

RES260 Qualitative Research(E)

3rd and 4th quarters, Sophomore

Instructor	Ivan Lombardi, Ph.D., Christopher Hennessy, M.A., Kelly King, Ph.D., Nicolangelo Becce, Ph.D.
Style of Class	Lecture
Active Learning	Active Learning Course
Number of Credits	2
Day and Period	Monday, period 2

Course Description

This introductory course in qualitative research is designed to introduce key qualitative research approaches and data collection methods to students. The first class will introduce the (historical) development of and a rationale for using qualitative methodologies. The course will focus on specific qualitative research approaches (or strategies)—surveys, ethnographies and action research, as well as data collection methods—interviews, questionnaires and observation. Each week through engagement with readings, videos and other media, as well as by developing and designing “mini-research” instruments, students will familiarize themselves with different approaches and data collection methods. Students will have opportunities to work in research teams, with research partners and individually on research. Additionally, students will learn how to use documents in research. Finally, students in the course will consider the ethics and purposes of conducting qualitative research.

Course Objectives

Students will:

- (1) Learn about specific qualitative approaches such as surveys, ethnographies and action research.
- (2) Develop research interview methods for use in future academic and professional careers.
- (3) Understand the purposes and uses of observations as a data collection method in qualitative research.
- (4) Understand how to access and documentary sources and use documentary data in qualitative research.
- (5) Engage in developing and testing (piloting) different data collection instruments in pairs and teams.
- (6) Understand the importance of conducting research in an ethical manner.

Prerequisites

RES 110 Introduction to Research.

English Requirement

To be enrolled in this course, international students (non-GCS students) are expected to have one of the following (or higher) scores: TOEFL ITP (500), TOEFL iBT (61), IELTS (6), TOEIC (600), CEFR (B1), or Step EIKEN (pre-1).

Class Materials

Denscombe, M. (2017). *The good research guide: For small-scale social research projects* (6th ed.). New York: Open University Press

Course Methods

This course is conducted in a workshop-style, which necessitates active participation on the part of students. In addition to classroom discussions and other types of in-class participation, students are expected to actively engage in 3 mini-research projects requiring work outside of the classroom.

Evaluation/Assessment

Quizzes: There will be several in-class quizzes on course content, primarily on information from the text

Group/Pair Discussion: Active in-class discussion of topics is expected—in English

Written Reports, Questionnaires & Interview Questions& Observation Notes: All students are required to create research instruments, conduct mini-research projects and to report on them.

Research Presentations: After conducting mini-research projects, students will discuss their experiences and present their initial findings to the class

Final Exam or Report: At the end of the semester, students will complete a take-home exam or report.

Grading

Quizzes	20%
Active Participation in Class discussion/Teamwork	10%
Written Reports of Mini-Research Projects -- (Plus, Questionnaires & Interview Questions, Observation Notes)	40%
Team/Individual Presentations	20%
Final Exam or Report	10%

Course Schedule

Week 1: Introduction to Qualitative Research & the Course

Homework for Week 2: Read – Denscombe pp. 3 - 9 “Part 1: Strategies for social research”
Read – Denscombe pp. 179 - 181 “Part 2: Methods of data collection”

Week 2: Discuss research strategies & data collection methods/ review text organization

Looking at a sample qualitative study

Homework for Week 3: Read – Denscombe pp. 244 - 263 Chapter 15 “Documents”

Week 3: In-class **Quiz 1** on research strategies & data collection

Discuss Documents as a data collection method

Homework for Week 4: Write--Take-home **Quiz 2** on accessing documentary research

Read – Denscombe pp. 11 - 31 Chapter 1 “Surveys”

Week 4: Discuss Surveys

Read a survey report

TEAM WORK: Survey Project Teamwork – Consider a topic of interest and a population you want to know more about

Homework for Week 5: Read – Denscombe pp. 183 - 201 Chapter 12 “Questionnaires”

Week 5: Discuss Questionnaires

TEAM WORK: Devise questions you and your team believe are appropriate to find out more

about your survey interest

Homework for Week 6: Work with your TEAM and complete a questionnaire ...

Read –Denscombe pp. 338 – 357 Chapter 18 “Research ethics”

Week 6: In-class **Quiz 3** on Surveys and Questionnaires

Peer (Cross-Team)Feedback on TEAM Questionnaires

Discuss research ethics

Homework for Week 7: Trial Run... try out your team’s questionnaire

Week 7: TEAM presentations on your mini-survey exercise: What did you learn? What can we do better?

Homework for Week 8: Individual Report on your TEAM’s Survey Exercise due

Week 8: Discuss and read about interviews as a research tool

Watch good and bad interview examples

Homework for Week 9: Read – Denscombe pp. 202 - 223 Chapter 13 “Interviews”

Week 9: Work with a **partner** on creating interview questions for a particular topic/population

Homework for Week 10: Finish a set of interview questions with your partner

Send them to your instructor before class

Week 10: Peer Feedback on interview questions

Role-play interviews

Quiz 4 on Interviews

Homework for Week 11: Conduct interviews of at least 2 participants per pair/record...

Week 11: How do we use interviews as data? How do we analyze interviews--discussion

Homework for Week 12: Write--Transcribe 15 minutes of 1 interview.

Make a draft report of your experience with interviewing

Week 12: Pair Presentations on Interviews as a research method

Homework for Week 13: Read – Denscombe pp. 83 - 94 Chapter 5 “Ethnography”

Week 13: Discuss Ethnography as a research approach

Homework for Week 14: Read – Denscombe pp. 224 - 243 Chapter 14 “Observation”

Week 14: **Quiz 5** on Ethnography & Observation

Homework for Week 15: Conduct an observation (in pairs or small groups) and take notes

Write – Reflections on your observations

Week 15: In small groups – Share (present), individually, your experiences observing

Homework for Week 16: Read – Denscombe pp. 126 - 136 Chapter 8 “Action Research”

Week 16: FINAL Exam or Reports due

Preparation and Follow-up

- Preparation: Read the relevant portions of the reference materials (about one hour)
- Follow-up: Review the content of the class and note any points you are not sure of (about one hour)