



Qualitative Methods SOC 577  
ONLINE  
SUMMER I 2022

## INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

**Instructor:** Dr. Julia Meszaros, Assistant Professor  
**Office Location:** Ferguson Social Science Room SS230  
**Office Hours:** ZOOM BY APPOINTMENT  
**Office Fax:** 903-886-5330  
**University Email Address:** Julia.Meszaros@tamuc.edu  
**Preferred Form of Communication:** Email  
**Communication Response Time:** 24-48 Hours; Monday to Friday 9-5

## COURSE INFORMATION

### Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings

Textbook: *The How to of Qualitative Research* by Aurini, Heath and Howells

1. Kimberly Kay Hoang. 2014. *Dealing in Desire: Asian Ascendancy, Western Decline and the Hidden Currencies of Global Sex Work*. UC Press. ISBN: 9780520275577
2. Ranita Ray. 2017. *The Making of a Teenage Service Class: Poverty and Mobility in an American City*. UC Press. ISBN: 9780520965614
3. Georgiann Davis. 2015. *Contesting Intersex: The Dubious Diagnosis*. NYU Press.
4. Brandon Andrew Robinson. *Coming out to the Streets: LGBTQ Youth Experiencing Homelessness* ISBN: 9780520299276

### Course Description

This course provides an introduction to the use of qualitative methods such as ethnographic research, focus groups, historical/comparative research, content analysis and grounded theory. In addition to addressing philosophical foundations, this course provides hands-on practice in the common strategies to access and collect data (e.g. observation, interviewing, archival data); methods of organizing and representing different forms/genres of data for analysis (e.g. transcripts, electronic texts, images, hand-written notes); and strategies to analyze and represent your analyses for academic audiences. Through cross-cultural study students will be able to view themselves as engaged citizens within an interconnected and diverse world

### Student Learning Outcomes and Assessment

1. Students will be able to identify major theories regarding qualitative methods. This learning objective will be assessed in weekly assignments, the research paper, and the analyses of other qualitative studies.

2. Students will be able to implement a variety of qualitative methods and strategies of analyzing data. This learning object will be assessed in weekly assignments, final presentation and the research paper.
3. Students will be able to demonstrate knowledge of the interconnectedness of global dynamics. This learning objective will be assessed in the summaries of ethnographies and comparative paper.

## **COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

To be successful in the course you must be able to use D2L, and using Microsoft Word and PowerPoint.

### **Instructional Methods**

This course will be delivered entirely online. You must have access to D2L in order to complete the requirements for this course.

### **Student Responsibilities or Tips for Success in the Course**

You must log into D2L multiple times a week in order to be successful in this course. All course communications and assignments will be completed through D2L. If you have questions regarding access to D2L or technical requirements, information to reach out to Campus IT is provided below.

### **Interaction with Instructor Statement**

I prefer communication via email. I do not have an office phone and am much more likely to respond to email. I will respond to email within 24 to 48 hours, between normal business hours of 8am to 5pm. Please be sure that when you email me, you use a proper greeting (Dr. Meszaros Professor Meszaros) an email body, and an appropriate closing. You should never send an email with just an attachment and no email body. Be sure you have an appropriate and informative subject line and include the **name and section of the course** you are enrolled in.

## **GRADING**

Final grades in this course will be based on the following scale:

A = 90%-100% 900-1000 points

**B = 80%-89% 800-899**

**C = 70%-79% 700-799**

**D = 60%-69% 600-699**

**F = 59% or Below 599**

### **Assessments:**

**Qualitative Research Assignments (600 points)**

*Final Paper: (200 points)*

You will be working on a short research paper by using a variety of qualitative methods technique. You will choose the topic the first week. The final paper will be the culmination of your own data gathering and analysis.

#### *Various Weekly Assignments (4 @100 points)*

Research Question, Peer Reviews, coding, etc

Each week you will do a small piece of data collection. You will be handing in on D2L each week your hypothesis and research question, some observations you make and basic coding. At the end of the semester you will take these individual assignments and write a short final paper thinking about the themes that emerge and the pros and cons regarding the methods you utilized.

#### **Reviews of Ethnographies (4 @ 100 points: 400 points)**

You will read four ethnographic books and one ethnographic article that utilize a variety of qualitative methods to collect their data. You must write a review of the book in terms of their methods..what worked? What did not work in their data collection methods? How was their analysis conducted? These will be posted on D2L in weekly discussion boards. Please make sure to interact with at least two of your peers. If you purchased the books, you will read the introduction and methods section (can be a separate appendix) and one chapter to see how authors utilize the data ethnographers collect. For those who have not purchased the books yet, I will upload an article focused on methods by each author that you can follow the same format.

Grade Policies: For incompletes, you must speak with me ahead of time and have completed most of the course work. I do not round grades, and I do not change grades after they have been submitted. Grades are available on D2L so you can track your up to date progress in the course.

## **COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT**

[Brightspace Support](#)

### **Need Help?**

[Student Support](#)

If you have any questions or are having difficulties with the course material, please contact your Instructor.

[Technical Support](#)

If you are having technical difficulty with any part of Brightspace, please contact Brightspace Technical Support at 1-877-325-7778 or click on the **Live Chat** or click on the words “click here” to submit an issue via email.



