
CJ 7350C: Qual. Data Collection & Analysis

Spring 2015

6:30-9:20pm (Wednesday)

Hines 201

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Office Hours – Monday (5:00pm – 6:00pm) / Wednesday (5:00pm – 6:00pm) & by appt.

Academic Substance

Course Description:

This is a graduate level course is designed to provide students with an 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 cover analytic strategies for qualitative data analysis to help transform qualitative data into written research documents. Students will engage in primary data collection and learn how to use a variety of analytic techniques including transcription, field note preparation, memoing, development of coding schemes and conceptual frameworks and data verifying techniques. The course will mix theory and practice. At the same time as we are discussing analytic techniques you will be analyzing your own data in preparation for publication. There are two major goals for this course: a) to make you familiar (and comfortable)with using NVivo as a tool for qualitative research and b) to establish an instinctive means of constructing accurate and thoughtful data analysis through using NVivo.

Course Materials:

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

Bazeley, P. (2013). *Qualitative Data Analysis: Practical Strategies*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications.

Bazeley, P. (2013). *Qualitative Data Analysis with NVivo* (2nd 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 four assignments that are designed to demonstrate your basic ability of utilizing Nvivo as a coding and analyzing program. Each is worth 25 points.
- b) There will be several items due that are directly associated with your final paper that will be due throughout the semester. The total varies according to the amount of work.
- c) You will be required to provide a detailed (“Track Changes”) peer-review of another student’s work (results, discussion, and conclusion). You will provide both grammatical and substantive feedback to him/her.
- d) The final paper grade will be based on the completion of the paper and (more specifically) having it as close to being “ready for publication” as possible.

Grades: Total

Four Assignments @ 25 points	100
Four Paper Assignments @ 25 points	100
<u>Final Paper Due</u>	<u>100</u>
Total	300

Grading Scale

300 – 268	-- A
267 – 238	-- B
237 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: Good. Average. Written work is presented at the college level using standard English and an acceptable style guide with many minor flaws. Shows a reasonable grasp of concepts and participates in class and group discussions .

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

E: Far below expectations. Written work consistently falls below college level, even when revised. Fails to report to Writing Center or seek other appropriate help. Consistently late in meeting course expectations, and fails to participate in class and group discussions.

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 neither expected nor encouraged). A second 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

Week 1 (Jan 21st)

Syllabus, general discussion, and intro to NVivo

Week 2 (Jan 28th) – Conceptualization

Thinking about data analysis (PDF's)

Chapter 2 (Bazeley / NVivo)

Chapter 1 (Bazeley / Strategies)

Week 3 (Feb 4th) – Beginning a Project in Nvivo

Chapter 3 & 6 (Bazeley / NVivo)

Chapter 2 (Bazeley / Strategies)

* sources and attribute assignment

Week 4 (Feb 11th) – Working with Multimedia and Secondary Sources

Chapter 7 & 8 (Bazeley / NVivo)

*multimedia and secondary data assignment(s)

Week 5 (Feb 18th) – Coding

Chapter 4, 5 & 6 (Bazeley / Strategies)

***Sources Assignment – Your Paper (due)*

Week 6 (Feb 25th) – Coding in NVivo

Chapter 4 & 5 (Bazeley / NVivo)

* coding assignment

Week 7 (Mar 4th)

No Class – ACJS

Week 8 (Mar 11th) – “Moving on from Codes and Themes”

Chapter 8,9,10 (Bazeley / Strategies)

Week 9 (Mar 18th)

No Class – Spring Break

Week 10 (Mar 25th) – Climax and Closure

Chapter 11,12,13 (Bazeley / Strategies)

****Coding Assignment – Your Paper (due)**

Week 11 (Apr 1st) – Teamwork and Co-Authoring (“Reliability”)

Chapter 12 (Bazeley / NVivo)

Week 12 (Apr 8th) – Mixed Methods

Chapter 9 (Bazeley / NVivo)

****Reliability Assignment – Your Paper (due)**

Week 13 (Apr 15th) – Exploring and Visualizing Data

Chapter 7 (Bazeley / Strategies)

Chapter 10 (Bazeley / NVivo)

* Visualization Assignment

Week 14 (Apr 22nd) - Queries

Chapter 10 (Bazeley / NVivo)

****Visualization Assignment – Your Paper (due)**

Week 15 (Apr 29th)

Open week – scheduled one-on-one time for final preparation assistance.

Week 16 -- Final Exam Week

Written, publish-ready paper due – **MAY 10, 2015 at Midnight**