

SOCI 307 – Qualitative Research

Fall 2017

Dr. Lynda Harling Stalker

lharling@sfx.ca

AX111B

902-867-3877

Office hours: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday 9-10:30am

In this course, students will learn how to conduct qualitative research. Students will be exposed to the key ways in which social scientists collect and make sense of qualitative data. They will then know how to write up their findings in such a way that it will be presentable to other academics. This course is quite intensive, but it is a course that will allow students the freedom to follow their own interests and explore questions they have about the social world they live in.

Course material

Students will be required to obtain a copy of J.D. Aurini et al. *The how to of qualitative research*. This is available in the Campus Store. Other readings will be distributed to students electronically.

Course evaluations

Participation (15%): It is vital that students attend and participate in all classes. While life does happen, you are expected to be present during appointed class time.

Reflexive paper (15%): In this paper you will lay out who you are as a researcher. You will be expected to establish your ontological position and epistemological stance. You will then show how this influences your interests and viewpoints on the social world. You are not expected to do any research for this paper. It should be approximately 750 words (5 pages). DUE September 28.

Research proposal (30%): The research proposal is the map for your research project. You will be expected to lay out your research questions, conduct a literature review, establish a theoretical / conceptual framework, and propose a methodology. You will be expected to have a minimum of 5 social science academic sources. The proposal should be approximately 2500 words (10 pages). DUE October 23.

Research paper (40%): A research paper is where you present your findings and contribute to the ongoing academic debates in your area. This paper will incorporate some of the work you did in your proposal, but will focus primarily on the data and analysis you have done. This paper is to be approximately 3000 words (12 pages). DUE DATE TO BE NEGOTIATED.

Cautions

Plagiarism and cheating will not be tolerated in this class. If you are unsure what either of these entails and the penalties associated with them, please consult the universities Academic Calendar.

The classroom is one that embodies respect and dignity. Please be sure to give this to the professor, visitors and fellow students. This mean that disagreements and questions about ideas are welcome, but not personal attacks and slurs. Also, please put mobile technology away during class time. The “glow” of cell phones and the like is distracting to all around. If your friends, mother or grandfather don’t like the fact that that you didn’t answer their SnapChat right away, please let them know that they are more than welcome to contact Dr. Harling Stalker, and she will explain the classroom policy.

Accommodation

If you require accommodation, please see Dr. Harling Stalker as soon as possible.

Class Schedule and Readings

Date	Topic	Reading
September 7	Introduction to class	
September 11	What’s qualitative about qualitative research?	TBA
September 14	Philosophies and Paradigms	TBA
September 18	Ontology and Epistemology	TBA
September 21	Sympathy/Empathy/Reflexivity	TBA
September 25	Identifying your research interest	Chapter 2
September 28	Literature reviews	Chapter 2 REFLEXIVE PAPER DUE
October 2	Research Questions	Chapter 3
October 5	Proposal Writing	Chapter 3
October 12	Ethics	TBA
October 16	Ethics	TBA
October 19	Interviewing	Chapter 4
October 23	Interviewing	Chapter 4 RESEARCH PROPOSAL DUE
October 26	Focus Groups	Chapter 5
October 30	Ethnography	Chapter 6
November 2	Ethnography	Chapter 6
November 6	Unobtrusive	Chapter 7
November 9	Unobtrusive	Chapter 7
November 15	Transcribing	Chapter 8
November 20	Coding	Chapter 8
November 23	Coding	Chapter 8
November 27	Writing	Chapter 9
November 30	Writing	Chapter 9