



**HIED 698:01W ADVANCED QUALITATIVE RESEARCH
COURSE SYLLABUS: FALL 2016**

Instructor: Dr. Jon Travis, Professor
Office Location: Young Education North 102
Office Hours: Please e-mail for appointment
Office Phone: 903-886-5609
Office Fax: 903-886-5507
University E-mail Address: jon.travis@tamuc.edu

COURSE INFORMATION

Materials—Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings:

Textbook:

Marshall, C., & Rossman, G. B. (2015). *Designing qualitative research* (6th ed.). Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.

Supplementary Readings:

Creswell, J. W. (2007). *Qualitative inquiry and research design: Choosing among five approaches* (2nd ed.). Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.

Denzin, N. K., & Lincoln, Y. S. (Eds.). (2005). *The SAGE handbook of qualitative research* (3rd ed.). Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.

LeCompte, M. D., Millroy, W. L., & Preissle, J. (1992). *The handbook of qualitative research in education*. San Diego, CA: Academic Press.

Course Description: An intensive analysis of the theory and practice of qualitative research in Higher Education, including a review of primary methods such as grounded theory, case study, and phenomenology and an examination of additional methods such as connoisseurship, ethnomethodology, and symbolic interactionism. Emphasis will be placed upon practice in research design, multiple methods of data collection, and exhaustive data analysis.

Student Learning Outcomes:

Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to

1. Demonstrate an understanding of qualitative study design. Specifically, the student will be able to
 - 1.1 Briefly describe a prospectus for a working study.
 - 1.2 Identify at least three data gathering techniques for the proposed study.
 - 1.3 Design an interview protocol for the study.
2. Demonstrate an understanding of naturalistic fieldwork. Specifically, the student will be able to
 - 2.1 Conduct a sample interview for the working study.
 - 2.2 Transcribe the recorded interview.
 - 2.3 Carry out a brief hermeneutical study of selected text.
3. Demonstrate basic skills in qualitative data analysis and reporting. Specifically, the student will be able to

- 3.1 Code and sort an example interview from the literature.
 - 3.2 Code and sort the transcribed interview for the working study.
 - 3.3 Code and sort the hermeneutical data collected in 2.3.
 - 3.3 Interpret the data from the coding and sorting exercises.
 - 3.4 Present the findings and conclusions from the three analysis exercises.
4. Refine acquired skills for qualitative research design and demonstrate an understanding of three additional methods. Specifically, the student will be able to
 - 3.1 Identify and describe case study.
 - 3.2 Identify and describe phenomenology.
 - 3.3 Identify and describe grounded theory.
 - 3.4 Identify and describe ethnography.
 - 3.5 Identify and describe biographical research.
 - 3.6 Identify and describe program evaluation.
 - 3.7 Identify and describe hermeneutics.
 - 3.8 Identify and describe critical social science.
 - 3.9 Identify and describe symbolic interactionism.
 - 3.10 Identify and describe ethnomethodology.
 - 3.11 Identify and describe connoisseurship.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Instructional Methods/Activities/Assessments

Careful review of online lectures and assigned readings in the course text as well as additional outside reading. This reading is necessary to serve as a basis for class discussion and assignments. (Please note—many authors in the research literature have provided different interpretations that may actually be contradictory. If these contradictions prove to be obstacles, please use class discussion for clarification.)

Participation in class discussion.

The design of a working study to be used throughout the semester (**maximum** five pages).

This design should include a purpose statement, a brief description of the planned procedures, a more thorough discussion of data gathering methods to be used, and a brief interview protocol for additional data gathering practice.

Two brief article reviews (**maximum** 2 pages for each) of two qualitative studies, one that incorporated interviewing as a primary data collection method, and the other that used hermeneutical, textual analysis. These reviews should include the studies' purposes and the features that offer enlightenment on the specific method (i.e., interviews and hermeneutics). Journals and collections of studies are recommended sources.

Two data gathering exercises: conduct and transcribe a sample interview for the working study and complete a brief hermeneutical study of selected text (two pages). (Note, IRB limitations must be followed—see Table 1—signature and submission of IRB Limitations Agreement required by Week 2.) Transcriptions from both exercises must be submitted in Week 15 (see Course Outline).

Three coding and sorting exercises: an example interview (on any subject) from the literature (minimum three pages), the transcribed interview for the working study, and the hermeneutical study of selected text. Coded and sorted data must be submitted in Week 15 (see Course Outline).

