

Course Syllabus

Course Information

EPPS 6346 Qualitative Research Methods

Section 001

Fall 2015

Professor Contact Information

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PLEASE use regular UTD e-mail instead of eLearning to reach me. Thank you.

Office: GR 2.532

Office Hours: 2:30 – 4 p.m. Mondays, and by appointment

if these times do not fit your schedule

Course Pre-requisites, Co-requisites, and/or Other Restrictions

None

Course Description

This course provides an introduction to qualitative research, its scientific value, and standard qualitative approaches to research: narrative, phenomenology, grounded theory, ethnography, case study, and content analysis. The course also introduces students to Qualitative Data Analysis (QDA) software, specifically NVivo.

Student Learning Objectives/Outcomes

The first course objective is to understand the processes of qualitative research data collection, analysis, and interpretation, and the requirements of the different qualitative approaches, their differences, strengths, and weaknesses. The second is to understand the scientific value of qualitative research. The third is to gain some familiarity with QDA software (NVivo), which students have the option of applying to their research data.

Required Textbooks and Other Readings

Course readings include one book: *Qualitative Inquiry and Research Design: Choosing among Five Approaches*, by John W. Creswell (Sage). The book, *A Guide to Qualitative Field Research*

(2nd ed., Pine Forge Press), by Carol A. Bailey, is recommended. These books are available at the UTD Bookstore and Off Campus Books.

Other readings include chapters from two books on qualitative research placed on Electronic Reserve at the McDermott Library: 1) *The SAGE Handbook of Qualitative Data Analysis*, by Uwe Flick, Editor (Sage Publications), and 2) *Social Research Methods*, by Alan Bryman (Oxford University Press).

Students will do additional reading on one of the main approaches in qualitative research from a scholarly source referenced by Creswell (above). Students also will read four scholarly sources on their research topic for the literature review section of their Written Report (below).

Assignments and Academic Calendar

- Written Report. Students will write a 15-to-20-page Report on their research for a topic they choose and the course instructor approves. Students' research essentially will be a pilot study of their research topic. Students are encouraged to use the assignment to work on their Master Thesis or dissertation.
- Mid-Term Exam. Students will write a Mid-Term exam. The exam will be short-answer and essay. Exam questions will be handed out one week before the exam is due.
- Class Exercises. Students also will work together on and complete a series of Class Exercises. **Students who do not attend the day of a Class Exercise will not get credit for the exercise, unless the student has an excused absence per the attendance policy below.**

The Instructor will provide and go over all instructions. All instructions will be posted on eLearning.

August 24

Orientation to the Course

What Are Qualitative Methods and What Is the Importance of Theory in Qualitative Research?

Read: Creswell, *Qualitative Inquiry and Research Design*:
Chapter 1 "Introduction," and
Chapter 2 "Philosophical Assumptions and Interpretive Frameworks"

Recommended Reading (NOTE: Not on Electronic Reserve):
Bryman, *Social Research Methods*:
Chapter 17 "The Nature of Qualitative Research"

Class Exercise #1

Social Science Research and Public Policy

Read: Electronic Reserve: Wheelan, excerpts from *Introduction to Public Policy*

August 31

Designing a Qualitative Study and Ethical Issues

Read: Creswell, *Qualitative Inquiry and Research Design*:
Chapter 3 “Designing a Qualitative Study”

What are the Main Qualitative Approaches?

Read: Creswell, *Qualitative Inquiry and Research Design*:
Chapter 4 “Five Qualitative Approaches to Inquiry”

Class Exercise #2

NVivo Activity #1: Getting Started in NVivo

Watch YouTube video outside of class:

“Get up and running with NVivo 10 for Windows”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=43xK9YQGvJw>

Note: QSR International provides a number of tutorials that are designed to help you become familiar with NVivo. Go to the link that follows to find the list of tutorials; we will use eight of these tutorials across the semester. Check the links in the syllabus to identify the tutorials we will use. These are assigned in a particular order that will help you become familiar with NVivo going step by step. You might want to view other, related tutorials as we move along.

http://www.qsrinternational.com/support_tutorials.aspx?productid=23&page=1

NVivo Group Lab

Topic for Written Report due

September 7 No Class: University Holiday: Labor Day

September 14

Narrative and Phenomenology Approaches

Read: Creswell, *Qualitative Inquiry and Research Design*:
Chapter 5 “Five Different Qualitative Studies,” pages 111-116 only,
Appendix B: “A Narrative Research Study,” and
Appendix C: “A Phenomenological Study”

Electronic Reserve: Flick, *The SAGE Handbook of Qualitative Data Analysis*:
Chapter 14 “Narrative Analysis: The Constructionist Approach” by Esine, Fathi, and Squire, and
Chapter 13 “Phenomenology as a Research Method” by
Thomas S. Eberle

Class Exercise #3

NVivo Activity #2: Creating and Understanding Node Structures

Watch YouTube video outside of class:

“Organize material into themes with coding in NVivo 9”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O9eTvP3E5TE>

NVivo Group Lab

Certificate for UTD Institutional Review Board (IRB) web training due

The link for the web training follows.

