

Qualitative Research Methods (PSYCH 2220)

Spring semester 2018

100% online

Professor:

Dr. Christine Simmonds-Moore

Contact details:

Melson 215

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Office hours

Monday 1-4.30

Tuesday 2-5.30

Wednesday 2.30-4.30

Friday 3.30-4.30

Office hours are by *appointment* –please sign up for an appointment via *google calendar* [google calendar appointments for office hours](#) or via email or verbal arrangement with your professor. Appointment slots are 30 minutes in length. Office hours can be held via google hangouts, via Skype, over the telephone, or in person.

Prerequisites: PSY 201 Minimum Grade: D or PSYC 1101 Minimum Grade: D

Course Description:

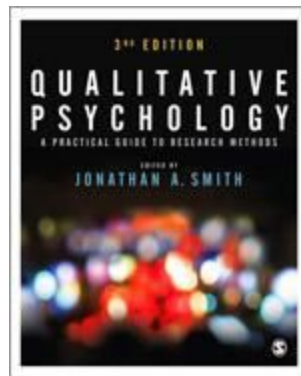
This course provides an historical and philosophical overview of the foundations of qualitative research methodology as well as the major research strategies and design in qualitative research. This course is intended for undergraduate students planning to conduct qualitative research.

Learning outcomes:

- Students will have knowledge of historical and philosophical foundations of qualitative research
- Students will have knowledge of a variety of qualitative research methods relevant to psychology
- Students will have experience conducting qualitative research
- Students will have experience analyzing several forms of qualitative data

Text book and reading

The text-book we will be using during the class is:-



- Smith, J. (2015). Qualitative Psychology: A practical guide to research methods. (Third edition). Sage publications.
- **ISBN-10:** 1446298469
- **ISBN-13:** 978-1446298466

We will also be reading other primary source materials and pdfs of book chapters, which are available via coursedon.

Structure and schedule of classes (subject to minor alterations and amendments):

There are 4 modules in this course

1. Orientation module (opens 6th January, 2018)

Activities:

- Read the syllabus.
- Familiarize yourself with the coursed environment.
- View introductory video.
- Students should each start keeping a dream diary. You will use your dreams as data later in the course (narrative analysis)
- Join the facebook group (optional)

Discussions:

- **Discussion 1.** Introduce yourself in the online discussion forum. Make sure you include 3 areas of psychology that you would like to research in the future, and why. **By Friday January 12th**

Quizzes:

- **Quiz 1.** Complete quiz on orientation module by **5pm on Thursday January 11th.**

2. Module 1 - Foundations of qualitative research methods (opens 10th January, 2018).

January 15th is the MLK day holiday – *no expectation to engage in the online classroom on this day.*

Topic 1. What is research?

Activities:

- Read chapter 1, (introduction) in your text book
- View powerpoint 1. *What is research?*

Topic 2. Conceptual and philosophical foundations of qualitative research (begin by 16th January)

Activities:

- Read chapter 2 in the text book. Conceptual foundations of qualitative research by Peter Ashworth

- View powerpoint video 2 on *philosophical and conceptual foundations of qualitative research*.

Topic 3. Epistemology, ontology and choice of research methods including the relative values of qualitative and quantitative research

Activities:

- Read pdf of Cresswell chapter 1.
- View powerpoint video 3 on epistemologies.

Discussions:

- **Discussion 2.** What are the limitations and advantages of traditional (positivistic) research in psychology? **Post by Friday 19th January.**

Topic 4. Research questions, research approaches and types of data

Activities:

- Read pdf of chapter on research questions from Breakwell et al.
- Read chapter 11 in the text book.
- View powerpoint video 4 on research questions and types of research.

Assignments:

- **Assignment 1:** Complete matching quiz (on coursedon) fitting research questions to research approaches by **Friday 26th January 5% .**

Topic 5 .The importance of a literature review for framing your research

Activities:

- Read the article about writing a literature review (Read pdf of chapter on “the introduction” from Cresswell.)
- Read 4 articles that you find by using the library databases at UWG
- View powerpoint video 5.
- View the lib guide for qualitative research methods.

