

Qualitative Research Methods Section 01

SOCI 105

Fall 2023 3 Unit(s) 08/21/2023 to 12/06/2023 Modified 08/21/2023

Course Description and Requisites

Philosophy and logic of research design, interviewing techniques, field methods, issues of participant observation, theoretical perspectives, content analysis and qualitative microcomputer techniques. Required for Sociology majors.

Prerequisite: SOCI 1 or equivalent, SOCI 100W, SOCI 101 and upper division standing.

Letter Graded

* Classroom Protocols

Canvas

The syllabus, all readings, assignments, and links related to the course will be posted on our Canvas page. Please consult both the Canvas page and your syllabus often!!!! Materials will be organized into modules corresponding with the week on the course schedule below. Please read/complete materials in each module in the order they are posted. **NEW MODULES WILL BE AVAILABLE BY 5PM EACH WEDNESDAY.**

Communication

I encourage all of you to come by my office hours (listed above). Even if you don't have a specific question, office hours are a great chance for me to get to know you better and for you to give me feedback on the course. If you are having any problems that could impact your success in the course, come see me as soon as possible. It is much easier to deal with problems early on. Please note that I do not give incompletes except in the most extreme situations, and then only if a student has already completed a majority (at least 75%) of the work for the course.

I am also available by email at the address above or through the Canvas site. However, given the large number of students in my classes, I may take a day or two to respond to emails. It is also important that you check your email as well as the "news" section of Canvas for any course updates. I will email the class of any changes in the schedule. If you do email me, please include your name and the course number and section in the subject line.

I very much understand that you all have complicated and busy lives and that these past few years have been very difficult on all of us. I really encourage you to come talk to me if you need my assistance or have questions. Communication is key!

Readings and Missed Classes

I expect that you will have each week's readings completed by class on Monday of each week. I have tried to make the reading interesting and manageable so that we can all participate in active discussions. Please bring your course packet to class each day so that we can refer to the readings in discussions.

Participation is important and it helps make discussions livelier as well as to clarify materials. Coming to class is important as I will be lecturing on materials not included in the readings.

If you cannot come to class, it is your responsibility to get notes from one of your peers. Please limit cell phone/laptop use in class as it is distracting to me and other students.

A Note for Students with Children

This classroom is open to students' children when you have difficulty securing childcare. Please be sure your child complies with SJSU Covid policies and please do not bring sick children to class. Please bring something age appropriate for your child to do during class, and if you can, let me know ahead that they will be joining us. My priority is for all students to attend and participate in class, so do not feel that you have to decide between class and caring for your kids. That said, please use this option only when necessary, given the smaller size and limited number of seats in some classrooms.

Program Information

Program Learning Outcomes

1. Students will be able to think sociologically about the relationship between social structure, interaction, identities, and inequalities.
2. Students will be able to identify and explain major sociological theories and apply them to everyday life.
3. Students will be proficient in qualitative and quantitative research design, data collection and data analysis.
4. Students will be proficient in oral and written communication skills appropriate to the discipline.
5. Students will be able to practice sociology as educated and civically engaged persons.

Course Goals

In this course, we will focus on the philosophy and design of qualitative research. Unlike quantitative research methods, which focus on the measurement of social phenomena, qualitative research methods focus on questions of meaning and experience, which often do not lend themselves to quantification. For example, if you were interested in how many women have babies each year, you would use quantitative methods. If you want to know what it feels like to have a baby and the experience of being pregnant, you would use qualitative methods. In this course you will learn about various qualitative research methods and read and analyze examples of qualitative research. Most important, you will gather and analyze your own data through participant observation and in-depth interviewing on a topic of your own choosing. This course will give you the opportunity to gain hands-on experience with various qualitative methods. You will learn to read and evaluate qualitative research and gain important analytic and practical skills.

Course Materials

REQUIRED COURSE PACKET

A REQUIRED course reader is available for purchase at Maple Press (330 S. 10th Street), or order online at: .

You must bring your reader to class for credit on Monday, August 28th.

All required readings will be also posted in PDF format on the course Canvas page

Course Requirements and Assignments

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Course Requirements and Assignments

The assignments and activities for this course are designed to enhance understanding of course material. Please note:

- All work must be submitted on Canvas; I will not accept emailed work.
- I will post detailed instruction sheets for each assignment well in advance of the due dates. We will go over all assignment expectations in class.
- I require any written documents you submit to be in .doc, .docx, or .pdf These are the only file formats that Canvas can display in

its grading system and I do not download work to my computer to grade it. This means that if you create your work in an application like Apple's Pages, you will need to save it in one of the above formats before you can submit it

Research Assignment: Observation Project

Two In-depth Observations: This represents your first opportunity to independently conduct qualitative research. You will make two separate observations and take extensive field notes.

