HIED 696 Qualitative Research Methods
COURSE SYLLABUS SPRING 2026

<mark>*Syllabus is subject to change at any time, most updated copy available online*</mark>

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Leslie Ekpe, PhD
Office Hours: Please email me to set up an appointment.
University Email Address: Leslie.Ekpe@etamu.edu
Preferred Form of Communication: Email
Communication Response Time: A response to any email or message will occur within (2) business days, (excluding weekends and holidays).

COURSE INFORMATION

Materials—Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings:

Creswell, J. W., & Poth, C. N. (2017). Qualitative inquiry and research design: Choosing among five approaches (4th ed.). Thousand Oaks, CA: SAGE Publications.

Course Description:
An introduction to qualitative research methods for graduate students, including ethnography, case study, phenomenology, grounded theory, biographical research, program assessment, hermeneutics, and critical social science. By the end of the class, students will have an understanding of naturalistic fieldwork and will develop skills in formulating appropriate qualitative research questions. Additionally, students will be able to collect qualitative data using five data-gathering techniques, including observation, interviewing, document collection, participation, and artifact collection. Students will learn the basic steps of qualitative data analysis and reporting.

Prerequisites: Completion of HIED 695.

Student Learning Outcomes:

Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to
1. Demonstrate an understanding of the systematic process of research. Specifically, the student will be able to:
    a. Describe educational research as a systematic process of constructive inquiry.
    b. Discuss the fundamental procedures of conducting systematic inquiry.
2. Demonstrate an understanding of the foundations of interpretive inquiry in education. Specifically, the student will be able to:
    a. Describe qualitative educational research.
    b. Identify, compare, and contrast qualitative designs.
    c. Describe the value of qualitative methodology in educational research.
3. Develop in-depth skills for interpretive research design. Specifically, the student will be able to:
    a. Identify and demonstrate narrative research.
    b. Identify and demonstrate phenomenological research.
    c. Identify and demonstrate grounded theory research.
    d. Identify and demonstrate ethnographic research.
    e. Identify and demonstrate case study research.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Instructional Methods/Activities/Assessments

Class Participation (40 points): Learning is a process of co-constructing knowledge within a discourse community; as a result, a portion of your grade is tied to your participation in various class activities.

Discussion Board Posts (10 posts x 2 points/each = 20 points)
PLUS/DELTA Form (10 points)
Peer Review Activity (10 points)

Research Project (60 points – total): This course requires students to complete a research project divided into smaller sections. This assignment provides an opportunity to apply the skills learned in this course in a project that can be used for funding, a conference, or your dissertation. In the project, you will make the case for your study, citing relevant literature, theoretical constructs for the work you propose, a methodological plan of action, a discussion of positionality, and a discussion of trustworthiness concerns with the study. You will also conduct an original research pilot study and report findings, create a discussion of those findings, and provide implications for research, practice, and policy.

Part 1: Introduction, Literature Review, & Theoretical Framework (20 points)

Part 2: Methodology & Trustworthiness (<mark>20 points</mark>)
Part 3: Final Research Project Write-Up & Virtual Final Research Presentation
(including findings, discussion, and implications) (<mark>20 points</mark>)

Helpful tips for your research project:
- Additional information and resources for completing your project can be found online in the "Shared Resources - Updated Periodically" folder under the "Content" tab in the online learning management system (LMS) MyLeo/D2L.
- If you would like, you can also work with a classmate on this project. In many cases, research projects are done in collaboration, rather than isolation, and this can be a valuable learning experience in terms of design, collection, and creation of findings and implications. Be sure to check out the introductions on the Discussion Board to find classmates who you might want to collaborate with! If you decide to work in collaboration, please let me know as soon as possible.
- **20 pages MAX (not including tables, references, appendices, etc.).**

Helpful tips for the class overall:
- All of the class participation activities must be fully complete to receive full credits (e.g., answer all of the parts, meet length requirements, and deadlines)
- On the weeks that you have an assignment due (e.g., research project components, peer-review activity), you will **not** have a discussion board post due, with the exception of the Week 7 (PLUS DELTA Form) and 15 (Discussion Board Final Project).
- **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.
- Assignments are due by Sunday of the week they're assigned.

GRADING

Grading Items	Assignment	Points
Class Participation		
	Discussion Board Posts	20 points
	PLUS/DELTA Form	10 points
	Peer Review Activity	10 points
Research Project	Part 1: Introduction, Literature Review, & Theoretical Framework	20 points
	Part 2: Methodology & Trustworthiness	20 points
	Part 3: Final Research Project Write-Up & Virtual Final Research Presentation (including findings, discussion, and implications)	20 points

	TOTAL	100 points

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

A = 90-100pts.
B = 80-89pts.
C = 70-79pts.
D = 60-69pts.
F = 59pts or Below

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

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS LMS

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

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 Teaching Assistant **FIRST**. If additional support is needed, 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

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: 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 East Texas A&M University 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
East Texas A&M University
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

East Texas A&M University will comply in the classroom, and in online courses, with all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and related retaliation based on 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 East Texas A&M University 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 ETAM 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 ETAMU campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903886-5868 or 9-1-1.

East Texas A&M University Supports Students' Mental Health

The Counseling Center at ETAMU, 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**

Mental Health and Well-Being

The university aims to provide students with essential knowledge and tools to understand and support mental health. As part of our commitment to your well-being, we offer access to Telus Health, a service available 24/7/365 via chat, phone, or webinar. Scan the QR code to download the app and explore the resources available to you for guidance and support whenever you need it.

AI use policy [Draft 2, May 25, 2023]

East Texas A&M University acknowledges that there are legitimate uses of Artificial Intelligence, Chatbots, or other software that has the capacity to generate text, or suggest replacements for text beyond individual words, as determined by the instructor of the course.

Any use of such software must be documented. Any undocumented use of such software constitutes an instance of academic dishonesty (plagiarism).

Individual instructors may disallow the use of such software for particular assignments or for the entire course. Students should be aware of such requirements and follow their

instructors' guidelines. If no instructions are provided, the student should assume that the use of such software is disallowed.

In any case, students are fully responsible for the content of any assignment they submit, regardless of whether they used an AI in any way. This specifically includes cases in which the AI plagiarized another text or misrepresented sources.

13.99.99.R0.03 Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty
13.99.99.R0.10 Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty

Department or Accrediting Agency Required Content

COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

<mark>Available on D2L.</mark>