<http://www.utdallas.edu/research/compliance/irb/training.html>

September 21

Grounded Theory, Ethnography, and Case Study Approaches

Read: Creswell, *Qualitative Inquiry and Research Design*:

Chapter 5 “Five Different Qualitative Studies,” pages 116-128 only,

Appendix D: “A Grounded Theory Study,”

Appendix E: “An Ethnography,” and

Appendix F: “A Case Study”

Electronic Reserve: Flick, *The SAGE Handbook of Qualitative Data Analysis*:

Chapter 11 “Grounded Theory and Theoretical Coding”

by Kathy Charmaz and Thornberg,

Chapter 3 “Analytic Inspiration in Ethnographic

Fieldwork” by James A. Holstein, and Gubrium

Chapter 7 “Qualitative Comparative Practices:

Dimensions, Cases and Strategies” by Palmberger and

Andre Gingrich

Class Exercise #4

NVivo Activity #3: Transcription Management

Watch YouTube video outside of class:

“Work with interviews, articles and other documents in NVivo 9”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HDMxcHpMSOs>

NVivo Group Lab

September 28

Content Analysis

Read: Electronic Reserve: Flick, *The SAGE Handbook of Qualitative Data Analysis*:

Chapter 12 “Qualitative Content Analysis” by Margrit

Schreier, and

Bryman, *Social Research Methods*:

Chapter 13 “Content Analysis”

Recommended Reading (NOTE: Not on Electronic Reserve):

Hardy A., Melissa and Alan Bryman. 2009. *Handbook of Data Analysis*. Sage Publications: chapter on “Content Analysis.”

Walter, Maggie. 2010. *Social Research Methods*. Oxford University Press: chapter on “Content Analysis.”

Flick, *The SAGE Handbook of Qualitative Data Analysis*: Chapter 22 “Conversations and Conversation Analysis” by Merran Toerien.

Bryman, *Social Research Methods*: Chapter 22 “Language in Qualitative Research” (Conversation Analysis and Discourse Analysis).

Melissa A., Hardy and Bryman, Alan. 2009. *Handbook of Data Analysis*. Sage Publications: chapters on “Conversation Analysis” and “Discourse Analysis.”

Walter, Maggie. 2010. *Social Research Methods*. Oxford University Press: chapter on “Discourse Analysis.”

Framing and Focusing Qualitative Research

Read: Creswell, *Qualitative Inquiry and Research Design*: Chapter 6 “Introducing and Focusing the Study”

Discussion Groups

Mid-Term Exam questions handed out

Draft IRB Expedited/Minimal Review Application for Instructor’s review due

October 5

QDA Software

Read: Electronic Reserve: Flick, *The SAGE Handbook of Qualitative Data Analysis*: Chapter 19 “Using Software in Qualitative Analysis” by Graham R. Gibbs, and

Bryman, *Social Research Methods*: Chapter 25 “Computer-assisted Qualitative Data Analysis: Using NVivo”

NVivo Activity #4 Analyzing Transcription and Surveys

Watch YouTube video outside of class:

“Qualitative analysis of interview data: A step-by-step guide”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DRL4PF2u9XA>

NVivo Group Lab

Mid-Term Exam due

October 12

Data Collection

Read: Creswell, *Qualitative Inquiry and Research Design*:
Chapter 7 “Data Collection”

Electronic Reserve: Bryman, *Social Research Methods*:
Chapter 20 “Interviewing in Qualitative Research”

Flick, *The SAGE Handbook of Qualitative Data Analysis*:
Chapter 20 “Analysing Interviews” by Kathryn
Roulston

Recommended Reading (NOTE: Not on Electronic Reserve):
Flick, *The SAGE Handbook of Qualitative Data Analysis*:
Chapter 21 “Analysing Focus Groups” by Roslyn S. Barbour
Bryman, *Social Research Methods*:
Chapter 21 “Focus Groups,” and
Chapter 28 “E-research: Internet Research Methods”

Discussion Groups

October 19

Qualitative Data Analysis

Read: Creswell, *Qualitative Inquiry and Research Design*:
Chapter 8 “Data Analysis and Representation”

Electronic Reserve: Bryman, *Social Research Methods*:
Chapter 24 “Qualitative Data Analysis”

