
CJ 7330: Qualitative Research Methods

Spring 2016

6:30-9:20pm (Tuesday)

Hines 203

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Office Hours – Thursday (4:00pm – 5:00pm) and by appt.

Academic Substance

Course Description:

This doctoral course is designed to provide students with an in-depth, participatory introduction to the principles and use of common qualitative methods used in social science research with a particular focus on the field of criminal justice. Throughout the course, we will examine (among many other things): the specific value of qualitative approach(es) in various academic fields, cover the various strategies for implementing qualitative research, and address the unique ethical issues associated with qualitative research. There are two major goals for this course: a) get you first-hand qualitative research experience and b) start you on the way to producing an publishable/publish-ready project with collected data.

Course Materials:

The *two* texts listed below are required for this semester:

Denzin, N.K. (2016). *The qualitative manifesto*. New York, NY: Routledge Press.

Patton, M.Q. (2011) *Qualitative research & evaluation methods: Integrating theory and practice (4th ed.)*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications.

The texts are available for purchase at the Texas State Bookstore. You are also responsible for additional information poseted to TRACS.

Grading:

- a) There will be a completed IRB submission for your project.
- b) There will be a research proposal completed for the research project that you will be conducting. It will include introduction, literature review, and methodology sections.
- c) There will be four assignments that are designed to demonstrate your basic ability of constructing the various aspects of qualitative research. While the final project will be group designed, these assignments will be completed individually.
- d) You will be required to provide a detailed (“Track Changes”) peer-review of each other’s work. You will provide both grammatical and substantive feedback to him/her.
- e) You will turn in your qualitative notes, memos, and data for review at the end of the semester.

Grades: Total

Four Assignments @ 25 points	100
“Research Proposal”	100
Data Collection	50
<u>Qualitative Notes, Memos, etc.</u>	<u>50</u>
Total	300

Grading Scale

300 – 270 -- A

269 – 240 -- B

239 and below -- C

(RECEIVING A "C" IS CONSIDERED FAILING THIS COURSE)

Grade disputes must be submitted in writing one week after the grade is given, with clear and substantial reasons for changing the grade.

Written and Oral communication will be evaluated in the following way:

A: Outstanding. Superior. Written work is presented at the college level, using standard English and an acceptable style guide. Meets all course expectations promptly. Shows clear grasp of concepts and participates regularly and enthusiastically in class and group discussions.

B: Very Good. Clearly above average. Written work is presented at the college level using standard English and an acceptable style guide with only few minor flaws. Meets course expectations promptly. Shows adequate grasp of concepts and participates regularly and enthusiastically in class and group discussions .

C: Below expectations. Writing is marred by major mechanical problems. Does not meet course expectations promptly. Fails to participate regularly in class and group discussion .

Disability Statement: In accordance with university policy and federal law, reasonable and appropriate accommodations will be made for qualified students with disabilities. Students with disabilities are asked to contact the Office of Disabilities Services who will then coordinate any necessary accommodations.

Classroom Management Issues

Texas State University Honor Code: All students taking classes in Criminal Justice must subscribe to the Texas State University Honor Code (UPPS 07.10.01). Failure to adhere to any component of the honor code entails consequences ranging from serious (e.g., unexcused absences, 0 points assigned for exam grades, etc.) to severe (a course grade of "F" or even dismissal from the university).

Laptop computers, cell phones & pager policy: Laptop computers are allowed in class for the purpose of taking class notes and/or accessing class powerpoints only. **Emailing or accessing the internet is not allowed during class.** Cell phones and pagers are permitted in class provided that they are switched to vibrate mode only (no ringing). Although no calls (either outgoing or incoming) are permitted during class time, I understand that there are times when you will need to take telephone calls during class. Feel free to excuse yourself during class. However, ringing

phones and pagers are a distraction to both the lecture and to your classmates. In addition, texting is not allowed during class time (either reading or sending messages) at any time. Students detected using cell phones (checking messages, talking, or texting) will be asked to leave the class. The use of cell phones or laptop computers during video presentations is not permitted.

TRACS:

This is Texas State's on-line source for class information. In addition to the above texts, students should have an email account and be able to access TRACS. For example, I will post additional information on assignments, general information, website links for class, and readings. You can also check your grades throughout the semester. For help with your email account or computer questions, please speak to me via telephone, e-mail or office hours.

Attendance: You are all adults in a doctoral-level course. One unexcused absence is acceptable (although it is neither expected nor encouraged). **A third unexcused absence will result in a full grade deduction.** There will be no make-ups for work (in and out of class), with the exception of either a documented medical excuse, documented family emergency, or contacting me prior to the absence. *.

Plagiarism: My sincere hope and expectation is that this would not be an issue at this level. Quoted and paraphrased passages must be cited appropriately in your written work. Copying sentences or whole sections of another's work from web sites or other materials is considered plagiarism and will be grounds for disciplinary action, if not dismissal, from the university. This is not limited to research papers – this is also relevant in the presentation of anything in need of proper citations.

Also, and along these lines, please make sure to familiarize yourself with the Academic Integrity Policy as outlined in the most current Texas State Student Handbook. This policy deals not only with issues such as plagiarism and other behaviors considered to be violations of academic integrity, but also provides guidelines regarding the various sanctions that accompany these types of actions.

Semester Course Outline

Each week will have additional readings posted to TRACS – These are the book readings.

Week 1 (Jan 16th)

Syllabus, general discussion, and intro to Qualitative Research

Week 2 (Jan 23rd) – Why Qualitative? & Qualitative Conceptualization

Chapter 1 & 2 – Denzin

Chapter 1 – Patton

Jan 23rd Readings in TRACS

Week 3 (Jan 30th) – Qualitative Design (and Proposal)

Chapter 2, 3, & 4 – Patton

Chapter 3 & 6 - Denzin

Week 4 (Feb 6th) – Self-Reflexivity

Chapter 7 & 8 – Denzin

Chapter 5 - Patton

Feb 6th Readings in TRACS

Week 5 (Feb 13th) – Qualitative Ethics

Chapter 5 – Denzin

Feb 13th Readings in TRACS

Week 6 (Feb 20th) – Field Research

Chapter 6 – Patton

Feb 20th Readings in TRACS

Week 7 (Feb 27th) – Field Research (assignment discussion)

Feb 27th Readings in TRACS

Week 8 (Mar 6th) – Interviews (1 – 1 and focus group)

Chapter 7 – Patton

Feb 27th Readings in TRACS

Week 9 (Mar 13th) – No Class / Spring Break

SPRING BREAK

Week 10 (Mar 20th) – Interviews (assignment discussions)

Mar 20th Readings in TRACS

Week 11 (Mar 27th) – Content Analysis & the Rest (Action Research / Unobtrusive Research / Historiography & Oral Traditions)

Mar 27th Readings in TRACS

Week 12 (Apr 3rd) – Data Analysis

Chapter 8 – Patton

Apr 3rd Readings in TRACS

Week 13 (Apr 10th) – Data Analysis (pt 2)

Chapter 9 – Patton

Apr 10th Readings in TRACS

Week 14 (Apr 17^d) – (QUICK) NVIVO overview

Apr 17th Readings in TRACS

Week 15 (Apr 24th) – Course Conclusions – Prepare for Coding / Analysis

No Readings