

SOC 221: Qualitative Research Methods

Instructor: Selbi Jumayeva, AFP Returning Scholar Credits: 3

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Course code: SOC 221

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Class schedule: Lecture: Tue 9:25 Thu 9:25

Office hours: by appointment

Course description and objectives:

This course aims to develop intellectually rigorous, meaningful and productive course that would enable students:

- To learn *methods* of qualitative research
- To understand the *use* of qualitative research
- To design and conduct a research project employing qualitative methods, with a guidance of the instructor
- To practice ways of analyzing qualitative data
- To present the research on all stages in a written form

You will get to learn various types of research methods within qualitative approach such as interviews, observations, case studies, ethnographic methods through lectures, seminars and personal research projects. Along with this, we will try to problematize each stage of the research and will see in practice the ethical dilemmas that most of the researchers encounter.

Course readings:

You will need to check out two textbooks that will serve as the main sources for this course: the course reader from the Sociology department and Bruce Berg's (2001); "Qualitative Research Methods: For Social Sciences," Boston: Allyn and Bacon in the room 105 of the Main Library.

Class Schedule:

Note: The schedule is subject to minor modifications. If this is the case you will be informed during the classes or via email in advance. Please, bear in mind that you are responsible for keeping track of such changes.

Weeks	Class Themes and Assignments
Week 1 Tue, Aug 26 Thu, Aug 28	Introduction to the Course and to Sociological Research Intro to the course, revision of the syllabus READ: Berg, Ch 1: "Introduction" pp 1-12
Week 2 Tue, Sep 2 Thu, Sep 4	Qualitative Studies: Key Elements of Research Design Topic and question: practical and research questions READ: Booth W., Colomb G. and Williams J. (2003) The Craft of Research, Chicago: The University of Chicago Press pp 40-71 (In the reader)
Week 3 Tue, Sep 9 Thu, Sep 11	Qualitative Studies: Key Elements of Research Design Conceptualization and Sampling READ: Neuman W. (1997) Social Research Methods: Qualitative and

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	Quantitative Approaches, Boston: Allyn and Bacon, pp 201-225 (In the reader) Berg, Ch 2: “Designing Qualitative Research” pp 25-28
Week 4	Qualitative Studies: Key Elements of Research Design
Tue, Sep 16	Guest Lecture on Ethnomethodology Assignment #1 due in the beginning of the class!
Thu, Sep 18	READ: TBA
Week 5	Qualitative Studies: Key Elements of Research Design
Tue, Sep 20	Issues of generalization
Thu, Sep 22	READ: Ritchie, Jane and Lewis Jane: “Generalizing From Qualitative Research” pp 263-286 (a handout to be disseminated)
Week 6	Literature review
Tue, Sep 27	The use of literature review
Thu, Oct 29	Concept mapping exercise due! (Assignment #2) READ: Neuman W. (1997) Social Research Methods: Qualitative and Quantitative Approaches, Boston: Allyn and Bacon, pp 88-105 (In the reader)
Week 7	Ways of knowing: introduction to qualitative methods and techniques:
Tue, Oct 4	Ethics: protecting participants and the findings MOVIE: Peter Lom on Bride Kidnapping in Kyrgyzstan
Thu, Oct 6	READ: Berg, Ch 3: “Ethical Issues” pp 39-63 Ethics Movie MOVIE: Tuskegee Experiment Documentary
Week 8	Ways of knowing: introduction to qualitative methods and techniques:
Tue, Oct 11	Ethics Seminar
Thu, Oct 13	Interviews
Make up Class	In-class quiz! READ: Berg, Ch 4: “A dramaturgical look at interviewing” pp 66-107 Assignment #3: Reflection paper due Monday October 17th!
	FALL BREAK October 17-21
Week 9	Ways of knowing: introduction to qualitative methods and techniques:
Tue, Oct 18	Assignment #4 due! (Operationalization) Interviews, Historiography and Oral Traditions; Case Studies
Thu, Oct 20	READ: Berg, Ch 9: “Historiography and Oral Traditions” pp 210-222
Week 10	Ways of knowing: introduction to qualitative methods and techniques:
Tue, Oct 25	Assignment #5 due! (Methodology guide) Case studies and Focus groups
Thu, Oct 27	READ: Berg, Ch 10: “Case studies” pp 225-236

