**CARLETON UNIVERSITY**

**DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY AND ANTHROPOLOGY**

**SOCI 2001B**

**WINTER 2024**

**INTRODUCTION TO QUALITATIVE RESEARCH METHODS**

**Instructor:** Dr. Michael Mopas

**Email:** michael\_mopas@carleton.ca

**Method of Delivery:** In-person

**Course Description:**

Most students are familiar with quantitative approaches to sociological research. These often involve posing a number of closed survey questions, drawing on large, scientifically representative samples, and employing statistical methods to describe and analyse general patterns found within a certain population. In contrast, qualitative methods take a more open approach to data collection and typically use non-numerical forms of analysis. Thus, instead of focusing on large statistical trends, qualitative researchers engage in empirical studies that draw on much smaller samples in order to generate insights into the *meanings* underlying these generally observable patterns. However, while quantitative and qualitative methods have different epistemological underpinnings, they are not necessarily mutually exclusive.

This course is designed to help students gain a deeper understanding of qualitative research methodology. As students in this course, you will: 1) be introduced to the epistemological underpinnings of qualitative research; 2) develop your knowledge of a variety of methods of qualitative data collection and analysis; and 3) gain practical experience in qualitative research that will enable you to design and undertake your own independent projects in the future.

**Reading (s)/Textbook (s):**

The following textbook is available for purchase at Haven Books (43 Seneca St., Tel#: 613.730.9888):

van den Hoonaard, D.K. and L.J. van den Scott (2022) *Qualitative Research in Action: A Canadian Primer* (4th edition). Toronto: Oxford University Press.

**Course Requirements & Methods of Evaluation:**

Assignments Grade

Assignment #1: Research article 20%

Assignment #2: Observational research 25%

Assignment #3: Interviewing 25%

Final take-home exam 30%