



**Sociology 3310f (570)**  
**Qualitative Research Methodologies**  
**Fall/ Winter 2025-2026**

**Instructor:** L. Bikos  
**Email:** [levans8@uwo.ca](mailto:levans8@uwo.ca)

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### **Course Information**

#### **Calendar Description:**

Mandatory for third-year Sociology or Criminology students in an Honours Specialization. In this seminar, students explore the social world using qualitative methodologies. They develop research skills using approaches such as intensive interviewing, participant observation, unobtrusive data collection and grounded theory building.

**Antirequisite(s):** [Childhood and Youth Studies 3311F/G](#), [Family Studies and Human Development 3230A/B](#), [Sociology 3307F/G](#), [Thanatology 3330F/G](#), the former Childhood and Social Institutions 3311F/G, the former Interdisciplinary Studies 2252F/G, the former Thanatology 4401F/G.

**Prerequisite(s):** Enrolment in an Honours Specialization or Honours Double Major in Sociology or Criminology with a minimum grade of 60% in [Sociology 2205A/B](#) and [Sociology 2206A/B](#), or [Social Work 2206A/B](#) and Social Work 2207A/B. If not in an Honours Specialization or Honours Double Major, a minimum grade of 70% in [Sociology 2205A/B](#) and [Sociology 2206A/B](#), or [Social Work 2206A/B](#) and Social Work 2207A/B is required.

**Extra Information:** 3 seminar hours.

**Course Weight:** 0.50  
**Breadth:** Category A  
**Subject Code:** SOCIOLOG

Notice: Unless you have either the requisites for this course (fulfilment of pre-requisites, no anti-requisite conflicts), or special permission from your Dean to enrol 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.

**Department of Sociology**  
**Kings University College**  
**Qualitative Research Methods 3310F, Section 570**  
**Fall 2025**

**Instructor:** Prof. Lesley Bikos

**Email:** [levans8@uwo.ca](mailto:levans8@uwo.ca)

**Office Hours:** In person or virtually, please make an appointment if possible

**Mode of Instruction:** In person

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course explores various qualitative approaches used to investigate the social world, such as observation, photovoice, and interviewing. Action research and a decolonial framework will guide our work as we challenge the assumptions, values, and motivations that prioritize some ways of knowing over others (Smith, 2012). We will explore (and enact) the ways qualitative research can foster community, collaboration, reciprocity, and research as a tool for community-led action and justice. This course is designed as an experiential, applied experience with classes and assignments focused on real-life experiences of qualitative research.

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**Anti-requisite(s):** [Childhood and Youth Studies 3311F/G](#), [Family Studies and Human Development 3230A/B](#), [Sociology 3307F/G](#), [Thanatology 3330F/G](#), the former Childhood and Social Institutions 3311F/G, the former Interdisciplinary Studies 2252F/G, the former Thanatology 4401F/G.

### **COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES**

By the end of this course the student should be able to:

1. Evaluate various forms of qualitative methods and critically engage with the role of power in knowledge creation.
2. Understand and enact decolonial approaches to community-engaged research.
3. Understand and apply researcher responsibilities, reciprocity, reflexivity and positionality, and research ethics.
4. Apply and gain experience in multiple forms of qualitative methods.
5. Gain the skills and knowledge to create an effective research proposal.
6. Create and execute a full qualitative research project, including data analysis and knowledge mobilization techniques.

### **Course Materials**

A list of weekly, free course materials will be posted to our course site. There are no costs for this course.

### **Contact Information**

The best way to reach me is via email at [levans8@uwo.ca](mailto:levans8@uwo.ca). I will respond within 48 business hours.

## Method of Evaluation

Your final grade for this course will be calculated as follows:

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|--|-----|
| 1. Research Proposal (Due Oct. 27 <sup>th</sup> 48-hr grace period)                                  | 35% |
| 2. Final Research Project (Due Dec. 1 <sup>st</sup> , participation chart due Dec. 8 <sup>th</sup> ) |     |
| • 20% group, 20% individual  | 40% |
| 3. Participation (Ongoing)   | 20% |
| 4. Completion of TCPS 2 Core: Tutorial (Due Sept. 29 <sup>th</sup> )                                 | 5%  |

*Please note: This course requires consistent attendance to do well and support its learning style and outcomes. If you have barriers for this requirement, for example family care responsibilities or disability accommodations/access needs, please contact me. I never expect (or desire) you to come to class ill, please rest up and reach out within 24 hours of a missed class to make alternative arrangements for missed work. Frequently missed classes without prior arrangements will significantly impact your participation and final research project grades.*

The university requires that a 2000 and above essay course must contain written assignments that meet at least 2500 words and must be so structured that the student is required to demonstrate competence in essay writing to pass the course. Because this is an essay course, the Senate Regulations state that you must pass the essay component to pass the course. That is, the average mark for your written assignments must be at least 50%.

