



Qualitative Methods SOC 577
ONLINE
Fall 2023

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Dr. Julia Meszaros, Assistant Professor

Office Location: BA 102D

Office Hours: IN PERSON: IN PERSON: M 3-4:30PM, W 1-2PM; ONLINE TUE 2:30-5PM
and 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

Other Books (available on amazon used)

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

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 Project (500 points)

Final Paper: (300 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 and I encourage students to look ahead in terms of scheduling an interview and focus groups ahead of time. The final paper will be the culmination of your own data gathering and analysis.

Various Weekly Assignments (10 assignments @ 20 points: 200 points)

Research Question, Peer Reviews, Etc.

Reviews of Ethnographies (5 @ 40 points: 200 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?

Comparative Paper (1 @ 200 points)

You will be responsible for writing a two page, double spaced paper that compares the ethnographic methods utilized in the five different ethnographies you read. You will need to discuss concepts you learned about in critiquing the various methods used. This paper will be due 12/5 by 11:59 PM.

Final Presentation (1 @ 100 points)

You will send a five minute video of a final presentation that discusses your research project, methods and data analysis. You must also submit a powerpoint for the video.

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.

Extra Credit: You are allowed to do three extra credit assignments. You must attend an on campus event and write a paragraph that relates the events to class materials. They are worth 5 points each. You are limited to three events per semester. They will be due the last week of class.

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

LMS

All course sections offered by Texas A&M University-Commerce have a corresponding course shell in the myLeo Online Learning Management System (LMS). Below are technical requirements

LMS Requirements:

<https://community.brightspace.com/s/article/Brightspace-Platform-Requirements>

LMS Browser Support:

https://documentation.brightspace.com/EN/brightspace/requirements/all/browser_support.htm

YouSeeU Virtual Classroom Requirements:

<https://support.youseeu.com/hc/en-us/articles/115007031107-Basic-System-Requirements>

ACCESS AND NAVIGATION

You will need your campus-wide ID (CWID) and password to log into the course. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, contact the Center for IT Excellence (CITE) at 903.468.6000 or helpdesk@tamuc.edu.

Note: Personal computer and internet connection problems do not excuse the requirement to complete all course work in a timely and satisfactory manner. Each student needs to have a backup method to deal with these inevitable problems. These methods might include the availability of a backup PC at home or work, the temporary use of a computer at a friend's home, the local library, office service companies, Starbucks, a TAMUC campus open computer lab, etc.

COMMUNICATION AND 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. Other support options can be found here:

<https://community.brightspace.com/support/s/contactsupport>

Interaction with Instructor Statement

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Course Specific 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:

<https://www.britannica.com/topic/netiquette>

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](#)

[Undergraduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/documents/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateStudentAcademicDishonestyForm.pdf>

[Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/academics/graduateschool/faculty/GraduateStudentAcademicDishonestyFormold.pdf>

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

Students with Disabilities-- ADA Statement

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

Velma K. Waters Library Rm 162

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

Fax (903) 468-8148

Email: 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.

A&M-Commerce Supports Students' Mental Health

The Counseling Center at A&M-Commerce, located in the Halladay Building, Room 203, offers counseling services, educational programming, and connection to community resources for students. Students have 24/7 access to the Counseling Center's crisis assessment services by calling 903-886-5145. For more information regarding Counseling Center events and confidential services, please visit www.tamuc.edu/counsel

COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

Week One (8/28-9/1):

Chapter One Introduction: From Why to How?

Assignment: Choose research topic and give background to why this topic is important.

Week Two (9/4-9/8):

Chapter 2 How to Conceptualize Research

Assignment: Create a concept map for your research topic

Week Three (9/11-9/15):

Chapter 3 How to Design a Qualitative Project

Assignment: Create a Research Question and Hypothesis. Outline what methods you would use to answer your research question.

Week Four (9/18-9/22):

Chapter Four: How to Do Interviews

Assignment: Conduct an interview related to your research. Make sure to record it and then transcribe the interview and submit the transcription on D2L.

Week Five (9/25-9/29)

Chapter Five Development of Anthropology

Assignment: Conduct a focus group with at least two participants in addition to yourself regarding your research topic. Provide the notes that you took during the focus group.

Week Six (10/2-10/6):

Chapter Six: How to Conduct Field Research

Assignment: Conduct participant observation of an event, place, space, etc. related to your research topic, even if very loosely related. Take copious amounts of field notes and submit them.

Week Seven (10/9-10/13):

Chapter Seven: Unobtrusive Research

Assignment: Conduct online research regarding your topic. Visit various websites and list them in your write up. What trends do you notice about how your topic is discussed online?

Week Eight (10/16-10/20):

Chapter Eight: Data Analysis and Coding

Assignment: Code your interview, focus group, field research, and online research. What trends do you see emerging? What are the main ideas you see emerging in the data you collected from your various methodological endeavors?

Week Nine (10/23-10/28):

Chapter Nine: How to Write Up Qualitative Research

Assignment: Write first draft your research write up. Utilize every piece of the project that you have already completed throughout the semester thus far to discuss your research question, methods, and findings. You will be sharing your first draft with one peer.

Week Ten (10/30-11/3):

Read Kimberly Kay Hoang's ethnography *Dealing in Desire: Asian Ascendancy, Western Decline and the Hidden Currencies of Global Sex Work*. Please provide 500 word summary of her methods and explain to me what worked/did not in terms of her qualitative methods approaches.

Assignment: Peer Review of one peer's work. Please provide guidance to each other on how to improve grammar, writing style, etc. Do not simply say this is good.

Week Eleven (11/6-11/10):

Read Ranita Ray's ethnography *The Making of a Teenage Service Class: Poverty and Mobility in an American City*. Please provide 500 word summary of her methods and explain to me what worked/did not in terms of her qualitative methods approaches.

Assignment: Work on incorporating my comments and peer's comments into your second draft.

Week Twelve (11/13-11/17):

Read Georgian Davis's ethnography *Contesting Intersex: the Dubious Diagnosis*. Please provide 500 word summary of her methods and explain to me what worked/did not in terms of her qualitative methods approaches.

Final Draft of Research Write Up due 11/11 at 11:59 PM on D2L.

Week Thirteen (11/20-11/24):

Read Brandon Andrew Robinson's *Out to the Streets*, UC Press. Please provide 500 word summary of their methods and explain to me what worked/did not in terms of their qualitative methods approaches.

NO CLASS THANKSGIVING (WED & FRI)

Week Fourteen (11/27-12/1)

Read the article PDF by Baker Rogers, "Drag as a Resource: Trans* and non-binary individuals in the Southeastern U.S. Please provide 250 word summary of their methods.

Week Fifteen (12/4-12/8):

Assignment: Short Comparison Paper due 12/8 by 11:59 PM. How do the ethnographer's methods compare to each other? What strengths and weaknesses did people's different approaches have? Why were qualitative methods the best to answer their research questions? How do their methodological approaches inspire your future endeavors?

FINALS WEEK

Final Powerpoint and Video Presentations of Findings for Research project DUE 12/13