

SOCI 515¹ Qualitative Research



Image: [Mittapalli](#) (2023)

Course Description

What are the unique insights offered by qualitative research methods? How can these insights better inform academic debates, policymaking, and social change?

In this course, we will take a hands-on approach to understanding qualitative methods. The class will provide you with the opportunity to conduct an original research project on a topic of your choice. You will gain practical skills in designing a rigorous proposal, sampling protocols, a theoretical foundation, research ethics, data collection, analysis, and sharing your findings. Throughout the class, we will examine several qualitative research methods, which may include interviewing, observation, participatory approaches, Indigenous methods, social media analysis, journalling, and Freedom of Information requests.

Developing strong skills and practical experience in qualitative methods is useful for a wide range of careers, including academia, social work, law, counselling, market research, government, and non-profits.

¹ This outline is only intended to give students a general sense of the course, and course details may change. Detailed course syllabi will be made available for all registered students on the first day of class. Only those syllabi are considered official.

Instructor



Professor Anelyse Weiler

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Office hours TBD.

Format and Evaluation

This class will be offered on **Thursdays from 2pm-4:50pm**. Classes will include a combination of lectures, participatory activities (e.g., small group exercises and class-wide discussions), guest lectures, and multimedia. Our meetings will emphasize participation, so please come ready to share insights from your projects and required readings. This class will not be recorded; in-person attendance is expected and valued.

Evaluation will be based on short reflections on course readings; research proposal; facilitating class discussion; oral presentation; final paper. There will be no final exam.

Course Objectives

1. Describe some of the key debates and theories in qualitative research, along with approaches including Indigenous and participatory research methods.
2. Conduct an original research project on a topic of your choice, including a plan for ethical conduct, sampling, data analysis, and sharing results in a final written paper and oral presentation.
3. Apply skills in select qualitative research techniques taught in the course, such as interviewing, writing memos, and coding.
4. Demonstrate self-awareness and reflexivity.
5. Collaborate with team members by actively engaging in course material.

Course Pre/Co-requisites

SOCI 374 or its equivalent.

Required Textbook/Readings

TBD