

SYLLABUS

Qualitative Research SOC 4613-01 (80912) Fall 2007

Instructor: Dr. Paul Luken

Office: Pafford 236

Office hours: M & W 1-5:00; T & Th 1:45-2:45

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Class time and place: Wednesday, 5:30-8:00: Pafford 106.

Required reading:

Discovering Qualitative Methods: Field Research, Interviews and Analysis by Carol A. B. Warren and Tracy X. Karner. Roxbury, 2005.

Making Gray Gold: Narratives of Nursing Home Care by Timothy Diamond. Chicago.

Course description:

An alternative to quantitative sociology. Focuses on the interpretive tradition within sociology where the meaning individuals construct for their social worlds are the topic of analysis

Course objectives for students:

1. Students will demonstrate the ability to effectively practice the skills of qualitative sociological research.
2. Students will recognize the issues involved in the protection of human subjects when conducting qualitative sociological research.
3. Students will demonstrate the ability to formulate a plan for qualitative sociological research.
4. Students will assess the value of journal articles pertinent to their research project.
5. Students will summarize some significant contributions to the qualitative sociology literature.

Learning outcomes:

The above objectives contribute to the following learning outcomes:

- understand theoretical and methodological approaches to description and interpretation
- show specific knowledge of qualitative research methods

Consultations:

You are encouraged to schedule an appointment if you would like to discuss anything. You may also drop in during my office hours; however, students with scheduled appointments will be given priority.

Evaluation – Tests, Projects and In-class Performance

Grades will be based on the following:

Book review	10%
First article review	10%
Second article review	10%
Interview guide	5%
Literature review	10%
Completed IRB form	5%
Proposal	15%
Revised proposal	15%
In-class performance	20%

Written Assignments:

Students in this class are expected to take pride in their written assignments, and strict adherence to the instructions for the assignments is required. Papers that are very poorly written will be returned without a grade. They must be revised and resubmitted. When they are resubmitted, they will be graded as are other late papers. Late papers will be reduced by one letter grade. Except for extreme circumstances, papers will not be accepted if they are over one week late.

Faxes and e-mails are not acceptable.

The reviews and the proposals are to be prepared according to ASA style as presented in the “ASA Style Guide for UWG Classes.” It can be found at the following:

<http://www.westga.edu/~soccrim/Styleguide.htm>

Plagiarism will result in a failing grade for the semester. To understand plagiarism and learn how to avoid it, go to the following:

http://owl.english.purdue.edu/handouts/research/r_plagiar.html

Students should also familiarize themselves with the department’s policy on academic integrity:

<http://www.westga.edu/~soccrim/AcademicIntegrityPolicy.htm>

In-class Performance:

This includes regular attendance, arriving on time, preparedness as demonstrated by class participation, contribution to class projects, and proper behavior in the classroom. I expect that you have read the material before coming to class and that you are ready to discuss it. That does not mean that you will always have something brilliant to say, but I do expect you to be able to engage with the material without having your book open during the class period. In-class performance is worth 20% of the final grade.

20% Made significant contributions and did not miss more than two classes.

15% Moderate participation and did not miss more than two classes

10% Made significant contributions and missed 3 or 4 classes.

10% Rarely participated and did not miss more than two classes.

5% Rarely participated and missed 3 or 4 classes.

0% Missed 5 or more classes

Late arrivals and early departures are counted as absences.

Eating in the classroom, disrupting the class, utilizing electronic communication devices such as PDAs and cell phones without first getting permission from me will not be tolerated. Those who violate these rules will receive a grade reduction. Continued violation of these rules will result in a failing grade.

Grading scale:

Semester grades will be based on the following scale:

A	90-100
B	80-89
C	70-79
D	60-69
F	00-59

Tentative Reading and Assignment Schedule

All chapters are from *Discovering Qualitative Methods* unless marked MGG for *Making Gray Gold*

- 8/15 Introduction
- 8/22 Chapter 1 and 2
- 8/29 MGG, "Introduction" and Chapters 1-6
- 9/3 Labor Day**
- 9/5 Book review due**
- 9/12 Chapter 3
- 9/19 First article review due**
Review presentations
- 9/26 Chapter 4
- 10/3 Second article review due**
Review presentations
- 10/10 Chapter 5
- 10/17 Chapter 5 continued
- 10/24 Literature review due**
Chapters 6 and 7
- 10/31 **Interview guide due**
IRB form due
Chapter 8
- 11/7 Chapter 9
- 11/14 Proposal due**
Critiques of proposals
Chapter 10
- 11/21 Thanksgiving holiday**
- 11/28 Revised proposal due**
The future of qualitative research
- 12/12 Proposals returned