Course Name: Qualitative Research Methods
Course Number: PPOL 523
Quarter: Summer
Credits: 4
Instructor name: Brent S. Steel
Instructor email: bsteel@oregonstate.edu

Course Description
An introduction to the theory and methods of qualitative research. Students will be exposed to various qualitative research methods through practical field exercises. These include ethnographic field observation, content analysis, interviewing, focus groups and unobtrusive measures. Other commonly used methods of collecting qualitative data are also examined.

Overview
This course is designed as an introduction to qualitative research methods, from data collection through analysis to presentation. By the end of this course, not only will you have an understanding of the methodological approaches, but also you will have developed your own qualitative research skills.

The topics you will be introduced to are 1) research design, 2) data collection & analysis, and 3) data presentation

As we advance the course, each week you will be given assignments to understand the process of qualitative research, which is geared to help you develop and conduct your own research project. At the end of the course, you will be able to write a qualitative research proposal using the work you have done throughout the course.

Communication
Please post all course-related questions in the Q&A Discussion Forum so that the whole class may benefit from our conversation. Please contact me privately for matters of a personal nature. I will reply to course-related questions within 24-48 hours. I will strive to return your assignments and grades for course activities to you within seven days of the due date.

Course Credits
This course combines approximately 120 hours of instruction, online activities, and assignments for 4 credits.

Technical Assistance

If you experience any errors or problems while in your online course, contact 24-7 Canvas Support through the Help link within Canvas. If you experience computer difficulties, need help downloading a browser or plug-in, or need assistance logging into a course, contact the IS Service Desk for assistance. You can call (541) 737-8787 or visit the [IS Service Desk](#) online.

Learning Resources

Required Texts:

Creswell, John. (2013). *Qualitative inquiry and research design: Choosing among five approaches* 3rd ed. Los Angeles: SAGE Publications.

Maxwell, Joseph. (2013). *Qualitative Research Design: An Interactive Approach* 3rd ed. Thousand Oaks, CA: SAGE Publications.

Weiss, Robert S. (1995). *Learning from strangers: The art and method of qualitative interview studies*. New York: Free Press.

Optional technological requirements:

- Digital Voice Recorder, microphone are available to check out from the Student Multi-media Services in the Valley Library. Some tablets and phones also have recording capabilities that can be used for collecting data.
- Qualitative software for coding and data analysis: HyperResearch (free) or try NVivo's 30-day trial.

Recommended Journals:

Qualitative Inquiry
The Qualitative Report
International Journal of Qualitative Methods
Contemporary Ethnography
Anthropology & Education Quarterly
Ethnography
International Journal of Qualitative Methods in Education
Sociology [British]
Symbolic Interaction

Note to prospective students: Please check with the OSU Bookstore for up-to-date information for the term you enroll ([OSU Bookstore Website](#) or 800-595-0357). If you purchase course materials from other sources, be very careful to obtain the correct ISBN.

Canvas
This course is delivered via Canvas, where you will interact with your classmates and your instructor. You will access the learning materials within the course site, such as the syllabus, class discussions, assignments, projects, and quizzes. To preview how an online course works, visit the [Ecampus Course Demo](#). For technical assistance, please visit [Ecampus Technical Help](#).

Measurable Student Learning Outcomes
As a result of fully participating in this course you will:

- Know the historical and theoretical roots of qualitative methods and be able to distinguish the purposes and strengths/weaknesses of qualitative methods from quantitative methods.
- Understand ethical issues related to qualitative research and specific issues with researching human subjects.
- Gain a familiarity with the various kinds of qualitative methods (e.g., interviews, participant-observation, content analyses, historical/archival analyses) and know when and where to use them.
- Develop a reflective understanding of your role as qualitative researcher.
- Be able to evaluate academic research based on qualitative research methods.
- Create a viable research proposal that employs appropriate qualitative research techniques.

Evaluation of Student Performance

Required Assignments:

Weekly Assignments (60%): Every week, you will be given assignments that are geared to helping you develop your research project. Not all assignments constitute equal points. Carefully check the assignment instructions.

