

SOCY 699Y: Qualitative Research Methods II, Field Research
Fall 2011, University of Maryland

Time: Tuesdays 3:30-6:10

Location 2115 Art-Sociology Building.

Professor Dana R. Fisher

Office: 3133 Art-Sociology

Office Hours: Thursdays 2-4

This course is designed as the second in the qualitative methods sequence of courses. Students are expected to have a general knowledge of qualitative methods, having already learned how to collect and analyze qualitative data using interview and ethnographic methods. Students will spend the semester collecting and analyzing qualitative data and must begin the course with a formulated research question, a plan for data collection and sampling. Each student will spend the first two weeks preparing a proposal for submission to the University of Maryland's Institutional Review Board to gain Human Subjects approval to collect data. Then, students will spend a month collecting data, a month analyzing data using QSR NVivo, which will be taught as part of the coursework, and writing up the findings. The end product of the course will be an empirical paper based on the data collected and analyzed throughout the semester. Students may not take this course as an audit and they must get approval to register for this course.

Requirements and Grading:

- (1) Class participation and fulfilling assignments (45%)
- (2) Final Paper (40%)
- (3) Final Presentation (15%)

Required Books at the University Book Center:

Lofland, John, David A. Snow, Leon Anderson and Lyn H. Lofland. 2006. *Analyzing social settings : a guide to qualitative observation and analysis, 4th edition*. Belmont, Calif.: Wadsworth Publishing Company.

Warren, Carol A. B. and Tracy X. Karner. 2010. *Discovering qualitative methods : field research, interviews, and analysis*. New York: Oxford University Press.

Weiss, Robert S. 1994. *Learning from Strangers: The Art and Method of Qualitative Interview Studies*. New York: Free Press.

Weekly Syllabus: Schedule of Topics

Session 1: September 6: Introduction and Overview of Projects/Requirements, Discussion of IRB

Begin IRB Proposals

Session 2: September 13: IRB Protocol Discussion

Mario Luis Small. 2011. "How to Conduct a Mixed Methods Study: Recent Trends in a Rapidly Growing Literature." *Annual Review of Sociology*. Volume 37: 57-86.

Draft IRB Protocol Due in Class

Session 3: September 20: Final IRB Protocols Due and must be submitted by this date (earlier is better)

Session 4: September 27: Finalize field research and data collection plan

Session 5: October 4: Collect Data

Session 6: October 11: Collect Data
Preliminary Memo Due on Data collection

Session 7: October 18: Collect Data

Session 8: October 25: Complete Data collection Enter Data/memos/transcribe into computer
No Class, Professor Fisher at UBC.

Session 9: November 1: Data Analysis Begins—NVivo Workshop I

Session 10: November 8: NVivo Workshop follow up and Discuss Analyzing Data
Code Tree Due in class

Session 11: November 15: Complete Data Analysis—Discuss papers in class

Session 12: November 22: Write-up Begins
Submit Paper Outline

Session 13: November 29: Write-up

Session 14: December 6: Final Papers Due