

Qualitative Methods Syllabus

Spring 2018

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Course schedule

February, 10, 24; March 10, 14; April 7, 21

Course description and goals

The course is designed to provide students with an understanding of the nature of the qualitative research and to offer a basic and advanced training in using qualitative research techniques entailing: participant observation, interviewing and content analysis. The course aims to prepare students for planning, designing and conducting their own research for their MA and PhD thesis.

Structure

The course is organized into three main sections: (1) planning and designing qualitative research, (2) using basic qualitative research techniques in practice, and (3) data analysis and reporting.

Course Requirements

Attendance and participation (keeping up with readings, general class participation, presentation, working in sub-groups)

The main requirement is to elaborate a **qualitative research proposal** entailing:

- a research problem
- a justification of taking up the research problem
- a description of the research questions and objectives
- a description of the research methods and techniques
- a sample selection
- a research schedule and description of data-gathering activities
- a description of the methods of data analysis
- a description of the ethical considerations for empirical research

Course Textbook:

Flick, U. (2009). *An Introduction to Qualitative Research*, London: Sage.

Other Course Readings

Babbie, E. (2011). *Introduction to social research*, Belmont: Wadsworth/Cengage Learning.

Denzin, Norman et al. (2005). *The SAGE Handbook of Qualitative Research*. Thousand Oaks: SAGE.

Emerson R.M., Fretz R. and Shaw L.L (2011). *Writing Ethnographic Fieldnotes*, The University of Chicago Press, London.

Flick, U. (2009). *Designing Qualitative Research*, London: Sage.

Miles M.B; Huberman A.M (1984). *Qualitative Data Analysis*. A Sourcebook of New Methods, London: Sage.

Silverman, D. (2003). *Interpreting qualitative data: methods for analysing talk, text and interaction*, London: Sage.

Silverman, D. (2004). *Qualitative research: theory, method and practice*, London: Sage.

Silverman, D. (2004). *Doing qualitative research: a practical handbook*, London: Sage.

Course outline

Class 1. February, 10th

Part One

- Introduction
- The nature of qualitative research
- Basic qualitative research techniques
- Ethical issues in qualitative research
- Designing qualitative research

Texts:

Flick U. (2007). *Designing Qualitative Research*, chapter 1: What is Qualitative Research, pp. 1-15.

Flick, U. (2009). *An Introduction to Qualitative Research*, chapter 2: Qualitative Research: Why and How to Do It, pp. 11-22 and chapter 3: Qualitative and Quantitative Research pp. 23-35.

Silverman, D. (2004). *Doing qualitative research: a practical handbook*, chapter 1: What is Qualitative Research? pp. 1-13.

Babbie, E. (2011). *Introduction to social research*, chapter 15: Ethical Issues in Social Research, pp. 477-491.

Class 2. February, 24th

- Designing qualitative research
- Research questions
- Writing a research proposal

Texts:

Flick U. (2007). *Designing Qualitative Research*, chapter 2: From an idea to a research question, pp. 25-35; chapter 2: Sampling, selecting and access, pp. 25-35; chapter 4: Qualitative research designs, pp. 36-50.

Flick, U. (2009). *An Introduction to Qualitative Research*, part 2: Research Design, pp. 87-146.

Miles M.B; Huberman A.M (1984) *Qualitative Data Analysis*, chapter 2: Focusing and Bounding the Collection of Data, pp. 27-48.

Class 3. March, 10th

- Field research
- Participant Observation

Texts:

Flick, U. (2009). *An Introduction to Qualitative Research*, chapter 17: Observation and Ethnography, pp. 221-238.

Babbie E. (2011). *Introduction to Social Research* Chapter 9: Field research, pp. 285-326.

Emerson R.M.; Fretz R.i. and Shaw L.L (2011). *Writing Ethnographic Fieldnotes*, chapter 2: In the Field: Participating, Observing, and Jotting Notes, pp. 21-43.

Atkinson P. and Hammersley M.. (1994). Ethnography and Participant Observation, in: N. Denzin and Y. Lincoln (Eds). *Handbook of Qualitative Research*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications.

Class 4. March, 14th

- Types of interviews
- Purposive sampling
- Individual In-Depth Interview (IDI): writing an interview guide

Flick, U. (2009). *An Introduction to Qualitative Research*, part 3: Verbal Data, pp. 147-218.

Fontana A. and Frey J.H., (1994), *Interviewing. The Art of Science* in: Denzin, Norman et al. *The SAGE Handbook of Qualitative Research*, pp. 361-376.

Class 5. April, 7th

- Individual In-Depth Interview (IDI): conducting interviews
- Focus Group Interview (FGI)

Flick, U. (2009). *An Introduction to Qualitative Research*, part 3: Verbal Data, pp. 147-218.

Fontana A. and Frey J.H. (1994), *Interviewing. The Art of Science* in: Denzin, Norman et al. *The SAGE Handbook of Qualitative Research*, pp. 361-376.

Class 6. April, 21st

Part One

- Mediated data (documents, visual data, online data)
- Qualitative content analysis

Texts:

Flick, U. (2009). *An Introduction to Qualitative Research*, part 5: Observation and mediated data, pp. 239-289, part 6: From Text to Theory, pp. 291-380.

Emerson R.M.; Fretz R. and Shaw L.L (2011) *Writing Ethnographic Fieldnotes*, chapter 6: Processing Fieldnotes: Coding and Memoing, pp. 171-199.

Huberman M.A. and Miles M.B., (1994). Data Management and Analysis Methods, in: Denzin, Norman et al. *The SAGE Handbook of Qualitative Research*, pp. 428-444.

Part Two

- Grounding Qualitative Research
- Writing and Presenting Findings

Flick, U. (2009). *An Introduction to Qualitative Research*, part 7: Grounding and Writing Qualitative Research, pp. 381-424.