Weekly Discussion (10%): There will be a discussion blog for each week. You are required to submit one original post and one response post. Using the textbook readings as a basis, the discussions will examine different processes of qualitative research method.

Final Research proposal (30%): At the end of the term, you are required to submit a final research proposal. You are encouraged to use the your work for this class as your preliminary data and analysis.

Evaluation Criteria:

The following criteria will be used for evaluating assignments:
[Poor; Average; Good; Very Good; Excellent]

The students will be evaluated for their:

1. Evidence of reading, viewing, absorbing the materials.
2. Critical thinking about what the materials mean, rather than just repeating what was said (identifying the key points).
3. Contribution and development of student's own ideas, opinions, experiences.
4. In-text citations for all concepts and ideas that did not originate with the student, and a matching bibliography or works cited at the end.

Describe how the learning outcomes will be measured
- Weekly Assignments – 60 points
- Weekly Discussions – 10 points
- Final Research Proposal – 30 points
- Total – 100 points

Letter Grade

Grade	Percent Range
A	95-100
A-	90-94
B+	87-89
B	83-86
B-	80-82
C+	77-79
C	73-76
C-	70-72
D+	67-69
D	63-66
D-	60-62
F	0-59

Course Content

Course weeks begin on Monday and end on Sunday

Week	Topic	Reading Requirements	Learning Activities	Assignment Deadline
1	Introduction Intro to Qualitative Methods	Cresswell 1, 2, 3 Maxwell 1	Introduction Discussion Week 1 Forum Assignment #1 Researcher Identity Memo	Introduction Wednsday 11:59 pm Week 1 Forum Post Wed 11:59 pm Respond by Fri 11:59 pm Assignment #1 Sun 11:59 pm
2	Qualitative Research Methods	Creswell 4, 5, 6 Maxwell 2, 3, 4	Week 2 Forum Assignment #2 Research statement and short description of the method.	Week 2 Forum Post Wed 11:59 pm Respond by Fri 11:59 pm Assignment #2 Sun 11:59 pm
3	Research Design	Creswell 7 Maxwell 5	Week 3 Forum Assignment #3 Concept map and description of research design	Week 3 Forum Post Wed 11:59 pm Respond by Fri 11:59 pm Assignment #3 Sun 11:59 pm
4	Research Methods	Weiss 1, 2, 3	Week 4 Forum Assignment #4 Submit your interview questionnaire	Week 4 Forum Post Wed 11:59 pm Respond by Fri 11:59 pm Assignment #4 Sun 11:59 pm
5	Data Collection	Weiss 3, 4, 5	Week 5 Forum Assignment #5 Submit a list of references of the documents you will use for your research. Submit at least one interview transcript.	Week 5 Forum Post Wed 11:59 pm Respond by Fri 11:59 pm Assignment #5 Sun 11:59 pm

Week	Topic	Reading Requirements	Learning Activities	Assignment Deadline
6	Data Analysis	Creswell 8 Weiss 6	Week 6 Forum Assignment #6 Submit your primary codes for at least one transcript, and a short description of your field notes.	Week 6 Forum Post Wed 11:59 pm Respond by Fri 11:59 pm Assignment #6 Sun 11:59 pm
7	Data Analyisis & Presentation	Creswell 9, 11 Weiss 7	Week 7 Forum Assignment #7 Submit your research outline and a short description of the writing methodology of your choice.	Week 7 Forum Post Wed 11:59 pm Respond by Fri 11:59 pm Assignment #7 Sun 11:59 pm
8	Validity	Creswell 10 Maxwell 6	Week 8 Forum	Week 2 Forum Post Wed 11:59 pm Respond by Fri 11:59 pm Week 8 Forum Post Wed 11:59 pm Respond by Fri 11:59 pm
9	Presentation	Maxwell 7	Week 9 Forum Assignment #8 Research presentation (in PPT slides)	Week 9 Forum Post Wed 11:59 pm Respond by Fri 11:59 pm Assignment #8 Sun 11:59 pm
10	Research Proposal	Maxwell 7	Week 10 Forum Submit a final research proposal.	Week 10 Forum Post Wed 11:59 pm Respond by Fri 11:59 pm Final Proposal Sun 11:59 pm
Finals				

Course Policies

Discussion Participation
Students are expected to participate in all graded discussions. While there is great flexibility in online courses, this is not a self-paced course.