Assignments:

- **Assignment 2:** Find 4 articles relevant to **one** of the topics on the following list and using psychiinfo, and Proquest psychology using the library’s databases for psychology at UWG.
 - Dreams
 - Nightmares

- Love songs
- Near death experiences

Summarize each article. Include a summary of the limitations and strengths of each research article, and how a new (qualitative) study might add to this “body” of research? **10%. Submit by Friday 9th February at 5pm.**

Topic 6. Quality control in qualitative research

Activities:

- View powerpoint video 6.
- Read chapter 12 (by Yardley) in the text book.
- Read pdf about reflexivity

Topic 7. Ethical considerations in research

Activities:

- View powerpoint video 7.
- Read over APA code of ethics - <http://www.apa.org/ethics/code/index.aspx>

Assignments

Assignment 3 - Complete CITI training. Submit your completion certificate to the dropbox by **Friday 16th February. 5%**

3. Module 2 - Exploring qualitative research methods (opens Monday 19th February)

Topic 1 . Introduction to Thematic and content analysis

Activities:

- Read chapter 10 in the text book.
- Read http://eprints.uwe.ac.uk/11735/2/thematic_analysis_revised_-_final.pdf
- View powerpoint video on introduction to thematic analysis

Topic 2. Thematic and content analysis II

Activities:

- Read example paper on thematic analysis
- Read example paper on content analysis and paranormal experiences
- View powerpoint on thematic analysis II

Topic 3 Types of data collection 1 – working with existing data I (content and thematic analysis of male versus female penned love songs).

Activities:

- View powerpoint – how to analyze using TA.
- Read assignment instructions for data collection assignment 1.
- Assemble 4 sets of song lyrics to analyze, as per assignment instructions.

Assignments:

- Data collection assignment 1 - **Thematic analysis data collection assignment is due on 9th March by 5pm. 10%**

Topic 4. Introduction to narrative approaches

Activities:

- Read chapter 5 in the text book
- View powerpoint.

Topic 5 Narrative approaches II

Activities:

- Read pdf of narrative analysis write up.
- View powerpoint.

Topic 6 Narrative analysis

Activities

- Read pdf of article on narrative analysis in psychology
- View powerpoint.

Topic 7 Types of data collection II – self data (workshop - exploring dreams using narrative analysis)

Activities

- View powerpoint
- Read assignment guidelines for data collection assignment II (narrative analysis)

- View an example of a worked narrative analysis (found here: <http://nsuworks.nova.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1973&context=tqr>)

Assignments:

Students will work on the second data collection assignment - narrative analysis and dreams. Assemble your own dream, and include the dreams of 3 other people (you can find dream reports on the internet by searching for examples of dreams). **Narrative analysis assignment is due by Monday 26th March. By 5pm. 10%**

[spring break is March 19th-24th]

Topic 8. Introduction to phenomenological approaches to research

Activities:

- Read pdf on phenomenological research approaches
- View powerpoint.

Topic 9. Data collection 2 – how to do an interview

Activities:

- Read pdf on interviewing and listening in interviews.
- View powerpoint on interviewing.
- Each student should come up with 7 good questions that tap into this topic.
- Interview two people about their experiences of nightmares
- Transcribe your interviews by **April 6th**.

Topic 10. Introduction to Interpretative Phenomenological Analysis (IPA)

Activities

- Read Chapter 3 in the text book by Smith and Osborn
- Read pdf of IPA and paranormal experience paper on courseden.
- View powerpoint and video of a worked example of how to do an IPA.
- Read assignment guidelines for data collection assignment 3.

Assignments:

Conduct an - IPA of nightmare experiences using the transcriptions from your 2 interviews.
Submit IPA assignment by April 13th 5pm

Topic 11. Introduction to grounded theory

Activities:

- Read chapter 4 in the text book
- View powerpoint

Topic 12. Grounded theory 2

Activities:

- Read pdf of example of grounded theory.
- View powerpoint

Topic 13. Working with existing data II Exploring stories of near death experiences using grounded theory

Activities:

- Read assignment guidelines for data collection assignment 4.
- View powerpoint
- Students should sample 5 NDE stories each from the IANDS website - <http://iands.org/ndes/nde-stories/iands-nde-accounts.html> or other sources – books, other internet sites) to use in the final data collection assignment.

Assignments:

- Do a grounded theory on the 5 NDE stories that you sampled from the IANDS website.
Submit grounded theory assignment by Monday 30th April, 5pm.

Topic 14. Introduction to Transpersonal Research methods

Activities:

- View powerpoint.
- Read pdf by Braud
<http://www.inclusivepsychology.com/uploads/CanResearchBeTranspersonal.pdf>
- Read article by Braud and Anderson:
http://s3.amazonaws.com/academia.edu.documents/36081702/Global_Perspective_final.pdf?AWSAccessKeyId=AKIAJ56TQJRTWSMTNPEA&Expires=1483468990&Signature=jb%2B6PMRafGX49AJhFTpR6bGR1vo%3D&response-content-disposition=inline%3B%20filename%3DTranspersonal_Research_From_a_Global_Per.pdf
- Read introduction to Anderson, R. (2011). Transforming self and others through research: Transpersonal research methods and skills for the human sciences and humanities. E book in the library; BF76.5 .A68 2011eb PubDate:20
- Listen to the piece of music provided on courseden. Note emotional, body responses and other non-verbal responses (drawings, paintings, poetry) to this piece of music.

