chapter 10

http://simplelink.library.utoronto.ca/url.cfm/292130

http://simplelink.library.utoronto.ca/url.cfm/292152