Late Work Policy
I do not accept late work without prior approval (you will need to let me know in advance of any time conflict).

Extra Credit
Extra credit will not be allowed in this course.

Academic Performance
You are expected to do all required readings.
Proper spelling, grammar, and citation should be used in all assignments. We all make typos, but try to catch them as best you can.

Plagiarism and Cheating
Plagiarism and cheating will not be tolerated in this course. Engaging in such behaviors will result in a failing course grade. You are to do ALL of your own work. Plagiarism is defined as representing (and using) another person's ideas, writings, and work as one's own (see *Academic Integrity* statement below). Appropriate citation must be used for all materials incorporated into you work. Plagiarism will lead to a failing course grade.

Academic Integrity
Students are expected to comply with all regulations pertaining to academic honesty. For further information, visit Student Conduct and Community Standards, or contact the office of Student Conduct and Mediation at 541-737-3656.

OAR 576-015-0020 (2) Academic or Scholarly Dishonesty:

a) Academic or Scholarly Dishonesty is defined as an act of deception in which a Student seeks to claim credit for the work or effort of another person, or uses unauthorized materials or fabricated information in any academic work or research, either through the Student's own efforts or the efforts of another.
b) It includes:
    i) CHEATING - use or attempted use of unauthorized materials, information or study aids, or an act of deceit by which a Student attempts to misrepresent mastery of academic effort or information. This includes but is not limited to unauthorized copying or collaboration on a test or assignment, using prohibited materials and texts, any misuse of an electronic device, or using any deceptive means to gain academic credit.
    ii) FABRICATION - falsification or invention of any information including but not limited to falsifying research, inventing or exaggerating data, or listing incorrect or fictitious references.

iii) ASSISTING - helping another commit an act of academic dishonesty. This includes but is not limited to paying or bribing someone to acquire a test or assignment, changing someone's grades or academic records, taking a test/doing an assignment for someone else by any means, including misuse of an electronic device. It is a violation of Oregon state law to create and offer to sell part or all of an educational assignment to another person (ORS 165.114).

iv) TAMPERING - altering or interfering with evaluation instruments or documents.

v) PLAGIARISM - representing the words or ideas of another person or presenting someone else's words, ideas, artistry or data as one's own, or using one's own previously submitted work. Plagiarism includes but is not limited to copying another person's work (including unpublished material) without appropriate referencing, presenting someone else's opinions and theories as one's own, or working jointly on a project and then submitting it as one's own.

c) Academic Dishonesty cases are handled initially by the academic units, following the process outlined in the University's Academic Dishonesty Report Form, and will also be referred to SCCS for action under these rules.

Incompletes

Incomplete (I) grades will be granted only in emergency cases (usually only for a death in the family, major illness or injury, or birth of your child), and if the student has turned in 80% of the points possible (in other words, usually everything but the final paper). If you are having any difficulty that might prevent you completing the coursework, please don't wait until the end of the term; let me know right away.

Guidelines for a Productive and Effective Online Classroom

Students are expected to conduct themselves in the course (e.g., on discussion boards, email) in compliance with the university's regulations regarding civility. Civility is an essential ingredient for academic discourse. All communications for this course should be conducted constructively, civilly, and respectfully. Differences in beliefs, opinions, and approaches are to be expected. In all you say and do for this course, be professional. Please bring any communications you believe to be in violation of this class policy to the attention of your instructor.

