

CCJ 465 QUALITATIVE RESEARCH METHODS

Fall 2003
Tuesdays 5:30-8:10pm.

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Office Hours: 1-2pm M/W and by appointment

Qualitative inquiry cultivates the most useful of all human capacities—the capacity to learn from others. —Halcolm’s Law of Induction

COURSE OBJECTIVES: In this course you will become familiar with the field of qualitative methodology via readings, class discussion and research. The seminar is designed to prepare you to undertake research projects using ethnographic and intensive interview methods as well as to deepen your appreciation of the methodological dimensions of published qualitative work. We will examine practical and epistemological issues in qualitative research in a workshop format, drawing both from written materials and from each of our ongoing research projects. Each of you will carry out a qualitative research project over the course of the semester, including fieldwork (observation and/or interviewing), data analysis, write-up, presentation and possible submission for publication. In addition, you will provide in-depth feedback to other seminar participants on their research projects. Each week we will focus on themes basic to the use of qualitative research methods. We will also discuss discoveries, problems, issues and questions that arise in the course of doing fieldwork.

ATTENDANCE/PARTICIPATION: Regular attendance and participation are expected. Please have assigned readings completed prior to each class meeting and come to class prepared to participate in class discussions.

REQUIRED READINGS:

1. Spradley, *The Ethnographic Interview*
2. Silverman, *Interpreting Qualitative Data*
3. Van Maanen, *Tales of the Field*
4. Wolcott, *Writing Up Qualitative Research*
5. Adler and Adler, *Membership Issues in Field Research*
6. Bourgois, *In Search of Respect*
7. Miller, *One of the Guys*
8. Course packet

RECOMMENDED READINGS:

1. Lofland and Lofland, *Analyzing Social Settings*
2. Warren, *Gender Issues in Field Research*
3. Fielding and Fielding, *Linking Data*

GRADING: Grades will be based on the following:

Research Paper (including fieldnotes/interviews for primary research, and coding/analysis)	65 percent
Two Student Research Material Exchanges	20 percent (10 percent each)
Observation Assignment	15 percent

COURSE OUTLINE

- 8/26 Course Introduction/Human Subjects Overview
- 9/2 Practical and Epistemological Issues
READINGS: Silverman, chapters 1 & 2
Spradley, chapters 1-3
Corbin and Strauss, “Grounded Theory Research”
Brief Statement of Research Project Due
- 9/9 Observational Data Collection and Recording
READINGS: Silverman, chapter 3
Spradley, steps 1-4 from *Participant Observation* (not *The Ethnographic Interview*)
Schatzman and Strauss, “Strategies for Recording”
Miller, sample fieldnotes
- 9/16 NO CLASS
Observation Assignment Due (THREE copies)
- 9/23 Conducting Interviews
READINGS: Silverman, chapters 4 & 6
Spradley, steps 1-4
Feedback on Observation Assignment Due (bring TWO copies)

- 9/30 Epistemological Issues, II
 READINGS: Adler & Adler, *Membership Roles in Field Research*
 Silverman, chapter 8
- 10/7 Epistemological Issues III
 READINGS: Silverman, chapter 9
 Hill Collins, selections from *Black Feminist Thought*
 Lather, “Issues of Validity in Openly Ideological Research”
 Groves and Lynch, “Reconciling Structural and Subjective
 Approaches to the Study of Crime”
First Set of Research Materials Due (bring THREE copies)
- 10/14 Data Analysis
 READINGS: Spradley, steps 5-11
 Miles and Humerman, “Drawing and Verifying Conclusions”
 Wolcott, Part 1
Feedback on Research Materials Due (bring TWO copies)
- 10/21 Ethical Considerations
 READINGS: Emerson, “Introduction to Section IV” in *Contemporary Field
 Research*
 Van Maanan, “The Moral Fix”
 Fine, “Ten Lies of Ethnography”
 Miller, “The Protection of ‘Human Subjects’ in Street Ethnography”
- 10/28 Analyzing Ethnography I
 READINGS: Bourgois, *In Search of Respect*
 Maher and Daly, “Women in the Street-Level Drug Economy”
- 11/4 Analyzing Ethnography II
 READINGS: Miller, *One of the Guys*
 Peterson et al., “The Impact of Sex Composition on Gangs and Gang
 Member Delinquency”
***Second Set of Research Materials Due (including preliminary coding; bring THREE
 copies)***
- 11/11 Writing Strategies I
 READINGS: Spradley, step 12
 Silverman, chapter 10
 Wolcott, Part 2
 Jacobs and Wright, “Stick Up, Street Culture and Offender
 Motivation”
 Miller and White, “Gender and Adolescent Relationship Violence”
Feedback on Research Materials Due (bring TWO copies)
- 11/18 NO CLASS – ASC MEETINGS

11/25 Writing Strategies II
 READINGS: Van Maanen, *Tales of the Field*

12/2 Summary & Open Discussion

12/9 FINAL RESEARCH PROJECT DUE