



EDCI 690.01B Qualitative Inquiry in Global Education

COURSE SYLLABUS: SUMMER I, 2026

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Laura Slay, Ph.D., Associate Professor

Office Location: Online / Face-to-Face in Costa Rica

Office Hours: By appointment or online

Office Phone: 903.886.5537

University Email Address: Laura.Slay@etamu.edu

Preferred Form of Communication: email

Communication Response Time: 24 - 48 hours (Monday - Friday)

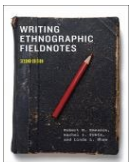
COURSE INFORMATION

Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings

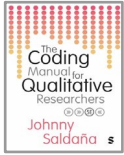
Textbook(s) Required

Required course materials are available free of charge from the Waters Library. Links or direct access to these resources will be posted in D2L.

Optional Texts and/or Materials



Emerson, R. M., Fretz, R. I., & Shaw, L. L. (2011). *Writing ethnographic fieldnotes*. 2nd ed. The University of Chicago Press.



Saldaña, J. (2025). *The coding manual for qualitative researchers*. Sage.

Course Description

This course is a 4-week intensive practicum designed to build the hands-on qualitative research skills essential for your dissertation, with the added dimension of international fieldwork experience. You'll develop competency in observation, fieldnote writing, coding, and analysis while conducting research in rural Costa Rican schools.

Student Learning Outcomes

Through learning experiences in this class students should be able to:

1. Conduct systematic observations in international educational settings and produce detailed fieldnotes.
2. Apply coding methods to qualitative data and identify emergent patterns through systematic analysis supported by analytical memos.
3. Demonstrate reflexivity about researcher positionality and ethical practices in cross-cultural field work contexts.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Minimal Technical Skills Needed

Students should be prepared to use the learning management system (D2L Brightspace), Microsoft Office software, presentation and graphics programs, Google Suite of office tools and apps, chat programs such as Adobe Connect and Zoom.

Instructional Methods

This class will meet synchronously through Zoom on Mondays from 5:30 - 8:00 pm (June 1, 8, 22, 29) and face-to-face for international travel in Costa Rica June 13 - 21. Additional meetings may be scheduled to prepare for travel and group orientation.

Student Responsibilities or Tips for Success in the Course

Students are responsible for engaging in their own learning. This includes being aware of and meeting deadlines, checking class emails, course announcements posted in

D2L, asking questions to clarify understanding, and actively participating in course activities.

Assessments

- 1. Personal or Professional Inquiry:** Prepare an inquiry statement describing the context and burning questions about what you would like to gain from this course and field experience. Part 1: Include prior experiences and knowledge about qualitative inquiry, including collecting data through observations, coding, pattern analysis, research memoing, and theming. Part 2: Describe what motivates you to study abroad and potential questions about education in Costa Rica. Approximately 500 words; due within the first three days of the course. (SLO 3)
- 2. Fieldwork Portfolio:** Collect data to compile a set of expanded fieldnotes from your school observations in Costa Rica, including descriptive detail, reflective notes, and a system of organization and documentation. (SLO 1)
- 3. Coding and Pattern Analysis:** Code transcripts/fieldnotes with clear coding scheme, develop a codebook, and write individual researcher's memos identifying patterns with supporting evidence. Synthesize preliminary findings in 3-5 pages. (SLO 2)
- 4. Reflexive Researcher Journal:** The purpose of the journal is for you to reflect on the literature and materials presented toward becoming a qualitative researcher. While in Costa Rica, you will maintain a daily researcher's journal, including analytical memos and travel notes during the trip, including your positionality and how it shaped your research activities, ethical considerations, and cross-cultural influence on research. (SLO 3)
- 5. Final Reflection and Self-Evaluation:** Complete a final reflection of the course format, and self-evaluation of learning objectives, and international travel experience.

GRADING

All assignments will be assessed using the following scale and will be held to standards appropriate for doctoral level studies. Additional grading information will be available on rubrics developed in class.

A = excellent/outstanding B = good/commendable C = developing F = unsatisfactory

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

Zoom Video Conferencing Tool

https://inside.tamuc.edu/campuslife/CampusServices/CITESupportCenter/Zoom_Account.aspx?source=universalmenu

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

Please know that I, your instructor, welcome your questions and concerns. Please stay in contact with me for assignment clarifications, to offer feedback, and/or to update me on your status that may impact your success with this course. The best way to reach me is through email: Laura.Slay@etamu.edu.

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Course Specific Procedures/Policies

This course allows students to work through each module at their own pace. However, all assignments, quizzes, and discussion board posts must be submitted by the due date. **No late work will be accepted after the due date** except for in extenuating circumstances. Examples of extenuating circumstances include a verified illness, death in a student's immediate family, and obligation of a student at legal proceedings in fulfilling responsibility as a citizen. Documentation is required to be granted an exception to the late work policy. Make-up work, re-writes, and extra credit are not permitted.

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).
<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>

ETAMU 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

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.

East Texas A&M University 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/counseling-center

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.



COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

Zoom Meeting Link: <https://tamuc.zoom.us/j/8561023611>
Mondays,

Module Course Texts: Posted in D2L	Dates
Module 1: Collecting Qualitative Data Zoom Meeting: June 1	June 1 - 7, 2026
Module 2: Qualitative Coding Methods Zoom Meeting: June 8	June 8 - 14, 2026
Module 3: International Field Work Practicum Costa Rica	June 15 – 21, 2026
Module 4: Pattern Analysis, Theming & Self-Evaluation Zoom Meeting June 22 & 29	June 22 – July 2, 2026