

INCM 9103: Qualitative Methods

Friday 11am – 1:45 pm

House 59, conference room 117

Fall 2022

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Office hours: Fridays 2-3 pm or by appt.

COURSE DESCRIPTION (from catalog):

This course will focus on qualitative techniques including case study, participant observation, discourse analysis, in-depth interview, and sampling techniques. Students will apply these techniques using statistical software packages.

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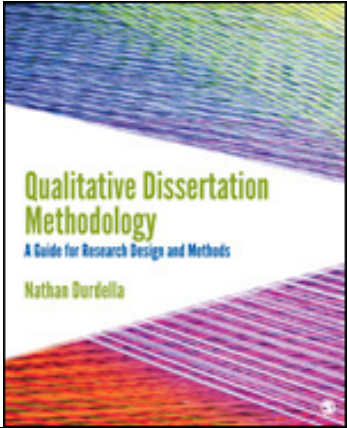
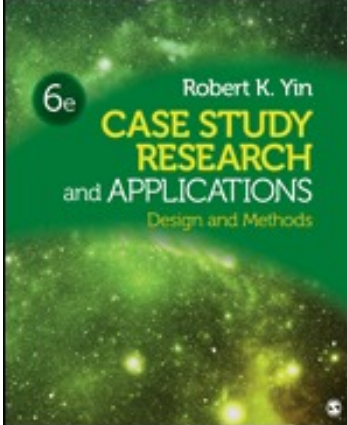
This course provides the knowledge and practical skills necessary to conduct and analyze qualitative research. This is a graduate seminar that aims to give an understanding of the fundamental principles of qualitative research design and a broad overview of the qualitative methods employed in the social sciences. Qualitative methods are defined here as methods employing a small number of cases, largely avoiding the use of statistical tests and encouraging a detailed knowledge of cases. The course begins with a review of the principles of research design and the components of a social science journal article. It presents several research design models and highlights their advantages and disadvantages. Data collection methods covered include observation, interviewing, archival research, and more. The types of analysis include content analysis, thematic analysis, coding, and process tracing. Finally, the course covers ethical considerations in designing qualitative research. By the completion of this course, you will be able to:

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES:

1. Apply research design, critical thinking, hypothesis testing, and problem solving based on qualitative methods.
2. Master core concepts, elements, and techniques of qualitative methods, methodology, and research.
3. Gather, store, and analyze qualitative data.

4. Uphold ethical processes and procedures in qualitative data gathering, analysis, presentation, writing, and representation.
5. Compare and contrast major methodological perspectives.
6. Apply major qualitative methods used in conflict management research to real world contexts and contemporary social issues.
7. Apply key qualitative data collection methods and techniques to a semester-long research project.
8. Recognize when and how to use different types of qualitative research methodology including sampling, data collection, and analysis.

TEXTS (required):

	<p>1. Durdella, Nathan. 2018. <u>Qualitative Dissertation Methodology: A Guide to Research Design and Methods</u>. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publ. ISBN: 9781506345161</p>
	<p>2. Yin, Robert. 2017. <u>Case Study Research and Applications: Design and Methods</u>. 6th edition. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publ. ISBN: 9781506336169</p>

		<p>3. King, Nigel, Horrocks, Christine, Brooks, Joanna. 2019. <u>Interviews in Qualitative Research</u>. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publ. ISBN: 9781446274972</p>
		<p>4. Saldana, Johnny. 2021. <u>The Coding Manual for Qualitative Researchers</u>. 4th edition. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publ. 1529731747</p>

Additional recommended readings:

Denzin, Norman, Lincoln, Yvonne. 2017. The Sage Handbook of Qualitative Research. 5th edition.

Bryman, Alan. 2016. Social Research Methods. 5th edition. Oxford University Press

Maxwell, Joseph. Qualitative Research Design: An Interactive Approach (Applied Social Research Methods). Sage Publ., Third Edition edition (June 8, 2012). ISBN-10: 1412981190. ISBN-13: 978-1412981194

Kvale, Steiner. Doing Interviews. Sage Publ. 2008. ISBN-10: 0761949771 ISBN-13: 978-0761949770

Barbour, Rosaline. Doing Focus Groups. Sage Publ. 2008. ISBN-10: 076194978X ISBN-13: 978-0761949787

Emerson, Robert, Fretz, Rachel, Shaw, Linda. 2011. Writing Ethnographic Fieldnotes. 2nd edition. University of Chicago Press

Grading:

1. Participation = 10% (no more than 1 unexcused absence/ semester)
2. Leading Class Discussion = 20%
3. IRB Proposal = 10%
4. Interview Guide and Transcript/ Other Qualitative Method = 10%
5. Class Presentation = 10%
6. Peer-reviews = 10%
7. Pilot Research Study: Introduction, Literature Review, Theoretical Framework, Research Design and Data Analysis = 30%

Important Information for Students

Course Delivery

KSU may shift the method of course delivery at any time during the semester in compliance with University System of Georgia health and safety guidelines. In this case, alternate teaching modalities that may be adopted include hyflex, hybrid, synchronous online, or asynchronous online instruction.