Three brief summaries (**maximum** two pages each) of the findings and interpretations completed from the three coding and sorting exercises (must be submitted in Week 15).

PLEASE NOTE—LATE SUBMISSIONS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED. All papers must be **thoroughly edited before** submission and must conform to the APA Style Manual for writing style accuracy.

Grading

The following criteria will be utilized for student evaluation:

- Participation in class discussion (40 pts.)
 - Working study prospectus (50 pts.)
 - Qualitative study reviews (50 pts.—25 pts. ea.)
 - Data gathering exercises (60 pts.)
 - Coding and sorting exercises (90 pts.)
 - Presentations of findings and interpretations of data (90 pts.)
- (Total possible--380 pts.)

The minimum number of points required for each grade is as follows:

A—350

B—320

(Please remember, no grade below a B may be applied to a doctoral degree.)

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

This course will be using the eCollege platform for course delivery and for all student submissions and discussion. All direct communication with the class and the professor will be conducted in the appropriate week's discussion session.

Access to the library's available databases via the student's MyLeo account will be required, unless the student prefers to use the library's holdings in person.

ACCESS AND NAVIGATION

To access the eCollege platform, students should type the following address into their internet browser: <https://leo.tamuc.edu/login.aspx>.

Students will need their CWID and password to log in to the course. Students who do not know their CWID or have forgotten their password should contact Technology Services at 903.468.6000 or helpdesk@tamuc.edu.

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment (Texas A&M University-Commerce Procedure A12.08—see Student Guidebook, Policies and Procedures, Conduct).

All graduate students are expected to maintain high standards of academic integrity and honesty. Academic dishonesty, as defined in Texas A&M University-Commerce Procedure 13.99.99.R0.10, will incur a penalty commensurate with the severity of the infraction, from failure on the applicable assignment to failure in the course. A report of each infraction also is submitted to the Graduate School for further action.

A&M-Commerce will comply in the classroom, and in online courses, with all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and related retaliation on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information or veteran status. Further, an environment free from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained.

Students with Disabilities:

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal antidiscrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this

legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact the **Office of Student Disability Resources and Services, Texas A&M University-Commerce, Gee Library, Room 132, Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835, Fax (903) 468-8148 (StudentDisabilityServices@tamuc.edu)**

Table 1

IRB Limitations

-
1. No one under the age of 18 may be interviewed.
 2. The participant shall not be hospitalized for any medical or mental condition.
 3. A copy of the prior informed consent form must be signed by the participant prior to the interview and submitted in class after completing the interview. (Note, no coercion shall be used to secure agreement to participate.) Failure to obtain prior informed consent will result in appropriate discipline (see information below on Procedure A12.08 regarding academic integrity).
 4. No identifying or contact information may be collected from the participant.
 5. Any recording made of the interview and the computer file of the subsequent transcription shall be destroyed upon completion of the assignment.
 6. The participant will be identified in the class assignment only with a pseudonym.
 7. The participant shall not be contacted after completion of the assignment.
 8. The data collected in the interview shall not be used for any purpose other than the class assignment.

Your agreement to these limitations must be signed, dated, and submitted no later than the second class period.

COURSE OUTLINE:

(Note: *Subject to change*)

| Topic | Text chapter |
|---|-------------------|
| Overview of Advanced Qualitative Research; Assignments | |
| Review of eight qualitative methods (case study, phenomenology, grounded theory, ethnography, biographical research, program evaluation, hermeneutics, and critical social science) | 2, [Ref. list] |
| Symbolic Interactionism | [Ref. list] |
| Ethnomethodology | [Ref. list] |
| Connoisseurship | [Ref. list] |
| [Discussion of working studies—Papers due] | 4, 5, 6 |
| [Article review due—interviewing] | [Ref. list] |
| [Article review due—hermeneutics] | [Ref. list] |
| [Discussion of interview and hermeneutics data gathering] | 8, 9, [Ref. list] |
| [Field work and analysis assignments] | |
| [Summary papers, transcription notes, sorted data, and consent forms due] | 10 |

Campus Concealed Carry

Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in Texas A&M University-Commerce buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun. Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and A&M-Commerce Rule 34.06.02.R1, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations. For a list of locations, please refer to (<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf>) and/or consult your event organizer). Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all A&M-Commerce campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.