Within this course, use of generative artificial intelligence (AI) tools (such as ChatGPT) is **not permitted** for work submitted for evaluation. Unauthorized use of AI will be subject to academic discipline.

### Research Proposal 35%

This individual assignment is where you will propose a research project of your choosing. Throughout the first half of the term, you will learn the skills/knowledge required to complete your proposal through lectures, in-class activities, the group research project, and course materials. You will provide the justification for your project, background (a literature review including a theoretical application), research question(s), ethics considerations, your reflexivity statement, chosen method(s) with justification, responsible research and reciprocity considerations, what you propose to do with the findings, and how (and whom) your project benefits. This assignment has a built in 48-hour grace period for submission.

### Final Research Project 40%

Together you will conduct a Photovoice project, building it from the ground up throughout the term with a final research exhibition of your work to the King's community on December 1st. There will be class time provided to work on this project (see course schedule), however aspects will need to be completed outside of class. The final grade is as follows: 20% is a group grade assessing your shared final product, including the exhibition, and 20% is an individual grade based on your participation/efforts toward the project throughout the term. A short participation chart is due December 8<sup>th</sup> where you will provide feedback on your contributions toward the project.

### Participation 20%

Because this is an applied, experiential learning course, *attendance with participation* is required. Frequently missed classes (including frequently arriving significantly late/leaving early/technology distractions) will impact your grade in both the participation and final project participation grades. We

have frequent class activities – some of these will be submitted as part of your overall participation grade (not marked individually) that will require some work outside of class time. If you would like to make up a missed activity for participation grades, you must *contact me within 24 hours* to make arrangements. Requests outside of the 24-hour window will not be accepted outside of exceptional circumstances and frequently missed classes without prior arrangements/agreements will require a meeting to discuss your progress in the course.

### **TCPS 2 Core (Course on Research Ethics): Tutorial 5%**

This is an online course that will take approximately 4 hours to complete <https://tcps2core.ca/welcome>. Once you have completed the course you will be able to download the certificate. Upload your completed certificate in the assignments tab on our course site and you’ve got yourself 100%! Keep your certificate if you plan on going to graduate school, are a research assistant, other research methods classes, or research requiring ethics – once you’ve done this course, you will not need to do it again if you can show your certificate.

### **Course Outline**

A complete list of course materials will be posted to our course site – not all weeks will have materials to complete prior to class to give you space for coursework. For the weeks that do have materials, the lecture/class activity will build off of them, so please ensure you come to class with these completed. Weekly topics are subject to change to support the flexibility needed for the experiential learning structure of the course.

Week	Date	Description	Assignments Due
1	Sept. 8	Introduction and Course Overview: Please plan to attend class	Class Activity: Thinking about your research interests – how do we begin research projects? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Thinking about topics for class photovoice project</li> </ul>
2	Sept. 15	Qualitative Methods – Setting the Stage	Class Activity: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Photovoice topic</li> <li>Research Questions</li> <li>Literature Review</li> </ul>
3	Sept. 22	Action Research: Anti-Oppression and Justice-Research as Transformative Change <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Building relationships, Research “with,” Reciprocity, Responsibility to Participants</li> </ul>	Class Activity: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Research Questions</li> <li>Literature Review</li> </ul>
4	Sept. 29	Indigenous Methodologies and Decolonial Approaches <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Researcher Positionality, Reflexivity</li> </ul>	<b>TCPS 2 Core: Tutorial Ethics due (before class)</b> Class Activity: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ethics for Photovoice project</li> <li>Positionality/reflexivity</li> </ul>
5	Oct. 6	Field Research <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Interviews – creating questions and tips</li> <li>Observation</li> <li>Field notes</li> </ul>	Class Activity: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Interviews</li> <li>Observation</li> <li>Field notes</li> </ul>