Face Coverings

Based on guidance from the University System of Georgia (USG), masks are encouraged based on individual preference and assessment of personal risk.

Student Resources: KSU is committed to student success, and we have a number of different student resources to help you achieve your goals. From technological support to tutoring and advising services to counseling and other wellness resources, there are many departments and individuals here at KSU who are ready and wanting to help. For more information about KSU Student Resources, please go to <https://cia.kennesaw.edu/instructional-resources/syllabus-resources.php>

Institutional Policies: For official policies concerning academic integrity, disruption of campus life, web accessibility, reasonable accommodations, withdrawal from classes, copyright law, protecting student's rights (FERPA), sexual misconduct, and other important policies, please use the link below for Federal, BOR and KSU Student Policies:

<https://cia.kennesaw.edu/instructional-resources/syllabus-policy.php>

Student Success in Graduate Courses. The quality of your writing is a key factor of success in this class and the doctoral program. Please note that the expectations for professional writing are considerably higher in a doctoral program. I strongly encourage you to take proactive steps to improve your writing by soliciting feedback from your peers and faculty as well as scheduling appointments with the Graduate Writing Program at the KSU Writing Center:

<https://writingcenter.kennesaw.edu/gwp/index.php>

TENTATIVE WEEKLY PLAN: *Additional articles may be uploaded in D2L

Week 1 (19th of August): Introduction

Qualitative Dissertation Methodology: Ch. 1 & 2

Students will come prepared to discuss their research topic of choice for this class (ideally, their dissertation research). Please discuss the following questions in class:

1. Why is this relevant/important to study?
2. How and why will qualitative methods help examine this question? What piece of this larger project can you work on within a semester? What kind of qualitative data you may collect this semester for a future publication or as a part of your dissertation?

Week 2 (26th of August): Formulating Research Questions. DL: Priscilla & Emelia

Qualitative Dissertation Methodology: Ch. 3 & 4

Assignment Due:

1. A 2-3 pages introduction that includes: a compelling story to start with, a statement of the problem including brief historical data on the conflict, clearly formulated primary and secondary research questions and significance of project (expected contribution to the practice and knowledge on conflict management)
2. Please request a Cayuse account in order to submit a research project for approval:
<https://research.kennesaw.edu/irb/cayuse-human-subjects.php>

Week 3 (2nd of September): Research Participants and Instrument of Investigation. DL: Nilofer & Richa

Qualitative Dissertation Methodology: Ch. 5 & 6

Assignment Due: Students should write a 3-4 pages Methodology section covering the following sub-sections: 1. Why qualitative methods are the best fit for your research question? 2. Strengths and weaknesses of qualitative methods 3. Data collection procedures: which qualitative methods will be used and why? Where, when and for how long will interviews be conducted, during which time of the year? 4. Research participants: who is eligible to be a participant in your study; how are you going to recruit them; how are you going to gain access to participants; are you going to use informants to have access to the fieldwork site?; what type of sample you will use and how big is your intended sample? 5. Validity and reliability in qualitative research: how do you know you are not going to be wrong in your analysis? what strategies you will adopt to make sure that your study is valid and reliable (authentic and trustworthy)? 6. Limitations of

your study: what are the typical limitations of qualitative research? What are the unique limitations of your own study? **Tip: Please make sure to cite Qualitative Methods books and articles abundantly in this section; please cite sources in addition to the required readings for this class!**

Week 4 (9th of September): Ethics in Qualitative Research I. Research Day

CITI Training for Social and Behavioral Investigators (3-4 hrs to complete):

<http://www.kennesaw.edu/irb/citi.html>

Assignment Due: please email CITI certificates showing your name and your score

Week 5 (16th of September): Ethics in Qualitative Research II. DL: Taib & Helen

Qualitative Dissertation Methodology: Ch. 8 & 9

Interviews in Qualitative Research: Ethics in Qualitative Interviewing, Reflexivity and Qualitative Interviewing

Assignments Due: 1. Please write and be prepared to discuss the Ethics section of your paper: What are the ethical challenges of your study? Are there any conflict of interest involved in your study? Is participation in your study putting your human subjects at risk? Are you dealing with vulnerable populations and if yes, what measures are you taking to protect your subjects? How are you going to handle highly sensitive and potentially (re)traumatizing topics? Are you going to provide any incentives for your participants? What are the benefits for your participants? What are you going to give back to the community in exchange for sharing their stories? Please add a stand-alone section on Reflexivity discussing: the dynamics of being an insider/outsider for this study; how does your own identity/ position affect how you will collect and analyze data?