[System Maintenance](#)

Please note that on the 4th Sunday of each month there will be System Maintenance which means the system will not be available 12 pm-6 am CST.

### Interaction with Instructor Statement

I prefer communication via email. I rarely answer my office phone and am much more likely to respond to email. I will respond to email within 24 to 48 hours, between normal business hours of 8am to 5pm. Please be sure that when you email me, you use a proper greeting (Dr. Meszaros Professor Meszaros) an email body, and an appropriate closing. You should never send an email with just an attachment and no email body. Be sure you have an appropriate and informative subject line and include the name and section of the course you are enrolled in. See the attached page for some email expectations that would serve you well in all future communication with any professors or potential employers.

## **COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES**

### Syllabus Change Policy

The syllabus is a guide. Circumstances and events, such as student progress, may make it necessary for the instructor to modify the syllabus during the semester. Any changes made to the syllabus will be announced in advance.

## **University Specific Procedures**

### Student Conduct

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. The Code of Student Conduct is described in detail in the [Student Guidebook](#).

<http://www.tamuc.edu/Admissions/oneStopShop/undergraduateAdmissions/studentGuidebook.aspx>

Students should also consult the Rules of Netiquette for more information regarding how to interact with students in an online forum: [Netiquette](#)

<http://www.albion.com/netiquette/corerules.html>

### TAMUC Attendance

For more information about the attendance policy please visit the [Attendance](#) webpage and [Procedure 13.99.99.R0.01](#).

<http://www.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/generalInformation/attendance.aspx>

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/academic/13.99.99.R0.01.pdf>

### Academic Integrity

Students at Texas A&M University-Commerce are expected to maintain high standards of integrity and honesty in all of their scholastic work. For more details and the definition of academic dishonesty see the following procedures:

[Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.03](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/undergraduates/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateAcademicDishonesty.pdf>

[Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.10](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/graduate/13.99.99.R0.10GraduateStudentAcademicDishonesty.pdf>

## **ADA Statement**

### Students with Disabilities

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination 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:

*Office of Student Disability Resources and Services*

Texas A&M University-Commerce

Gee Library- Room 162

Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835

Fax (903) 468-8148

Email: [studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu](mailto:studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu)

Website: [Office of Student Disability Resources and Services](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/campusLife/campusServices/studentDisabilityResourcesAndServices/>

### Nondiscrimination Notice

Texas A&M University-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.

## **Campus Concealed Carry Statement**

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 the [Carrying Concealed Handguns On Campus](#) document and/or consult your event organizer.

Web url:

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf>

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.

## **COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR**

### **Week One (6/6-6/10)**

Read in the book Chapter One Introduction: From Why to How?

Chapter 2 How to Conceptualize Research

Assignment: Create a Research Question and Hypothesis. Outline the importance and background of your research question and hypotheses. Identify what relationship you expect to find and what variables you are examining.

Read Ranita Ray's introduction and methods section of the ethnography *The Making of a Teenage Service Class: Poverty and Mobility in an American City*. Please provide 250 word summary of her methods and explain to me what worked/did not in terms of her qualitative methods approaches.

### **Week Two (6/13-6/17)**

Chapter 3 How to Design a Qualitative Project

Chapter Four: How to Do Interviews

Assignment: Do an observation of a place related to your research. Sit and observe for 30 minutes and take detailed field notes during your time in observation. Who is there? How do they interact with one another? What demographics characterize the people you see? What are the social norms happening in that space? Submit your notes on D2L

Read Kimberly Kay Hoang's ethnography *Dealing in Desire: Asian Ascendancy, Western Decline and the Hidden Currencies of Global Sex Work*. Please provide 250 word summary of her methods and explain to me what worked/did not in terms of her qualitative methods approaches in a discussion board post. (The book has a methods appendix that you should focus on).

### **Week Three (6/20-6/24)**

Chapter Five Development of Anthropology

Chapter Six: How to Conduct Field Research

Assignment: Conduct a short content analysis of an online source (social media sites, reddit, youtube, etc.) regarding your topic. Apply a systematic way of defining what variables you will examine in your content analysis and a systematic and random way of choosing your sample (for example choosing the most engaged with posts on reddit). What trends do you notice about how your topic is discussed online?

Read the introduction and methods section of Georgian Davis's ethnography *Contesting Intersex: the Dubious Diagnosis*. Please provide 250 word summary of her methods in a discussion board post and explain to me what worked/did not in terms of her qualitative methods approaches.

**Week Four (6/27-7/1)**

Chapter Seven: Unobtrusive Research

Chapter Eight: Data Analysis and Coding

Read Brandon Andrew Robinson's ethnography, *Coming out to the Streets: LGBTQ Youth Experiencing Homelessness*. Please provide 250 word summary of her methods and explain to me what worked/did not in terms of her qualitative methods approaches in a discussion board post. (The book has a methods appendix that you should focus on).

Assignment: Code your data from the observations and online research you completed. What trends do you see emerging? What are the main ideas you see emerging in the data you collected from your various methodological endeavors? What are the main themes and how do they relate to sociological theories?

**Week Five (7/5-7/7)**

Chapter Nine: How to Write Up Qualitative Research

Assignment: Write a short research write up of 5 pages double spaced. Utilize every piece of the project that you have already completed throughout the semester thus far to discuss your research question, methods, and findings. Discuss your analysis of each method and its strengths and weaknesses