

# RES260 Qualitative Research(E)

3rd and 4th quarters, Sophomore

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<b>Instructor</b>	LOMBARDI Ivan, HENNESSY Christopher, KING Kelly, BECCE Nicolangelo
<b>Style of Class</b>	Lecture
<b>Number of Credits</b>	2
<b>Day and Period</b>	Monday, period 2

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## Course Description

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This course is designed to introduce key qualitative research methods to students. The first four weeks will introduce how to begin qualitative research with a focus on locating sources, organizing bibliographies, and introducing software tools for academic writing. In the second four weeks, students will learn different interview methods and apply these methods to conduct and analyze interviews. In the third four weeks, students will be introduced to the data collection method of observation used in qualitative studies such as ethnographic research. Students will be expected to read about, discuss and engage in passive and participant observation, which will include descriptive and reflective note-taking. In the last four weeks of the course, students will acquire the basic skills needed to develop a research proposal.

## Course Objectives

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Students will:

- (1) Understand and apply fundamental qualitative methods for conducting research.
- (2) Understand how to start research and choose which tools to use to keep their materials organized.
- (3) Learn and develop research interview methods for use in future academic and professional career
- (4) Understand the purpose and use of observations as a data collection method in qualitative research.
- (5) Recognize the differences between descriptive and reflective note-taking.
- (6) Engage with the activities of choosing research questions and developing qualitative research proposals.

## Prerequisites

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RES 110 Introduction to Research.

## Class Materials

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Course packets and reading materials will be distributed in class.

## Course Methods

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This course will be conducted in a workshop style over four separate modules with four different instructors. Each module will consist of four meetings and focus on a key part of conducting qualitative research. The individual modules themes are: (1) starting qualitative research, (2) interview methods, (3) passive and participant observation, and (4) planning and producing qualitative research proposals. Students will participate in discussions and practical activities to gain research experience. Students also will have readings relevant to course content.

## Evaluation/Assessment

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Students will be evaluated on their work in different practical research activities presented in each four-week module.

## Grading

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25% Starting Qualitative Research

- 25% Interview Methods
- 25% Passive and Participant Observation
- 25% Planning and Producing Qualitative Research Proposals

## **Course Schedule**

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### ***Week 1-4:*** Starting Qualitative Research

An introduction to qualitative research and how to use resources and tools effectively to begin a research project.

### ***Week 5-8:*** Interview Methods

An introduction to various research interview methods accompanied with practical activities to gain experience in conducting research using interviews.

(End of Quarter 1)

### ***Week 9-12:*** Passive and Participant Observation

An introduction to observation and note-taking techniques used in qualitative research with readings and activities. Students will “practice” these techniques in pairs or small groups, share their notes and observations and reflect on what kinds of understanding can be gained through observations.

### ***Week 13-16:*** Planning and Producing Qualitative Research Proposals

An introduction to the skills and methods needed to frame, develop and write effective qualitative research proposals.

(End of Quarter 2)

## **Preparation and Follow-up**

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- 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)