

OFFICIAL UNDERGRADUATE COURSE OUTLINE FORM

Note: The University reserves the right to amend course outlines as needed without notice.

Course Code and Number: CRIM 321		Number of Credits: 3 Course credit policy (105)													
Course Full Title: Qualitative Research Methods Course Short Title: Qualitative Research Methods															
Faculty: Faculty of Social Sciences		Department/School: Criminology and Criminal Justice													
Calendar Description: Examines the foundations of research and the qualitative methods and techniques most commonly used in criminology. Involves critical analysis of methods, consideration of ethics, and the design and completion of a qualitative research project.															
Prerequisites (or NONE):		45 university-level credits including CRIM 220 and 6 additional credits of 100- or 200-level CRIM. Note: As of September 2026, prerequisites will change to 45 university-level credits including CRIM 220 and 6 additional credits of 200-level CRIM.													
Corequisites (if applicable, or NONE):		NONE													
Pre/corequisites (if applicable, or NONE):		NONE													
Antirequisite Courses (<i>Cannot be taken for additional credit.</i>) Former course code/number: Cross-listed with: Equivalent course(s): <i>(If offered in the previous five years, antirequisite course(s) will be included in the calendar description as a note that students with credit for the antirequisite course(s) cannot take this course for further credit.)</i>		Course Details Special Topics course: No <i>(If yes, the course will be offered under different letter designations representing different topics.)</i> Directed Study course: No <i>(See policy 207 for more information.)</i> Grading System: Letter grades Delivery Mode: May be offered in multiple delivery modes Expected frequency: Annually Maximum enrolment (for information only): 30													
Typical Structure of Instructional Hours <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Lecture/seminar</td> <td>30</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Supervised laboratory hours (computer lab)</td> <td>15</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total hours</td> <td>45</td> </tr> </table>		Lecture/seminar	30	Supervised laboratory hours (computer lab)	15							Total hours	45	Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition (PLAR) PLAR is available for this course.	
Lecture/seminar	30														
Supervised laboratory hours (computer lab)	15														
Total hours	45														
Scheduled Laboratory Hours Labs to be scheduled independent of lecture hours: No		Transfer Credit (See bctransferguide.ca) Transfer credit already exists: Yes Submit outline for (re)articulation: Yes <i>(If yes, fill in transfer credit form.)</i>													
Department approval		Date of meeting: February 24, 2025													
Faculty Council approval		Date of meeting: May 9, 2025													
Undergraduate Education Committee (UEC) approval		Date of meeting: August 28, 2025													

Learning Outcomes *(These should contribute to students' ability to meet program outcomes and thus Institutional Learning Outcomes.)*

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Discuss the theoretical foundations of qualitative research in criminology and criminal justice.
2. Evaluate various qualitative research methods used in criminology and criminal justice.
3. Apply qualitative research methods used in criminology and criminal justice.
4. Assess critically the historical and contemporary issues relative to conducting research with Indigenous populations.
5. Respond to ethical concerns in qualitative research.
6. Critically review qualitative research methods.
7. Conduct a qualitative research project.

Recommended Evaluation Methods and Weighting *(Evaluation should align to learning outcomes.)*

Project:	35%	Assignments:	55%	Quizzes/tests/midterm:	10%
	%		%		%

Details:

Assignments may include literature reviews, project proposals, ethics training/workshop, 10% class discussion and participation (e.g., online analytical discussion posts, in-class group discussions), and presentations.

NOTE: The following sections may vary by instructor. Please see course syllabus available from the instructor.

Typical Instructional Methods *(Guest lecturers, presentations, online instruction, field trips, etc.)*

Lectures and labs

Texts and Resource Materials *(Include online resources and Indigenous knowledge sources. [Open Educational Resources](#) (OER) should be included whenever possible. If more space is required, use the [Supplemental Texts and Resource Materials form](#).)*

Type	Author or description	Title and publication/access details	Year
1. Textbook	van den Hoonaard, D.K., & van den Scott, L.-J.K.	Qualitative Research in Action: A Canadian Primer (Oxford University Press)	2022
2. Textbook	Creswell, J.W., & Poth, C.N.	Qualitative Inquiry and Research Design: Choosing Among Five Approaches (Sage Publications)	2024
3. Textbook	Hennink, M., Hutter, I., & Bailey, A.	Qualitative Research Methods (Sage)	2020
4. Textbook	Kovach, Margaret	Indigenous Methodologies: Characteristics, Conversations and Context (University of Toronto)	2021
5. Textbook	Flick, U.	An Introduction to Qualitative Research (Sage)	2023

Required Additional Supplies and Materials *(Software, hardware, tools, specialized clothing, etc.)*

None

Course Content and Topics

- Theoretical foundations of qualitative research and research design
- Bridging theory and data; objectives of qualitative research
- Research ethics
- Sampling and recruitment; interactive methods
- Qualitative surveys and interviews; focus groups
- Unobtrusive and archival research
- Content analysis
- Observation and ethnography; participatory approaches
- Case study analysis
- Research with Indigenous populations
- Analyzing qualitative data and writing up qualitative studies