

San Jose State University / Geography

GEOG 135-01 (47705), Qualitative Methods, Fall 2017

Contact Information

Instructor: Dr. Thomas M. Orf; PhD – University of Kentucky

Office Location: WSQ 111A

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It is easier to get me via email than by phone, but you are free to leave messages either way. I check my email on a daily basis

Office Hours: 1:00 – 1:30 and 4:15 – 4:45 on Mondays at WSQ 111A. You can get in touch with me at the phone listed above or email.

Class Days/Time: 1:30 – 4:15 Mondays

Classroom: Washington Square Hall 111

Prerequisites: English 1B

Course Format:

Lecture with class participation. Information about the course are found on this greensheet plus on the Canvas system. Grades will be kept on Canvas as well as important information and announcements.

Course Description:

(From the Catalog) Development of skills required for geographical research and writing. Library research, oral presentations, variety of writing assignments dealing with diverse geography problems.

This course will introduce students to qualitative research methods used in geography which will include but are not limited to how to interview; create and interpret surveys and focus groups; work, create and interpret questionnaires, analyze and write reports on qualitative data; and discuss different philosophies that are used in qualitative geographic research.

Learning Outcomes and Course Goals:

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- 1) CLO 1 – Define and use basic geographic tools and techniques

Students will demonstrate this outcome through the seven assignments as well as the project for the semester

- 2) CLO 2 – Demonstrate understanding of, and ability to, analyze and critique human and environmental interaction

Students will demonstrate this outcome by completing the project for the semester.

- 3) CLO 3 – Demonstrate professional communication skills

Students will demonstrate this outcome by participating in class on a daily basis

Required Text

Hay (2016) “Qualitative Research in Human Geography” Ontario, Canada: Oxford University Press. ISBN: 978-0199010905

Other readings will be given periodically through the semester

Course Requirements and Assignments

The following are the requirements for the course

- 1) Attendance and Class participation are mandatory. Readings must be done ahead of time and active participation will count toward the final grade. 20 points
- 2) There will be 7 assignments during the semester (each of equal value). Those assignments are as follows and will be discussed later in this greensheet. Each assignment is worth 10 points.
 - a) Small Research Proposal
 - b) Creation of Interviews
 - c) Oral History
 - d) Creation of Focus Groups
 - e) Questionnaires
 - f) Foucauldian Assignment
 - g) Observations
- 3) Qualitative Research Project – 60 points.
- 4) Final Comprehensive Exam – 50 points

Grades will be distributed in the following manner

A = 180 – 200 points; B = 160-179 points; C = 140 – 159 points; D = 120-139 point; F = 0-119 points.

Consent for Recording of Class and Public Sharing of Instructor Material

Common courtesy and professional behavior dictate that you notify someone when you are recording him/her. You must obtain the instructor's permission to make audio or video recordings in this class. Such permission allows the recordings to be used for your private, study purposes only. The recordings are the intellectual property of the instructor; you have not been given any rights to reproduce or distribute the material.

CLASSROOM PROTOCOL

- 1) Students must turn in all assignments and take the exam on the date assigned. No make ups will be accepted unless ill and verified by a physician or military deployment or jury duty.
- 2) No extra credit will be given during the semester.
- 3) Cheating will not be tolerated and will result in a zero on the assignment or exam. See Plagiarism link found in Canvas.
- 4) If you are having problems with a concept or class procedure, please make every effort to see me before or after class. If these hours are not convenient, please see me so we can arrange a mutually acceptable time
- 5) This course requires working with others, so civility and courteousness is always expected. While we may not agree with others perspectives and opinions, respect is mandatory.

UNIVERSITY POLICIES

“University Policies: Office of Graduate and Undergraduate Programs maintains university-wide policy information relevant to all courses, such as academic integrity, accommodations, etc.” You may find all syllabus related University Policies and resources information listed on GUP's Syllabus Information web page at <http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo>

Class Schedule (Subject to change)

Date	Topic	Assignment Readings	Assigns. Due
August 28	Introduction to Course	None	None
September 4	Holiday – No Class	None	None
September 11	Introduction to Qualitative Research	Chapters 1-2	None
September 18	Different Methodologies	Chapters 3-4	None
September 25	Putting Together Qualitative Research Proposals; Case Studies	Chapters 5-7	None
October 2	Interviewing and Oral History.	Chapters 8-9	Small Research Proposal Due
October 9	Focus Groups and Historical Research	Chapters 10-11	Creation of Interviews Assignment Due
October 16	Questionnaires	Chapter 12	Oral History Assignment Due
October 23	Visual and Foucauldian Research	Chapters 13-14	Focus Groups Assignment Due
October 30	Observations	Chapters 15	Questionnaires Assignment Due
November 6	Participatory Research	Chapters 16-17	Foucauldian Assignment Due
November 13	Organizing Qualitative Data	Chapters 18	Observations Assignment Due
November 20	Writing Qualitative Data	Chapter 19	None
November 27	Communicating Qualitative Research	Chapter 20	None
December 4	Presentations of Projects	None	Research Project Due (some students)
December 11	Presentation of Projects	None	Research Project Due (remaining students)
December 18	Final Exam	Entire Book	12:15 – 2:30

Description of Assignments

All assignments are to be submitted into Canvas as either a word document, PDF, rtf or doc file or to be entered into Canvas directly. I do not accept Pages documents or odt files. If you use an apple computer, you will need to convert the pages file into one of the type listed above.

Individual Assignments 10 points each.

- 1) Small Research Proposal – In 2 pages, I want you to put together a small qualitative research proposal for some type of geographic inquiry. This proposal should include all the sections that are discussed on page 101 of your textbook. I am not looking for you to do the actual research obviously, but to give a proposal. Your grade will be based on the validity to the study as to adding knowledge to geographic inquiry plus also on each of the sections of a research study (page 101) being addressed. In other words, convince me that this is a viable study and I can easily understand and follow what is your proposal from what you wrote.
- 2) Creation of Interviews - On page 187 in your text, please do review exercises question 1. Remember to select only one of the following scenarios.
- 3) Oral History Assignment – On page 200, do review exercise question 1 a) and b)
- 4) Creation of Focus Groups – On page 224 of your textbook, please do review exercises question 1. The assignment must be done from a geographical journal such as the AAG Annals, Professional Geographer, etc. Do NOT use pop culture magazines, newspapers or books.
- 5) Questionnaires Assignment – On page 271, do the Review exercise both Part A and Part B
- 6) Foucauldian Assignment – On page 311, do Review Exercise 2, Sweaty Geographies.
- 7) Observations Assignment – On page 333, do Review Exercise 1.

Research Project – Your project for the semester is to create, implement, research and report your findings for a qualitative geographic research project. This must include the research proposal, type of study you are doing (interviews, questionnaires, etc.) and the reasons for such a study. You will have a section of pertinent literature as well as a section of your results and conclusions. References must be in APA format. The length of this paper is between 7-10 pages. This project is worth 60 points so is a major part of your total grade for the semester. In addition to the paper, which is to be submitted in Canvas, you will give a short 10-minute presentation to the class on either December 4 or December 11 (to be determined later). The paper is due when the presentation is given.