	READ: Berg, Ch 5: "Focus group interviewing" pp 111- 131
Week 11	Ways of knowing: introduction to qualitative methods and techniques:
Tue, Nov 1	Visual methods
Thu, Nov 3	READ: Loizos P. (2000) "Video, Film and Photographs as Research Documents," in Bauer Qualitative Researching: With Text, Image and Sound, London: Sage Publications, pp 93-107
Week 12	Analyzing data, drawing conclusions
Tue, Nov 8	How to start analyzing qualitative data
Thu, Nov 10	Assignment #6: Research Draft is due! READ: Spencer, Liz, Ritchie, Jane and O'Connor, William "Analysis: practices, principles and processes" pp 199-219 (Handouts to be disseminated)
Week 13	Analyzing data, drawing conclusion
Tue, Nov 15	Carrying out Qualitative Analysis
Thu, Nov 17	Ritchie, Jane, Spencer, Liz and O'Connor, William "Carrying out Qualitative Analysis" pp 219-262 (Handouts to be disseminated)
Week 14	Analyzing data, drawing conclusion
Tue, Nov 22	How to present qualitative data
Thu, Nov 24	In-class quiz! White, Clarissa, Woodfield, Kandy and Ritchie, Jane "Reporting and Presenting Qualitative Data" pp 287-320 (Handouts to be disseminated)
Week 15	Analyzing data, drawing conclusion
Tue, Nov 29	Epistemological issues and challenges; Reflection
Thu, Dec 1	READ: TBA
Week 16	Discussing the results of the research projects
Tue, Dec 6	Further research
Thu, Dec 8	Final Research Draft is due! (Deadline TBA)

Your grade for the course will be based on your performance of the following:

A. Class participation and attendance – Your attendance and participation will represent 10% of your final grade. Each absence will lead to 1% deduction from the grade. Whereas, more than 4 absences will lead to automatic drop from the class. Those who are late for 15 minutes can feel free to join the class, but will not be counted as present.

B. Homework assignments (6x5=35%)

There will be 6 homework assignments throughout the semester. Unless otherwise stated, homework assignments are to be done by students individually. All assignments are due at the beginning of the classes on the day it is due (see the class schedule for deadlines). Late assignments are accepted, but 10% of the grade is deducted for each day it is late.

Evaluation:

Your final grade will comprise of the following:

Class attendance and participation – 10%
In-class quizzes - 20%
6 Homework assignments – 30%
Research Draft – 15%
Final Research Project - 25%
Total – 100%

Grading scale:

Final grades will be determined by the following scale:

100-95: A	69-65: C
94-90: A-	64-60: C-
89-85: B+	59-55: D+
84-80: B	54-50: D
79-75: B-	50-45: D-
74-70: C+	>45: F

“X” – grade “X” is an administrative drop and can only be initiated by instructor and cannot be requested by a student. This grade can be given only when a student is seriously sick and missed series of classes in a row (sickness should be justified by necessary documentation). It may also lead to an X if a student gets X in the rest of the classes where he or she is registered for the given semester.

“I” – grade “I” may be given to a student if he or she justified a) a serious sickness; b) serious family circumstances.

Academic Honesty

The AUCA Code of Academic Honesty is written in the university handbook, and you are all at least formally aware of the meaning of cheating and plagiarism. If you have any questions, concerns or unsure about what to do in a particular case, please come to me for advice. I will be happy to help you work through any difficulties or uncertainties, particularly those regarding proper citation of sources. **DO NOT** assume that if you break the Code of Academic Honesty unknowingly, you will be penalized. It is your responsibility to understand the Code and to abide by it. Any deviation from the Code will result in a failure on the exam or assignment in question. Two violations will result in a failure for the course.

Note

Instructor reserves the right to make necessary changes in the syllabus within the duration of the course.