



**EDCI 687 Qualitative Inquiry in Education
Fall 2026**

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Sherri R. Colby PhD

Office Location: Online

Office Hours: Mondays (1:00-5:00 p.m., 6:00-7:00 p.m.)

University Email Address: Sherri.Colby@etamu.edu

Preferred Form of Communication: Email

Communication Response Time: Usually 1 business day; occasionally 2 business days.

COURSE INFORMATION

Textbook(s) Required:

Saldaña, J., & Omasta, M. (2021). *Qualitative research: Analyzing life* (2nd ed.). Los Angeles: Sage Publications.

Students shall also be responsible to implement the APA (American Psychological Association) style guide (7th edition). Additional information about the style guide can be found at Purdue Owl:

https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/apa_style/apa_style_introduction.html

Optional textbook:

Creswell, J. W., & Poth, C. (2018). *Qualitative inquiry and research design: Choosing among five approaches* (4th ed.). Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications.

Course Description

The course content centers on qualitative research for a variety of environments of public schools. The methodology (research design, data collection, data analysis) associated with this form of inquiry shall be delineated, and students shall experience inquiry from participation in the process. Accordingly, the course focuses on the philosophical and methodological differences between varying

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approaches (narrative, phenomenology, case studies, grounded theory, and ethnography) to research including mixed methods. Academic writing and critical reading of qualitative research shall also be addressed. This is an approved Level III doctoral research tools course.

Student Learning Outcomes

1. Students shall comprehend and understand the basic tenets of qualitative inquiry.
2. Students will engage in qualitative data collection, including observation, interviews, and qualitative texts.
3. Students will analyze qualitative data using coding and thematic analysis.
4. Students will create qualitative art projects as an additional lens for descriptive and interpretative qualitative inquiry.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

The students will complete the following assignments, and the final grade shall be calculated using the percentages listed below.

Reading Response Charts and Journals – 25%;

Data Collection and Analysis Papers (Observation – 15%; Interview — 25%,
Qualitative Text – 15%)

Qualitative Art Display – 20%.

Total: 100%

Assessments

A shortened description of the assignments follows. Additional details about the assignments are found in Brightspace.

1. *Reading Response Charts* – We shall complete a series of reading response charts that correlate with the assigned reading for the course. The format for the charts is provided in Brightspace. For the journals, you may consider reflecting on your dissertation research questions or to practice qualitative skills. Alternative texts (poetry, narrative, auto ethnography) are encouraged. As part of this assignment, a reading reflection will be required. More detailed instructions to these assignments shall be found on Brightspace.
2. *Collecting and Analyzing Qualitative Texts*: For these assignments, you shall practice the skills of a qualitative researcher: reflecting, observing, writing, interviewing, and creating. Three different texts shall be analyzed: observation, interview, and political/historical text. For these activities, I recommend collecting

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data from naturalistic settings in schools or other community centers. Guides to these assignments are found on Brightspace in the doc. Sharing section.

3. Qualitative Art/ Photovoice Project: For this assignment, prepare an art display depicting your growth and/ or insights as a qualitative researcher, student, and educator. The art display may include multimedia, photography, music, artisan crafts, food, scrapbooks, or other modalities. As part of the display, include a written description or reflection.

Minimal Technical Skills Needed

Students should be able to submit Word documents and presentation materials, operate a video camera, participate in Zoom/ online conferences, navigate Brightspace D2L, and use technology for presentations. The use of photography, video, and other multimedia is encouraged. The use of artificial intelligence as a substitute for students' writing is prohibited.

Instructional Methods

As a social constructivist educator with strong considerations for thinking and inquiry within the disciplines, my teaching style involves peer collaboration, dialogic learning, analytical and aesthetic thinking, and inquiry methods.

Student Responsibilities or Tips for Success in the Course

Please review course materials and the calendar. I recommend checking your MyLeo email regularly and the course announcements page for updates. Also, if you need assistance, please reach out to me to schedule a personal conference. Peer support groups are encouraged.

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.etamu.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>

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ETAMU Attendance

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

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

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

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

AI use in course

East Texas A&M University acknowledges that there may be 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 entirely the use of such software for individual assignments or for the entire course. Students should be aware of such requirements and follow their instructor's 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.

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

Velma K. Waters Library Rm 162

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

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Email: studentdisabilityservices@etamu.edu

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

<http://www.etamu.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 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 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 East Texas A&M 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.etamu.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf>

Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all East Texas A&M campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

East Texas A&M Supports Students' Mental Health

The Counseling Center at East Texas A&M, 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.etamu.edu/counseling-center

COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

A calendar shall be given to you during the first week of class. Our class days will be on Tuesdays (5:30-8:00 p.m.) on the following days: August 25, September 8, September 22, October 6, October 20, November 3, November 17, December 1.

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