Research Assignment: Interview project

Interview Project: This is the central course project that we will work on for the majority of the It allows you the opportunity to design and conduct a mini in-depth qualitative research project from start to finish and gain interviewing experience. You will choose a topic/research question, design an interview guide, recruit and interview two people, and write a final reflection paper.

There is also a smaller assignment to write the research question you will study in your interviews (see grading info).

Exam: Midterm Exam

This is an in-class exam based on your understanding of course materials including readings, lectures, and supplemental materials. The exam will take place late in the semester as there is no final exam in this course.

Participation: Participation Activities

Class Participation/Class Activities: Because this is a workshop-style course, student participation is vital for the success of the class. I will evaluate your class participation based on the following:

Participation in course discussions

Successful completion of ten participation assignments (i.e. interview & coding exercises, writing exercises, small group activities, and peer review work). Some of these participation assignments will be done outside of class and turned in via Canvas, some will be completed in-class and turned in via Canvas after class. Which assignments are due in class and which are due via Canvas will be clear on the assignment instructions.

*I do not accept late participation assignments however I will drop the lowest participation assignment grade.

✓ Grading Information

Breakdown

Grading Information

Your grade for the course will be out of a possible 500 points broken down as follows:

Observation assignment: 15% or 75 points

Research question: 10% or 50 points

Midterm Exam: 25% or 125 points Interviews and

Final interview paper: 30% or 150 points

Participation: Participation in class discussions, Eleven short participation assignments (only ten will count toward your grade, I will drop the lowest grade), three of these participation assignments are in class, most will be done on your own time outside of class, each participation assignment is worth 10 points. I will drop the lowest participation assignment. 20% or 100 points

Grade	Range	Notes
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Grade	Range	Notes
		<p>Final letter grades for the course will be assigned based on the following scale:</p> <p>A = 500-465 points</p> <p>A- = 464-450</p> <p>B+ = 449-435 points</p> <p>B = 434-415 points</p> <p>B- = 414-400 points</p> <p>C+ = 399-385 points</p> <p>C = 384-365 points</p> <p>C- = 364-350 points</p> <p>D+ = 349-335 points</p> <p>D = 334-315 points points</p> <p>D- = 314-300 points</p> <p>F = 299 points or less</p>

Criteria

I will give you sample grading rubrics for the observation and interview projects in advance of the due dates.

Please note: I do not offer extra credit in this course

University Policies

Per [University Policy S16-9 \(PDF\)](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.pdf) (<http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.pdf>), relevant university policy concerning all courses, such as student responsibilities, academic integrity, accommodations, dropping and adding, consent for recording of class, etc. and available student services (e.g. learning assistance, counseling, and other resources) are listed on the [Syllabus Information](https://www.sjsu.edu/curriculum/courses/syllabus-info.php) (<https://www.sjsu.edu/curriculum/courses/syllabus-info.php>) web page. Make sure to visit this page to review and be aware of these university policies and resources.

Course Schedule

When	Topic	Notes			
Week 1/ Module 1 8/21 & 8/23		<p>Introduction: What is Qualitative Research?</p> <p>READING: Mills "The Sociological Imagination" and THE SYLLABUS!!!!</p>			
Week 2/ Module 2 8/28 & 8/30		<table border="1"> <tr> <td> <p>Introduction: What is Qualitative Research?</p> <p>Participation Assignment #1: Bring course packet from Maple Press TO CLASS Monday, 8/28</p> </td> </tr> <tr> <td> <p>Participation Assignment #2: You've Read More Qualitative Research Than You Know!!! Due via Canvas Friday, 8/25 11:59 pm</p> </td> </tr> <tr> <td> <p>Reading: Warren and Karner Ch. 1 and Rios "The Fine Line Between Education and Incarceration"</p> </td> </tr> </table>	<p>Introduction: What is Qualitative Research?</p> <p>Participation Assignment #1: Bring course packet from Maple Press TO CLASS Monday, 8/28</p>	<p>Participation Assignment #2: You've Read More Qualitative Research Than You Know!!! Due via Canvas Friday, 8/25 11:59 pm</p>	<p>Reading: Warren and Karner Ch. 1 and Rios "The Fine Line Between Education and Incarceration"</p>
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When	Topic	Notes
Week 3/ Module 3 9/4 & 9/6		<p>Observational Research</p> <p>Reading: Warren and Karner Ch. 3 and Ch. 4</p> <p>Participation Assignment #3 IN CLASS Wednesday, 8/30</p>
Week 4/ Module 4 9/11 & 9/13		<p>Observational Research, Observation assignment</p> <p>NO CLASS MONDAY, 9/4 LABOR DAY</p> <p>Participation Assignment #4: Watch "Sidewalk" Documentary and "Principles of Ethnographic Research" Film response. Due Tuesday 9/5 by 11:59 pm</p> <p>Reading: Warren and Karner Ch. 3 and Ch. 4, Duneier "Sidewalk"</p>
Week 5/ Module 5 9/18 & 9/20		<p>Observational Research, Research Ethics</p> <p>Participation Assignment #5 (IN CLASS) :</p> <p>Bring a hard copy of field notes from Observation #1 to Class on Wednesday, 9/13.</p> <p>Reading:</p> <p>Brandt. "Racism and Research: The Case of the Tuskegee Syphilis Study", Warren & Karner Ch. 2</p> <p>OBSERVATION ASSIGNMENT DUE SUNDAY 9/17 11:59 PM</p>
Week 6/ Module 6 9/25 & 9/27		<p>Interviews</p> <p>RESEARCH QUESTION ASSIGNMENT DUE VIA CANVAS 11:59PM FRIDAY, 9/29</p> <p>Reading: Warren & Karner Ch. 6 and 7</p>
Week 7/ Module 7 10/2 & 10/4		<p>Interviews Continued...Interview Guides</p> <p>Participation Assignment #6: IN CLASS, BRING A COPY OF YOUR RESEARCH QUESTION ASSIGNMENT MONDAY, 10/2/23</p> <p>Reading: Hermanowicz "The Great Interview", Warren and Karner Ch. 7</p>