Active interaction with peers and your instructor is essential to success in this online course, paying particular attention to the following:

- Unless indicated otherwise, please complete the readings and view other instructional materials for each week before participating in the discussion board.
- Read your posts carefully before submitting them.
- Be respectful of others and their opinions, valuing diversity in backgrounds, abilities, and experiences.
- Challenging the ideas held by others is an integral aspect of critical thinking and the academic process. Please word your responses carefully, and recognize that others are expected to challenge your ideas. A positive atmosphere of healthy debate is encouraged.

Statement Regarding Students with Disabilities
Accommodations for students with disabilities are determined and approved by Disability Access Services (DAS). If you, as a student, believe you are eligible for accommodations but have not obtained approval, please contact DAS immediately at 541-737-4098 or at http://ds.oregonstate.edu. DAS notifies students and faculty members of approved academic accommodations and coordinates implementation of those accommodations. While not required, students and faculty members are encouraged to discuss details of the implementation of individual accommodations.

Accessibility of Course Materials
All materials used in this course are accessible. If you require accommodations please contact Disability Access Services (DAS).

Additionally, Canvas, the learning management system through which this course is offered, provides a vendor statement certifying how the platform is accessible to students with disabilities.

Expectations for Student Conduct
Student conduct is governed by the university's policies, as explained in the Student Conduct Code. Students are expected to conduct themselves in the course (e.g., on discussion boards, email postings) in compliance with the university's regulations regarding civility.
All OSU academic regulations will be followed in the course.

Tutoring and Writing Assistance
NetTutor is a leading provider of online tutoring and learner support services fully staffed by experienced, trained and monitored tutors. Students connect to live tutors from any computer that has Internet access. NetTutor provides a virtual whiteboard that allows tutors and students to work on problems in a real time environment. They also have an online writing lab where tutors critique and return essays within 24 to 48 hours. Access NetTutor from within your Canvas class by clicking on the Tools button in your course menu.

The Oregon State Online Writing Lab (OWL) is also available for students enrolled in Ecampus courses.

TurnItIn
Your instructor may ask you to submit one or more of your writings to Turnitin, a plagiarism prevention service. Your assignment content will be checked for potential plagiarism against Internet sources, academic journal articles, and the papers of other OSU students, for common or borrowed content. Turnitin generates a report that highlights any potentially unoriginal text in your paper. The report may be submitted directly to your instructor or your instructor may elect to have you submit initial drafts through Turnitin, and you will receive the report allowing you the opportunity to make adjustments and ensure that all

source material has been properly cited. Papers you submit through Turnitin for this or any class will be added to the OSU Turnitin database and may be checked against other OSU paper submissions. You will retain all rights to your written work. For further information, visit [Academic Integrity for Students: Turnitin – What is it?](#)

Student Evaluation of Courses

The online Student Evaluation of Teaching system opens to students the Monday of dead week and closes the Monday following the end of finals. Students receive notification, instructions and the link through their ONID. They may also log into the system via Online Services. Course evaluation results are extremely important and used to help improve courses and the online learning experience for future students. Responses are anonymous (unless a student chooses to "sign" their comments, agreeing to relinquish anonymity) and unavailable to instructors until after grades have been posted. The results of scaled questions and signed comments go to both the instructor and their unit head/supervisor. Anonymous (unsigned) comments go to the instructor only.

Basic Needs

Any student who has difficulty affording groceries or accessing sufficient food to eat every day, or who lacks a safe and stable place to live, and believes this may affect their performance in the course, is urged to contact the Human Services Resource Center (HSRC) for support (hsrc@oregonstate.edu, 541-737-3747). The HSRC has a [food pantry](#), a [textbook lending program](#) and other resources to help. Furthermore, please notify the professor if you are comfortable in doing so. This will enable them to provide any resources that they may possess.

Getting Help

We all go through times in life when we need help. Learn about counseling and psychological resources for Ecampus students. If you are in immediate crisis, please contact the Crisis Text Line by texting OREGON to 741-741 or call the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 1-800-273-TALK (8255). There are additional resources if you are located near campus: Access counseling through OSU Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS), where you can get group counseling, individual therapy, or relational counseling. Website: https://studentlife.oregonstate.edu/hsrc