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 didigital
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


**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

**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.”
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