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Schedule Arranged

Course Description

A course designed to provide an overview of philosophies, approaches toward, design, data collection, analysis, and reporting of qualitative research.

Course Objectives

Through readings, discussions, application activities, and projects, learners will:

1. Discuss the ways in which various philosophical and theoretical assumptions shape qualitative research.
2. Determine when to utilize narrative inquiry, phenomenology, grounded theory, ethnography, and case study research based upon their philosophical and methodological underpinnings.
3. Apply specific interviewing, fieldwork, and document analysis techniques in the process of qualitative data collection.
4. Analyze and report qualitative sources of information.
5. Design and report a preliminary qualitative proposal.
6. Discuss issues of quality and ethics in qualitative methodologies.

REQUIRED REFERENCE:

Creswell, J.W. (2013). *Qualitative inquiry and research design: Choosing among five approaches* (3rd Ed). Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications.

OPTIONAL REFERENCES:

Merriam, S.B. (2009). *Qualitative research: A Guide to design and implementation*. San Francisco: CA; Jossey-Bass.

Grading

A = 90% -100 B = 80% - 89.9% C = 70% - 79.9%

Description of Assignments

1. Weekly Reading Reflections/Matrix-Read the materials for the week and prepare a brief (1-2 page) reflection (or matrix) of the readings, based upon key prompts that will be given to you. The focus of these reflections should be less on the content of the reading and more on the your responses to general thoughts the readings evoked based upon the reflective prompts.

2. Interviews and Transcripts-Select two individuals (or groups) to interview for a minimum of 45 minutes each. Record and transcribe the interviews verbatim and submit interview protocol, reflections, and typed interview transcripts.

3. Observation (or Documents) and Field Notes-Immerse yourself in a particular aspect of the field as it relates to your research project; or analyze specific documents/artifacts (when appropriate). Make detailed field notes and submit the general context/process of the observation, the field notes, a sample of data output from the process, and a written reflection of your thoughts. If conducting a document analysis, submit the document to be analyzed, write up of the analysis structure and protocol, sample data output, and a summary reflection.

4. Data Analysis-Compile all of the data collected in interviews, observations, etc. and conduct a preliminary analysis. The goals are to engage in making meaning from data and recognize emergent themes. Submit the write

up of the data analysis protocol and coding structure, a sample coding output, a sample memo, and a summary of the key themes.

5. Paper Draft-In order to ensure success and appropriate and timely development of the project, you will be asked to submit 1 preliminary draft for review, discussion and revision through the particular point in the process that has been discussed in class.

6. Final Qualitative Research Project-The final qualitative research project encompasses the research process applied in each phase of the course content. The report will consist of the following element: selection of the problem/preliminary review of literature, framing the research (among one of the 5 traditions), theoretical and or epistemological perspectives, introduction, research questions and sampling technique, general approach/methodology, description data collection and analysis procedures, discussion of standards of quality, preliminary findings, and support from the data (quotes, thick descriptions, tying it all together) and a discussion section (conclusions, implications, recommendations, future directions, etc.).

COURSE OUTLINE AND SCHEDULE (TENTATIVE)

	Topics
1	What is this course and what is expected? What is qualitative research?
2	What is IRB? How do I design a study? What are the general approaches to design?
3	How is a study introduced? What are sampling strategies?
4	What is effective interviewing?
5	How is a phenomenology conducted?
6	How is a case study conducted?
7	What are effective observation and fieldwork strategies?
8	How is grounded theory conducted?
9	How can data be mined from documents and other sources?
11	How are data organized, analyzed, and coded?
12	How is quality determined in qualitative research?
13	How is qualitative research written and presented?
14	“Open Class” Work on Reports
15	Reporting Qualitative Research
16	Research Final Papers, Wrap-Up, Evaluations