

SOCI 7/8325
Seminar in Qualitative Research Methods
Zandria F. Robinson, Instructor

Office Phone: 678-3778
Office Location: Clement 309D
Office Hours: Tuesdays, 12:30 – 2:30 PM

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Qualitative research methodology combines scientific logical inference with an interpretive, reflexive process to understand the deep structures of the world around us. This course offers a survey of the various ways of knowing and deconstructing those deep structures, including a treatment of methodological epistemologies, with an emphasis on observational and ethnographic interviewing methods. Our goal is to consider every element of the qualitative research process from design to analysis, focusing on your individual projects and next career steps.

COURSE MATERIALS

Duneier, *Sidewalk*

Charmaz, *Constructing Grounded Theory*

Weiss, *Learning from Strangers*

Emerson, *Contemporary Field Research*

Fine, *Kitchens*

Pascoe, *Dude, You're A Fag*

Various journal articles and book chapters, some available on [UM Drive](#)

*King, Keohane, and Verba, *Designing Social Inquiry*

*Emerson, Fretz, and Shaw, *Writing Ethnographic Fieldnotes*

*Van Maanen, *Tales from the Field*

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Research Memos. The research memo is intended to socialize you into writing and thinking about the research process each week. Use the research memo as a space to respond to the course readings and discussions, talk about your own research concerns, or to submit a set of participant observation notes or other research product for me to review. I will read and respond to your memos each week. Memos are due at the beginning of class in weeks II through XI for a total of **ten** (10) research memos.

Research Blog. Making your research accessible to the public is both essential to your career and your responsibility as a scholar. For this course, you will develop a research blog on whatever platform(s) best suit(s) your work (Tumblr, WordPress, Blogspot, Flickr, Instagram). This blog should translate your esoteric and/or largely boring research into something glorious for mass public consumption. This blog should be so awesome that your parent or guardian actively learns what an RSS feed is and subscribes to your blog's RSS feed. You can reflect on the research process, write about new developments vis-à-vis your research area, review key books or articles, etc. You are to launch this blog by Week III and provide me with the url. I will check your blog throughout the semester and make suggestions as necessary, but I fully expect you to curate your blog and provide suggestions on each other's blogs. Updates should be made each week. For inspiration (and a great deal of consternation), see Philip Cohen's [Family Inequality](#) blog and Joe Feagin's [Racism Review](#). Although not necessary for this course, see [Celeste Watkins-Hayes](#)' and space scientist [Jim Wild's](#) websites for ideas about how to integrate your personal brand with your academic research brand.

*Recommended

SOCI 7/8325
Seminar in Qualitative Research Methods
Zandria F. Robinson, Instructor

Final Paper. Methodology articles are perhaps the least understood, most loathed, but also the most widely cited articles in sociology. Thus, for your final paper, you will write a methodology article. Ideally, this article will be an elaborated version of the methods section of your thesis or whatever project you are working on in this class. The methodology article considers the research process as well as the ethical, epistemological, and theoretical concerns tied to the deployment of that method. For inspiration, become friends with key qualitative research methods journals (*Qualitative Research, Ethnography, Journal of Contemporary Ethnography, Journal of Ethnographic and Qualitative Research*) and locate key methodology articles in generalist journals in sociology and other social science fields.

COURSE CALENDAR

Week I, Aug 27th: Course Introductions and Overview

Sidewalk

Weber, “‘Objectivity’ in Social Science”

Emerson, Preface and Part I

*Van Maanen, Chapter 1

Week II, Sep 5th: Deconstructing the Science of Qualitative Research

Mahoney, “After KKV: The New Methodology of Qualitative Research”

Straus, “Notes on the Nature and Development of General Theories”

Bloor, “Techniques of Evaluation in Qualitative Research: A Critical Commentary” (Emerson)

Schwandt, “Three Epistemological Stances for Qualitative Inquiry”

**Designing Social Inquiry*

Week III, Sep 12th: Wading in Our Research Waters

Palmer, “Caught Up in the Cult Wars: Confessions of a Canadian Researcher”

Adler & Adler, “The Cyber Worlds of Self-Injurers: Deviant Communities, Relationships, and Selves”

Moore, “Lipstick or Timberlands: Meanings of Gender Presentation in Black Lesbian Communities”

Corte and Edwards, “White Power Music and the Mobilization of Racist Social Movements”

Gamson, “Sexualities, Queer Theory, and Qualitative Research”

Week IV, Sep 19th: Learning (from) Ourselves

Van Maanen, Chapter 2

Ellis, Adams, & Bochner, “Autoethnography: An Overview”

Ellis & Bochner, “Autoethnography, Personal Narrative, and Reflexivity: The Researcher As Subject”

Week V, Sep 26th: From the Ground Up

Constructing Grounded Theory

Emerson, Part III

Week VI, Oct 3: Learning (from) Others

Learning from Strangers

*Van Maanen, Chapters 3-5

*Recommended

SOCI 7/8325
Seminar in Qualitative Research Methods
Zandria F. Robinson, Instructor

Week VII, Oct 10th: More Than One Way to Skin a Cat: Methods Overview I

Burawoy, "The Extended Case Method"

Hunter, "Methodological Appendix," from *Black Citymakers*

Small, "How to Conduct a Mixed Methods Study"

Altheide, "Reflections: Ethnographic Content Analysis"

Silverman, "Analyzing Talk and Text"

Week VIII, Oct 17th: More Than One Way to Skin a Cat: Methods Overview II

Morgan, "Focus Groups"

Franzosi, "Narrative Analysis: Or Why (And How) Sociologists Should Be Interested in Narrative"

Gubrium & Holstein, "Narrative Practice and the Coherence of Personal Stories"

Greene, "Understanding Social Programs Through Evaluation"

*Kamberelis & Dimitriadis, "Focus Groups: Contingent Articulations of Pedagogy, Politics, & Inquiry"

*Emerson, Fretz, and Shaw, Chapters 1 - 3

PROPOSAL FOR METHODOLOGY MANUSCRIPT DUE

Week IX, Oct 24th: Deep Structures in Everyday Life

Kitchens

Dude, You're A Fag

Geertz, "Deep Play" and "Thick Description" (Emerson)

Jackson, "Class(ed) Acts: Or, Class Is As Class Does" from *Harlemworld*

Week X, 99 Researcher Problems (And IRB Is One)

Special Issue of *Social Problems* (Volume 27, Issue 3, February 1980): Ethical Problems in Fieldwork

May, "Doing Ethics"

American Journal of Sociology Review Symposium, Volume 107, Issue 6, May 2002

Emerson, Part II

The Belmont Report

Christians, "Ethics and Politics in Qualitative Research"

Cannella & Lincoln, "Ethics, Research Regulations, and Critical Social Science"

Week XI, November 7th: Process, Management & Analysis

Atlas.ti Resources

Ryan & Bernard, "Data Management and Analysis Methods"

Weitzman, "Software and Qualitative Research"

*Emerson, Fretz, and Shaw, Chapters 4 - 7

Week XII, November 14th: Course Wrap-Up

Van Maanen, Chapter 6 and Epilogue

DRAFT METHODOLOGY MANUSCRIPT DUE

Week XIII, November 21st: Individual Meetings

FINAL METHODOLOGY MANUSCRIPTS ARE DUE TUESDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2013

*Recommended