

Qualitative Research Methods

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COURSE DISCRIPTION:

This course is designed to educate and prepare students with the knowledge and skills needed to conduct qualitative research. The course takes a sequenced approach to teach basic research skills – from selecting a research topic, finding research questions, collecting data, data analysis, and present the findings. Guest speakers will be invited to share their studies and newly developed research strategies.

TIME: Every Tuesday, 1:30 PM to 4:15PM

ROOM: Room 204, NO.4 Teaching Building

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

1. To understand the logics of research design and procedures of conducting research
2. To grasp the basic skills and strategies of qualitative research methods.
3. To know how to raise research questions and select appropriate research methods in accordance to the questions at hands.
4. How to collect, analyze, and interpret data.

Course Format

Classes will utilize a variety of formats: lecture, video, large and small group discussions, and student presentations.

Teaching Assistant: YANG, Li, yangli_612@126.com

Course Evaluation

Each student is expected to attend and participate in class – 20%.

Group Assignments – 40%

All the students will be divided into three to four groups, and each group will conduct one research based on the topic you choose. Throughout the class, the study group will learn to:

- Choose your own topics.
- Raise your research questions
- Design your interview guideline
- At least conduct interviews or focus groups
- Data analysis

- Present in a group and share the findings with the class

Final Exam – 40%

Attendance Policy:

We strongly encourage you to attend all of the class. Any student who needs to miss a class should inform the instructors in advance when possible. If you miss one class, we will deduct two points from the 20%. According to the Graduate School of Beijing Normal University, if you miss four or more classes you will receive no credit for this course.

Academic Honesty:

We take academic honesty very seriously. Any observed violation of standards of academic conduct will be reported to the university authority.

Plagiarism:

This includes representing someone else’s words, ideas, data, or original research as one’s own, and in general failing to footnote or otherwise acknowledge the source of such work. One has the responsibility of avoiding plagiarism by taking adequate notes on reference materials, including material taken off the internet or other electronic sources, used in the preparation of reports, papers, and other coursework.

REFERENCE BOOKS

- Sharlene Nagy Hesse- Biber & Patricia Leavy. 2006. *The Practice of Qualitative Research*. Thousand Oaks, California: SAGE
- Steven J. Taylor. & Robert Bogdon. 1998. *Introduction to Qualitative Research Methods: A Guidebook and Resource*. John Wiley & Sons, Inc.
- Denzin N. K. & Lincoln Y. S. (Eds.).2005 .*The Sage Handbook of qualitative research*. Third Edition. Thousand Oaks, California: SAGE
- John W. Creswell. 2007. *Qualitative Inquiry and Research Design: Choosing among Five Approaches*. Thousand Oaks, California: SAGE
- John W. Creswell, *Research Design: Quantitative, Qualitative and Mixed Method*

Class One: Feb. 28, 2017: Introduction to Qualitative Research Methods

- Introduction to the course
- Why study qualitative research methods
- The debates about quantitative and qualitative research

Readings

- Talking and thinking about qualitative research, *Qualitative Inquiry*, Vol14 (2)
- Alan Bryman, The Debate about quantitative and qualitative research: A question of method or epistemology? *The British Journal of Sociology*, Vol. 35, No. 1. (Mar.,

1984), pp. 75-92.

Class Two: March 7, 2017: Research Process: Literature Review and Research Questions

- How to the conduct Literature Review
- How to raise research questions.

Readings

- Chapter 2, The practice of qualitative research

Class Three: March 14, 2017: Participant Observation

- Barbara Tedlock (2007) The observation of participation and the emergence of public ethnography, *The Sage Handbook of Qualitative Research*

Recommended Readings:

- Geertz, *Deep Play: Notes on the Balinese Cockfight*
- Danny L. Jorgensen, Participatory Observation.

Class Four: March 21, 2017: Guest Speaker on Ethnography

- Wen Hua, *Buying Beauty: Cosmetic Surgery in China* (to be confirmed)

Class Five: March 28, 2017: Interview 1: Develop an Interview Guide

- Douglas Ezzy, Qualitative Interviewing as an Embodied Emotional Performance, *Qualitative Inquiry* 2010; 16; 163

Recommended Readings:

- Robert. S. Weiss, 1995, Learning from strangers: The Art and Method of qualitative Interview studies, Simon & Schuster Inc.

Class Six: April 4, 2017, NO CLASS, HOLIDAY

Class Seven: April 11, 2017, Interview 2: Skills

- Douglas Ezzy, Qualitative Interviewing as an Embodied Emotional Performance, *Qualitative Inquiry* 2010; 16; 163

Recommended Readings:

- Robert. S. Weiss, 1995, Learning from strangers: The Art and Method of qualitative Interview studies, Simon & Schuster Inc.

Class Eight: April 18, 2017, Focus Group

- George Kamberelis & Greg Dimitriadis, Focus Groups: Strategic Articulations of Pedagogy, Politics, and Inquiry, *The Sage Handbook of Qualitative Research*

Class Nine: April 25, 2017, Art-based Research

Guest Speaker: He Xiaopei, Pink Space Center

Class Ten: May 2, 2017: Data Analysis and Write up

- Laurel Richardson & Elizabeth Adam St. Pierre (2007), Writing: A method of Inquiry, *The Sage Handbook of Qualitative Research*

Recommended Readings,

- Matthew B. Miles & A. Michael Huberman. *Data Analysis*
- Johnny Saldaña, *Dramatizing Data: A Primer*, *Qualitative Inquiry* 2003; 9; 218

Class Eleven: May 9, 2017, Case Studies, and Participatory Action Research – Group Presentation

- Robert E. Stake (2007), Qualitative Case Studies, *The Sage Handbook of Qualitative Research*
- Stephen Kemmis & Robin McTaggart (2007), Participatory Action Research: Communicative Action and the Public Sphere, *The Sage Handbook of Qualitative Research*

Recommended Readings:

- Stephen A. Small, Action-Oriented Research: Models and Methods, *Journal of Marriage and the Family*, Vol. 57, No.4 (1995), 941-955.
- Bent Flyvbjerg, Five Misunderstandings About Case-Study Research, *Qualitative Inquiry* 2006; 12; 219

Class Eighteen: May 16, 2017: Final Exam