When	Topic	Notes							
Week 8/ Module 8 10/9 & 10/11		<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;">Interview Guides</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="height: 20px;"> </td> </tr> <tr> <td style="height: 20px;"> </td> </tr> <tr> <td style="height: 20px;"> </td> </tr> </table>	Interview Guides						
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Week 9/Module 9 10/16 & 10/18		<p>Issues in Interviewing</p> <p>Participation Assignment #7: Draft Interview Guide due IN CLASS MONDAY 10/16 by 11:59pm</p> <p>Reading: Blee, "White on White"</p>							
Week 10/ Module 10 10/23 & 10/25		<p>Qualitative Research in Practice</p> <p>Participation Assignment #8: Due Sunday, 10/29 by 11:59 pm</p> <p>Reading: Tuan, "Neither Real Americans nor Real Asians"</p>							
Week 11/ Module 11 10/30 & 11/1		<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;">Qualitative Research in Practice: Action Research</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="height: 20px;"> </td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;">Participation Assignment #8, IN CLASS Wednesday, 11/1</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;">Reading: TBA</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="height: 20px;"> </td> </tr> <tr> <td style="height: 20px;"> </td> </tr> <tr> <td style="height: 20px;"> </td> </tr> </table>	Qualitative Research in Practice: Action Research		Participation Assignment #8, IN CLASS Wednesday, 11/1	Reading: TBA			
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Participation Assignment #8, IN CLASS Wednesday, 11/1									
Reading: TBA									
Week 12/ Module 12 11/6 & 11/8		<p>Midterm Review and Midterm</p> <p>MIDTERM EXAM IN CLASS WEDNESDAY 11/8</p>							
Week 13/ Module 13 11/13 & 11/15		<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;">Textual and Visual Data</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;">Participation Assignment #9 due via Canvas Tuesday 11/14 11:59pm</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;">Reading: TBA</td> </tr> </table>	Textual and Visual Data	Participation Assignment #9 due via Canvas Tuesday 11/14 11:59pm	Reading: TBA				
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Reading: TBA									

When	Topic	Notes
Week 14/ Module 14 11/20 & 11/22		<p>Guest Speaker, TBA/ Analyzing Qualitative Data</p> <div data-bbox="464 220 1167 726" style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p>NO CLASS WEDNESDAY 11/22</p> <p>PARTICIPATION ASSIGNMENT # 10 Due via Canvas Sunday, 11/19 11:59pm</p> <p>Reading: Warren and Karner Ch. 9</p> </div>
Week 15/ Module 15 11/27 & 11/29		<p>Analyzing Qualitative Data</p> <div data-bbox="464 863 1195 1010" style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p>Participation Assignment #11 (IN CLASS):</p> <p>Bring a hard copy of your transcript from interview #1 to Class on Monday, 11/27</p> </div> <p>Reading TBA</p>
Week 16/Module 16 12/4 & 12/6		<p>Discuss Final Papers</p> <p>FINAL INTERVIEW PROJECTS DUE VIA CANVAS FRIDAY 12/13 11:59PM</p> <p>NO LATE PAPERS ACCEPTED</p>