Qualitative Research Methods

1. Synopsis

Composed of three blocks of four sessions each, this course serves as an introduction to qualitative research methods, with a core focus on the interactive and iterative nature of qualitative research design consisting of the components of researcher identity, research goals, conceptual frameworks, varying qualitative research approaches, research questions, methods of data collection and analysis, and questions of quality and validity. Assessment tasks are designed to engage students in continual reflection on and active participation in qualitative research design, data collection and analysis, and using the results of this analysis to strengthen research proposals.

2. Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILO$_s$)

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

CILO$_1$	Discuss the epistemological foundations of qualitative research, the particular research purposes for which it is most appropriate, the types of research questions that qualitative research is most suited for answering, and the nature of qualitative research design
CILO$_2$	Design a conceptual framework and research question appropriate for qualitative research methods on their topic of research
CILO$_3$	Discuss the primary methods for the collection of qualitative data
CILO$_4$	Design and undertake the collection of qualitative data using participant observation and/or interviews
CILO$_5$	Discuss the variety of major qualitative research approaches and the applicability of these approaches to their own research topic
CILO$_6$	Analyze qualitative data with the assistance of appropriate qualitative data analysis software
CILO$_7$	Write a short proposal for a qualitative research project

3. Content, CILOs and Teaching & Learning Activities

Course Content	CILOs	Suggested Teaching & Learning Activities
Block 4		
Foundations of Qualitative Research	*CILO$_1$*	Lecture, small-group discussion, class discussion

Qualitative Research Design	$CILO_2$	Lecture, small-group discussion, class discussion
Conceptual Frameworks for Qualitative Research	$CILO_2$	Lecture, small-group discussion, class discussion
Research Questions for Qualitative Research	$CILO_2$	Lecture, small-group discussion, class discussion
Block 7		
Overview of Data Collection Methods	$CILO_{3, 4}$	Lecture, small-group discussion, class discussion
Participant Observation	$CILO_{3, 4}$	Lecture, small-group discussion, class discussion, observation activity
Planning Interviews	$CILO_{3, 4}$	Lecture, small-group discussion, class discussion, interview activity
Conducting Interviews	$CILO_{3, 4}$	Lecture, small-group discussion, class discussion, interview activity
Block 8		
Qualitative Research Approaches	$CILO_5$	Lecture, small-group discussion, class discussion
Qualitative Data Analysis: Coding	$CILO_6$	Lecture, small-group discussion, class discussion, coding activity
Qualitative Data Analysis: Theorizing	$CILO_6$	Lecture, small-group discussion, class discussion, coding activity
Presenting and Proposing Qualitative Research	$CILO_7$	Lecture, small-group discussion, class discussion, proposal assignment

4. Assessment

Assessment Tasks	Weighting (%)	CILO
Written report explaining a qualitative research question on students' own topic of research (1200-1500 words)	100%	$CILO_{1,2}$
Participant observation/interview exercise memo (1200-1500 words)	100%	$CILO_{3,4}$

Proposal for a qualitative research project (>2000 words)	100%	CILO$_{5,6,7}$

5. Required Text(s)

Maxwell, J. A. (2013). *Qualitative research design: An interactive approach (3rd Edition)*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications. http://library.eduhk.hk/record=b2048038~S5

6. Recommended Readings

Angrosino, M. (Ed.). (2007). *Doing ethnographic and observational research*. London: Sage Publications. http://0-dx.doi.org.edlis.ied.edu.hk/10.4135/9781849208932

Barbour, R. (2008). *Introducing qualitative research*. London: Sage Publications. http://0-dx.doi.org.edlis.ied.edu.hk/10.4135/9780857029034

Crang, M., & Cook, I. (2007). *Doing ethnographies*. London: Sage Publications. http://0-dx.doi.org.edlis.ied.edu.hk/10.4135/9781849208949

Creswell, J. W. (2013). *Qualitative inquiry and research design: Choosing among five approaches (3rd Edition)*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications. http://library.eduhk.hk/record=b1868370~S5

Creswell, J. W. & Miller, D. L. (2000). Determining validity in qualitative inquiry. *Theory into Practice*, *39*(3), 124-130.

Delamont, S. (2004). Ethnography and participant observation. In C. Seale, G. Gobo, J. F. Gubrium, & D. Silverman (Eds.), Qualitative research practice (205-218). London: Sage Publications. http://0-dx.doi.org.edlis.ied.edu.hk/10.4135/9781848608191.d19

Flick, U. (2007). *Designing qualitative research*. London: Sage Publications. http://0-dx.doi.org.edlis.ied.edu.hk/10.4135/9781849208826

Freeman, M., de Marrais, K., Preissle, J., Roulston, K. & St. Pierre, E. A. (2007). Standards of evidence in qualitative research: An incitement to discourse. *Educational Researcher, 36*(1), 25-32.

Gibbs, G. R. (2007). *Analyzing qualitative data*. London: Sage Publications. http://0-dx.doi.org.edlis.ied.edu.hk/10.4135/9781849208574

Hammersley, M. (2007). The issue of quality in qualitative research. *International Journal of Research & Method in Education, 30*(3), 287-305.

Harry, B., Sturges, K. M., & Klinger, J. K. (2005). Mapping the process: An exemplar of process and challenge in grounded theory analysis. *Educational Researcher, 34*(2), 3-13.

Kvale, S. (2007). *Doing interviews*. London: Sage Publications. http://0-dx.doi.org.edlis.ied.edu.hk/10.4135/9781849208963

LeCompte, M. D. (2000). Analyzing qualitative data. *Theory into Practice, 39*(3), 146-154.

Miles, M. B., Huberman, A. M., & Saldaña, J. (2014). *Qualitative data analysis: A methods sourcebook (3rd Edition)*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications. http://library.eduhk.hk/record=b1953350~S5

Seale, C., Gobo, G., Gubrium, J. F. & Silverman, D. (Eds.). (2004). *Qualitative research practice*. London: Sage Publications. http://0-dx.doi.org.edlis.ied.edu.hk/10.4135/9781848608191

Silver, C. & Lewins, A. (2015). *Using Software in Qualitative Research - A Step-by-Step Guide*. Student Resources available from https://study.sagepub.com/using-software-in-qualitative-research/student-resources/step-by-step-software-guides/nvivo-10-3

Suddaby, R. (2006). From the editors: What grounded theory is not. *The Academy of Management Journal, 49*(4), 633-642.

Weick, K. E. (2007). The generative properties of richness. *The Academy of Management Journal, 50*(1), 14-19.

Weston, C., Gandell, T., Beauchamp, J. McAlpine, L., Wiseman, C. & Beauchamp, C. (2001). Analyzing interview data: The development and evolution of a coding system. *Qualitative Sociology, 24*(3), 381-400.

7. Related Web Resources

QR Web Links

http://www.slu.edu/organizations/qrc/QRCweblinks.html

Qual Page: Resources for Qualitative Research

http://www.qualitativeresearch.uga.edu/QualPage/

Qualitative Research Journals

http://www.slu.edu/organizations/qrc/QRjournals.html

8. Related Journals

 Qualitative Research Journals

http://www.slu.edu/organizations/qrc/QRjournals.html