2. Please bring your interview guides to class, so we can work together on improving them. Tip: your interview guides should include broader questions (how, why and what), several demographic questions at the end and avoid Yes/ No questions. The interview guide should include a minimum 10-15 content questions and 4-5 demographic questions.
3. We will work on submitting your IRB proposals in Cayuse.

Week 6 (23th of September): Interviews I: Designing an Interview Study. DL: Thomas & Teni-ola

Interviews in Qualitative Research: Introduction, Philosophical Assumptions, Designing an Interview Study, Carrying Out Qualitative Interviews

Assignment Due: Start to negotiate access to fieldwork sites and schedule your interviews

Week 7 (30th of September): Interviews II: Types of Interviews. DL: Osebahien & Odion

Interviews in Qualitative Research: Group Interviews, Remote Interviewing, Visual Methods, Interviews in Phenomenological Research, Interviews and Discourse Analysis, Interviews and Narrative

Assignment Due: 1. Please be prepared to discuss the methods and findings of the qualitative INCM dissertation of your choice in class. (Visit Digital Commons/ Dissertations at the KSU Library)

2. Conduct Interview 1, save the signed consent form for your records and submit the word-by-word transcription, including a half page paragraph with fieldnotes from the interview.

Week 8 (7th of October): Qualitative Data Analysis I: Introduction. DL: Stephanie & Derick

Qualitative Dissertation Methodology: Ch. 7

Interviews in Qualitative Research: An Introduction to Interview Data Analysis

Coding Manual: Ch. 1-2

Assignment Due:

1. A 7-10 pages Literature review. Students:
 - Have provided a brief history of the country and conflict of study
 - have read and summarized a minimum of 20 peer-reviewed sources
 - have identified 2-3 existing theoretical approaches that will inform your research
 - have laid out some causal mechanisms and hypotheses for your research project
 - have prepared the conceptual mapping of your project

Week 9 (14th of October): Qualitative Data Analysis II: Primary Coding. DL: Priscilla, Emelia & Nilofer

Coding Manual: Ch. 3

NVIVO lab: Intro and Data Entry (please bring your laptops with NVIVO software to class)

Assignment Due:

1. Please start to draft your Codebook and the primary coding of your data.
2. Conduct Interview 2 and word-by-word transcription, including a half page paragraph with fieldnotes from the interview. Please save the signed consent form for your records.

Week 10 (21st of October): Qualitative Data Analysis III: Secondary Coding. DL: Richa, Taib & Helen

Coding Manual: Ch. 4-6

Assignment Due: 1. Please chose a qualitative research article related to your topic and discuss their research design, data analysis strategies, findings and methodological lessons that you have learned from this article.

2. Conduct Interview 3 and word-by-word transcription, including a half page paragraph with fieldnotes from the interview. Please save the signed consent form for your records.

Week 11 (28th of October): Case Study I: Introduction and Case Study Selection. DL: Thomas, Teni-ola & Osebhahiemien

Case Study Research and Applications: Ch. 1 & 2

NVIVO lab: Coding and Visual Representations ((please bring your laptops with NVIVO software to class)

Assignment Due: Conduct Interview 4 and word-by-word transcription, including a half page paragraph with fieldnotes from the interview. Please save the signed consent form for your records.

Week 12 (4th of November): Case Study II: Preparation and Data Collection.

Case Study Research and Applications: Ch. 3 & 4

Assignment Due: 1. Discuss the methodological strategies, challenges, and findings of the qualitative INCM dissertation of your choice in class.

2. Conduct Interview 5 and word-by-word transcription, including a half page paragraph with fieldnotes from the interview. Please save the signed consent form for your records.

Week 13 (11th of November): Case Study III: Data Analysis and Reporting. DL: Odion, Stephanie & Derrick

Case Study Research and Applications: Ch. 5 & 6

Assignment Due: Write a 1-2 pages justification of your Case Study selection to be added to your Methods section that includes: 1. Background information on your case study. 2. Why is your case study exemplary for your research project? 3. What is unique and what can be generalized from this case study?

Week 14 (18th of November): Writing Up and Presenting Results/ How To Conduct a Peer Review/ Student Presentations I.

Qualitative Dissertation Methodology: Ch. 10

Assignment Due: 1. First draft of paper due for peer review (emailed to peer reviewer and instructor)

November 21-27. No School. Thanksgiving Break!!

Week 15 (2nd of December): Student Presentations II and Peer Reviews Due (please email to your peer and instructor). Final Papers Due: Monday December 5th at midnight!! Final Grades due on Dec. 15.