Discussion Groups

NVivo Activity #5 Creating Data Queries

Watch YouTube video outside of class:

“Explore your coding in NVivo 10 for Windows”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M4B4bi7R5SI>

NVivo Group Lab

October 26

Writing Qualitative Research

Read: Creswell, *Qualitative Inquiry and Research Design*:
Chapter 9 “Writing a Qualitative Study”

Discussion Groups

November 2

Validation and Evaluation

Read: Creswell, *Qualitative Inquiry and Research Design*:
Chapter 10 “Standards of Validation and Evaluation”

NVivo Activity #6 Attributes and Classifications

Watch YouTube Video outside of class:

“Importing and applying classifications and attributes in NVivo 9 |”

<https://youtu.be/X88-6ZeP5dw>

NVivo Group Lab

November 9

Alternative Approaches to a Qualitative Study

Read: Creswell, *Qualitative Inquiry and Research Design*:
Chapter 11, “Turning the Story and Conclusion”

Discussion Groups

November 16

Workshop on Students’ Research and Written Report

Discussion Groups

NVivo Activity #7 Understanding Data Relationships

Watch YouTube video outside of class:

“Setting up and running a matrix coding query in NVivo 10 for Windows”

https://youtu.be/WXORhLt_it0

NVivo Group Lab

November 23: No Class: Fall Break / Thanksgiving Holiday

November 30

The Scientific Value of Qualitative Research

Read: Electronic Reserve: Ragin, Nagel, and White, “Workshop on Scientific Foundations of Qualitative Research,” published by the National Science Foundation (2004):

I. “General Guidance for Developing Qualitative Research Projects,” pp. 9-16

II. “Recommendations for Designing, Evaluating, and Strengthening Qualitative Research in the Social Sciences,” pp. 17-19

Session 1: “Defining Qualitative Research”:

“Qualitative Versus Quantitative: What Might This Distinction Mean?” by
David Collier, pp. 71-76

Session 2: “Qualitative Research and Theory”:
“Thoughts on Alternative Pathways to Theoretical Development: Theory
Generation, Extension, and Refinement” by David Snow, pp. 133-136, and
“A Note on Science and Qualitative Research” by Sudhir Venkatesh, pp. 141-144

NVivo Activity #8 Visualization and Modeling Procedures

Watch YouTube video outside of class:

“Visualize your project in NVivo 9 | NVivo Tutorial Video .”

<https://youtu.be/3UFgzDdKXbw>

NVivo Group Lab

December 7

The Scientific Value of Qualitative Research Continued

Read: Electronic Reserve: Ragin, Nagel, and White, “Workshop on Scientific
Foundations of Qualitative Research,” published by the National Science
Foundation:

Session 3: “Designing Qualitative Research”:

“Improving Qualitative Research Proposal Evaluation” by Vilna Bashi, pp. 39-
43, and

“Designing Qualitative Research Projects” by Susan Silbey, pp. 121-125

Session 5: “Combining Qualitative and Quantitative Methods”:

“Combining Qualitative and Quantitative Research” by Charles Ragin, pp. 109-
115, and

“Complementary Articulation: Matching Qualitative Data and Quantitative
Methods” by Robert Smith, pp. 127-132

Open Class Discussion of Qualitative Research

December 14

Written Report due

**Note: Students will turn in their Written Reports in the Instructor’s office (GR 2.532) at 4
p.m. during the scheduled final exam period.**

Grading Policy

The percentage distribution for each of the graded assignments and attendance (total equals
100%) for the course grade follows.

35%: Written Report

25%: Mid-Term Exam

30%: Class Exercises

10%: attendance

The grading scale follows.

A+ = 97-100
A = 94-96
A- = 90-93
B+ = 87-89
B = 84-86
B- = 80-83
C+ = 77-79
C = 74-76
C- = 70-73
D+ = 67-69
D = 64-66
D- = 60-63
F = 59 and below

Course and Instructor Policies

Attendance is required. Students automatically will be excused from one class; no documentation is required if students miss only one class. Students who miss more than one class will be excused if they have a legitimate reason (for example, being out sick) and provide documentation.

The intent of this policy is to help students perform well on assignments by keeping up with lectures and discussion.

Students must submit hard copies of all assignments on the due dates. Electronic submissions will not be accepted, unless the student has a legitimate reason for being absent from class to turn in assignments. Late papers will not be accepted without the prior approval of the instructor, with the exception of emergencies.

This requirement is intended to help students turn in their work on time and to promote fairness among students who submit their work on time.

University Policies

To view university policies on Student Conduct, Grade Appeals, Disability Services, Religious Holy Days, and others, please go to the link that follows.

<http://go.utdallas.edu/syllabus-policies>