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>3-5 Photos/Captions and titles/descriptions due for class on Oct. 20</b></li> </ul>
<b>6</b>	Oct. 13	No classes – long weekend	
<b>7</b>	Oct. 20	Photo Voice Project: Finding Themes Part 1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Thematic Analysis, sharing your work and creating transcripts</li> </ul>	Class Activity: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Thematic Analysis/learning to code</li> <li>• <b>Transcriptions and themes due for class on Oct. 27</b></li> </ul>
<b>8</b>	Oct. 27	Photo Voice Project: Finding Themes Part 11 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Thematic Analysis, Coding</li> <li>• Community-engaged Theme Creation</li> </ul>	Class Activity: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coding</li> </ul> <p><b>Research Proposal Due (48-hour grace period to submit)</b></p>
<b>9</b>	Nov. 3	READING WEEK	
<b>10</b>	Nov. 10	Photo Voice Project: Data Checking Triangulation, Member Checking	Class Activity: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coding continued</li> <li>• Finalizing Themes</li> <li>• <b>Formatted/finalized photos/descriptions sent by Nov. 14th</b></li> </ul>
<b>11</b>	Nov. 17	Photo Voice Project: Community-led Actions	Class Activity: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work on exhibition</li> </ul>
<b>12</b>	Nov. 24	Project Exhibition: Communicating Findings, Community-based Knowledge Mobilization	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In-Class work period for exhibition</li> </ul>
<b>13</b>	Dec. 1	Project Exhibition: Communicating Findings, Community-based Knowledge Mobilization	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Photovoice Exhibition for King’s Community (9:30am for set up, Exhibition 11:00-1:30pm, 1:30-2:20 debriefing)</li> </ul>
<b>14</b>	Dec. 8	Last Class	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Project Participation Chart Due</b></li> </ul>

# KING'S UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

## GENERAL COURSE POLICIES

### 2025-2026

#### **1. Academic Accommodations, Consideration for Absences**

##### **Academic Accommodation (Accessibility)**

Accessibility Services works to ensure that academic programs are accessible to all students, and supports students who may have a condition related to, but not limited to, vision, hearing, mobility, different ways of learning, mental health, chronic illnesses, chronic pain, autism spectrum disorder, ADD/ADHD, and temporary conditions (beyond short-term academic consideration). Accessibility Services provides recommendations for accommodation based on medical documentation or psychological and cognitive assessment. The accommodation policy can be found here [Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities](#). Information on Accessibility Services at King's can be found [here](#).

##### **Academic Consideration for Student Absence**

If a student is unable to meet a course requirement due to substantial but temporary extenuating circumstances (medical or compassionate), they should follow the procedures below.

In some cases, where instructors have built flexibility into their assessments, this flexibility will already address consideration needs.

Requests for academic consideration should be directed to the Academic Advising Office of your faculty/college of registration. Requests must be made as soon as possible and no later than 48 hours after the missed assessment.

As a rule, documentation is required for academic consideration. For academic consideration requests on medical grounds, the Student Medical Certificate is available at [https://www.kings.uwo.ca/kings/assets/File/currentStudents/courses\\_enrollment/exams\\_and\\_tests/SMC-Feb-2025.pdf](https://www.kings.uwo.ca/kings/assets/File/currentStudents/courses_enrollment/exams_and_tests/SMC-Feb-2025.pdf).

Students are permitted one academic consideration request without supporting documentation per term per course.

Instructors may designate one assessment per half-course weight as requiring formal supporting documentation. Please refer to the course outline for each course.

For further information, please see:

[https://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/academic\\_consideration\\_Sep24.pdf](https://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/academic_consideration_Sep24.pdf)

##### **Absences from Final Examinations**

If you miss the Final Exam, contact the Academic Advising Office of your faculty/college of registration as soon as you are able to do so. They will assess your eligibility to write the Special Examination (the name given by the University to a makeup Final Exam).

You may also be eligible to write the Special Exam if you are in a “Multiple Exam Situation” (e.g., more than 2 exams in 23-hour period, or more than 3 exams in a 47-hour period).

If a student fails to write a scheduled Special Examination, the date of the next Special Examination (if granted) normally will be the scheduled date for the final exam the next time this course is offered. The maximum course load for that term will be reduced by the credit of the course(s) for which the final examination has been deferred. See the Academic Calendar for details (under [Special Examinations](#)).

## **Religious Accommodation**

Students should consult the University's list of recognized religious holidays, and should give notice in writing to the instructor and Academic Advising Office if a course requirement will be affected by a religious holiday/observance. Notice must be given as early as possible, and no later than two weeks prior to an examination, and one week prior to a midterm test date. It is the responsibility of such students to inform themselves concerning the work done in classes from which they are absent and to take appropriate action.

