

834 609-01, Spring 2009

Qualitative Methods I

Professor Sadovnik

Office Hours: T 1:30-2:30; Th 3-5 and by appointment, Bradley 165

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All course materials and assignments will be posted on

Blackboard: <http://blackboard.newark.rutgers.edu> (Rutgers Net Id needed for access)

The purpose of this course is to introduce doctoral students to the philosophy and methods of qualitative research. Through an examination of the evolution of qualitative methodology, the various forms of qualitative research, the ways to conduct qualitative inquiry, and examples of various qualitative methods, students will understand how to conduct qualitative inquiry. It is a prerequisite for Qualitative Methods II, which will provide students with more intensive, hands on experiences with the various qualitative methods introduced in this course.

Objectives:

- 1) Students will be able to identify the types of studies that are appropriate for a qualitative research design;
- 2) Students will understand the history of qualitative inquiry in the social sciences;
- 3) Students will be able to distinguish between quantitative and qualitative methodology;
- 4) Students will understand the various types of qualitative methodology and their uses;
- 5) Students will be able to interpret, evaluate and present qualitative data;
- 6) Students will be able to understand and critique qualitative studies;
- 7) Students will be able to develop an original qualitative research proposal.

Required Readings:

Students are required to use Blackboard. To register go to www.newark.rutgers.edu And click on Blackboard. Follow the instructions to register for all of your Rutgers courses. NJIT students must apply for a Rutgers net id. I will regularly post items on Blackboard as well as send emails to the entire class or to individuals. These emails will be sent to your Rutgers Pegasus email address unless you enter a default email through the system. You are required to hand in all assignments through the digital dropbox on Blackboard and I will send back your assignments with electronic comments in track changes through Blackboard. Follow Blackboard directions for this. If you are having any problems please call the Blackboard/Rutgers Computing helpdesk.

Bruce Berg, *Qualitative Research Methods for the Social Sciences* (Sixth Edition)
0205482635

Valerie Janesick *Stretching Exercises for Qualitative Researchers* 0761928154

Norman Denzin and Y. Lincoln, *Handbook of Qualitative Research* (assigned chapters posted on Blackboard)

Kathy Charmaz, *Constructing Grounded Theory: A Practical Guide through Qualitative Analysis* 0761973532

J. Maxwell "Causal explanation, qualitative research and scientific inquiry in education." *Educational Researcher*, March 2004. (posted on Blackboard)

R. Johnson and A. Onwuegbuzie, "Mixed methods: a research paradigm whose time has come." *Educational Researcher*, October 2004. (posted on Blackboard)

M. Chatterji, "Evidence on "What Works": An Argument for Extended-Term Mixed-Method (ETMM) Evaluation Designs." *Educational Researcher*, Vol. 34, No. 5, pp. 14–24 (posted on Blackboard)

A.R. Sadovnik, "Qualitative Research and Public Policy." G. Miller, et al. (2007). *Handbook of Public Policy*. (posted on Blackboard)

Recommended Readings (groups of students will be required to read one of the following):

Annette Lareau, *Unequal Childhood: Class, Race and Family Life* 0520239504

John Ogbu, *Black Students in an Affluent Suburb* 080584516X

Roger Sanjek, *The Future of Us All* 0801484618

Lois Weis, *Class Reunion* 0415949084

Jamie Lew, *Asian Americans in Class: Charting the Achievement Gap Among Korean American Youth* 0807746932

Amy Stuart Wells, et al. *Both Sides Now: The Story of School Desegregation's Graduates*. 0520256786

Required Assignments:

1. A group take home paper 8-10 pages to be distributed in class, which will include an analysis of one of the assigned ethnographies (20%);
2. Group presentation of ethnography with class discussion (15%);
3. A final research proposal on a topic of your choosing, which incorporates a detailed discussion of research methodology (35%);
4. Observation assignment (10%);
5. Interview assignment (10%);
6. Class participation (10%).

Reading and Discussion Outline

All articles are available on Blackboard

I. Introduction to Qualitative Research

- A. Historical Background
- B. Quantitative and Qualitative Research
- C. Multiple Triangulation and mixed methods
- D. Causality and Qualitative Research

Read: Berg, chapter 1

Janesick, Part I

Denzin and Lincoln, "Introduction: Entering the Field of Qualitative Research"

Vidich and Lyman, "Qualitative Methods: Their History in Sociology and Anthropology"
Guba and Lincoln, "Competing Paradigms in Qualitative Research"
Johnson and Onwuegbuzie, Mixed methods: a research paradigm whose time has come."
Maxwell, "Causal explanation, qualitative research and scientific inquiry in education."
Chatterji, "Evidence on "What Works": An Argument for Extended-Term Mixed-Method (ETMM) Evaluation Designs."
Sadovnik, "Qualitative Research and Public Policy"
January 20, 27, February 3, 10

II. Designing Qualitative Research

Read: Berg, Chapter 2
Strauss and Corbin, "Grounded Theory Methodology: An Overview"
February 17

III. Ethical Issues

Read, Berg, Chapter 3
Punch, "Politics and Ethics in Qualitative Research"
February 17

IV. Methods of Collecting and Analyzing Qualitative Data

A. Interviewing: Individual and Focus Group

Read: Berg, chapters 4,5
Janesick, Part III

March 10

Assignment 1: Interviewing

Due: March 24

B. Ethnographic Studies

1. Observation
2. Participant observation

Read: Berg, Chapter 6
Janesick, Part II
Adler and Adler, "Observational Techniques"
Atkinson and Hammersley, "Ethnography and Participant Observation"

March 10

Assignment 2: Observation

Due: April 21

Assignment 3: Group Presentation

March 24, 31, April 7

Groups of two will read one of the above ethnographies (Lareau, Sanjek, Ogbu, Weis, Lew, Wells) and make group presentation/discussion in class. Students will use their ethnography as the basis for part of the take-home paper assignment

April 14: AERA

C. Historical Methods

Read: Berg, Chapter 9

Tuchman, "Historical Social Science: Methodologies, Methods, and Meanings"

April 14: Guest Lecture, Robert Snyder, Departments of Visual and Performing Arts

Assignment 4: Group Paper

Due April 14

D. Action Research

Read: Berg, Chapter 7

April 21

E. Case Studies and Content Analysis

Read: Berg, Chapters 10, 11

April 21

V. Grounded Theory in Action

Read, Charmaz

April 28

IV. Writing Qualitative Research Proposals and Papers

Read: Berg, Chapter 12

Janesick, Part V

May 5

Final Assignment: Written qualitative research proposal

Due: May 12