## **2. Support Services**

Accessibility, Counselling and Student Development at King’s University College:

<https://www.kings.uwo.ca/current-students/student-services/>

Students experiencing emotional or mental health distress can access services at King’s University College: <http://www.kings.uwo.ca/current-students/campus-services/student-support-services/personal-counselling/>

Good2talk is a good online and phone 24/7 resource for students and is available in English, Mandarin, and French: <https://good2talk.ca>, 1-866-925-5454

MentalHealth@Western provides a complete list of options about how to obtain help:

[https://www.uwo.ca/health/mental\\_wellbeing/](https://www.uwo.ca/health/mental_wellbeing/)

Academic Support Services at King’s University College:

<https://www.kings.uwo.ca/current-students/academic-resources/>

### **GBSV Support:**

King’s is committed to reducing incidents of gender-based and sexual violence and providing compassionate support to anyone who has gone through these traumatic events. If you have experienced sexual or gender-based violence (either recently or in the past), you will find information about support services for survivors, including emergency contacts at:

<https://www.kings.uwo.ca/about-kings/safe-campus/gender-and-sexual-violence/>

You can reach someone supports at Kings by emailing [Care@kings.uwo.ca](mailto:Care@kings.uwo.ca) or calling 519-930-4640 to reach a social worker who can offer help.

You can also reach Western’s Gender-Based Violence & Survivor Support Case Manager by [email](#) or by calling 519-661-3568.

Further supports can be found on this website: <https://www.kings.uwo.ca/about-kings/safe-campus/gender-and-sexual-violence/>

See also [https://www.uwo.ca/health/student\\_support/survivor\\_support/get-help.html](https://www.uwo.ca/health/student_support/survivor_support/get-help.html)

University Students' Council offers many valuable support services for students, including the health insurance plan: <http://westernusc.ca/services/>

### 3. Statement on Use of Electronic Devices

**Use of Electronic Devices:** Unless explicitly stated otherwise, you are not allowed to have a cell phone, or any other electronic device, with you during tests or examinations. Unauthorized possession of such a device during a test or examination constitutes an academic offence.

**Use of Laptops, Tablets, and Smartphones in the Classroom:** King's University College at Western University acknowledges the integration of new technologies and learning methods into the curriculum. The use of electronic devices such as laptop computers, tablets, or smartphones can contribute to student engagement and effective learning. At the same time, King's recognizes that instructors and students share jointly the responsibility to establish and maintain a respectful classroom environment conducive to learning.

The use of electronic devices by students during lectures, seminars, labs, etc., shall be for matters related to the course at hand only. Students found to be using electronic devices for purposes not directly related to the class may be subject to sanctions under the Student Code of Conduct; see <https://www.kings.uwo.ca/current-students/student-affairs/code-of-student-conduct1/>

Inappropriate use of electronics (e.g., laptops, tablets, smartphones) during lectures, seminars, labs, etc., creates a significant disruption. As a consequence, instructors may choose to limit the use of electronic devices in these settings. In addition, in order to provide a safe classroom environment, students attending in-person class sessions are strongly advised to operate laptops with batteries rather than power cords.

### 4. Statement on Academic Offences

King's is committed to academic integrity. Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, is posted at

[http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/scholastic\\_discipline\\_undergrad.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf)

It is expected that students will submit work that is truly their own, completed without external assistance (human or artificial) except as explicitly permitted by the course instructor. Check with your instructor on what tools, including generative AI (ChatGPT, translation tools, grammar-checking tools) are permitted in the course. Because a tool is permitted in one course, that does not mean it is permitted in other courses.

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; see <https://elearningtoolkit.uwo.ca/tools/Originality Reports - TurnItIn.html>.

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.

### **5. Copyright of Course Material**

Lectures and course materials, including PowerPoint presentations, tests, outlines, and similar materials are protected by copyright. Faculty members are the exclusive owner of copyright in those materials they create. Students may take notes and make copies for their own use. Students may not allow others to reproduce or distribute lecture notes and course materials publicly (whether or not a fee is charged) without the express written consent of a faculty member. Unauthorized sharing of class content is subject to academic discipline.

Similarly, students own copyright in their own original papers and exam essays. If a faculty member wishes to post a student's answers or papers on the course website, they should ask for the student's written permission.

### **6. Use of Recordings**

Participants in this course are not permitted to record the sessions, except where recording is an approved accommodation and/or the participant has the prior written permission of the instructor. Unauthorized recording and/or sharing of class content is subject to academic discipline.

### **7. Policy on Attendance**

Any student who, in the opinion of the instructor, is absent too frequently from class or laboratory periods in any course, will be reported to the Dean of the Faculty offering the course, after due warning has been given. On the recommendation of the department concerned, and with the permission of the Dean of that Faculty, the student will be debarred from taking the regular examination in the course.