Topic 15 – discursive methods

- View powerpoint.
- Read chapter on conversation analysis
- Read chapter on discourse analysis
- Read example paper on conversation analysis
- Read example paper on discourse analysis

Topic 16. Participatory methods of research

Activities

- View powerpoint
- Read chapter on cooperative inquiry.
- Read pdf of paper on photovoice

Exam

Complete the end of semester quiz on topics covered during the semester. The quiz will be available **from 2nd May and will close at 5pm on 8th May.**

Graduation is on May 10th

Schedule of class topics (subject to minor amendments and alterations)

Module	Class topic	Readings	Activities and assignments
Orientation module Complete by Friday January 12th.	1. Orientation module opens Saturday 6 th January.		<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Read syllabus● View introductory powerpoint● Discussion 1. Introduce yourself in the online discussion forum. Make sure you include 3 areas of psychology that you would like to research in the future, and why. By Friday January 12th.● Students should each start keeping a dream

			<p>diary. You will be asked to provide one of your dreams to your group for analysis later in the course (narrative analysis)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Quiz 1. Complete quiz on orientation module by thursday January 11th.
<p>Module 1 – introduction to qualitative research methods</p> <p>Opens Wednesday 10th January.</p>	2. What is research?	Read chapter 1, (introduction) in your text book	View powerpoint on what is research.
	3. Conceptual and philosophical foundations of qualitative research	Read chapter 2 in the text book. Conceptual foundations of qualitative research by Peter Ashworth.	View powerpoint on philosophical and conceptual foundations of qualitative research.
	4. Epistemology, ontology and choice of research methods including the relative values of qualitative and quantitative research	Read pdf of Cresswell chapter 1.	View powerpoint on epistemology, ontology and choice of research methods. Participate in discussion forum – what are the limitations and advantages of traditional (positivistic) research in psychology? (5%) Post by Friday 19 th January.
	5. Research questions, research approaches and types of data	Read pdf of chapter on research questions from Breakwell et al.	View powerpoint on research questions and types of research. Assignment 1: Complete worksheet on fitting research questions

		Read chapter 11 in the text book.)	to research approaches by Friday 26th January 5% .
	6. The importance of a literature review for framing your research.	Read the article about writing a literature review (Read pdf of chapter on “the introduction” from Cresswell.) Read 4 articles that you find by using the library databases at UWG.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● View powerpoint. ● View the lib guide for qualitative research methods. ● Assignment 2. Find 4 articles relevant to one of the topics on the following list and using psychiinfo, proquest psychology using the library’s databases for psychology at UWG. ● Dreams ● Nightmares ● Love songs ● Near death experiences ● Summarize each article. What are the limitations and strengths of each research article, and how might a new (qualitative) study add to this body of research? 10% <p>Submit by friday 9th February at 5pm.</p>
	7. Ethical considerations in research	Read over APA code of ethics http://www.apa.org/ethics/code/index.aspx	Assignment 3 - Complete CITI training. Submit your completion certificate to the dropbox by friday 23rd February. 5%
	8. Quality control in qualitative research	Read chapter by Yardley in the text book.	

<p>Module 2 –Exploring different methodologies</p> <p>Opens Monday 19th February</p>	<p>9. 1. Introduction to Thematic and content analysis</p>	<p>Read chapter 10 in the text book. Read http://eprints.uwe.ac.uk/11735/2/thematic_analysis_revised_-_final.pdf</p>	<p>View powerpoint on introduction to thematic analysis</p>
	<p>10. Thematic and content analysis II</p>	<p>Read example paper on thematic analysis Read example paper on content analysis and paranormal experiences</p>	<p>View powerpoint 2 on thematic analysis</p>
	<p>11. Types of data collection 1 – working with existing data I (content and thematic analysis of male versus female penned love songs).</p>		<p>View powerpoint – how to analyze using TA. Students will work on the first data collection assignment (3) - thematic analysis of love songs. Thematic analysis data collection assignment is due on 9th March. 10%</p>
	<p>12. Introduction to narrative approaches</p>	<p>Read chapter 5 in the text book</p>	<p>View powerpoint.</p>
	<p>13. Narrative approaches II</p>	<p>Read pdf of narrative analysis write up.</p>	<p>View powerpoint.</p>
	<p>14. Narrative analysis</p>	<p>Read pdf of article on narrative analysis in psychology</p>	<p>View powerpoint.</p>
	<p>15. Types of data collection II – self data (workshop - exploring one of your dreams using narrative analysis)</p>	<p>An example of a worked narrative analysis may be found here: http://nsuworks.nova.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1973&context=tqr</p>	<p>View powerpoint – how to analyze. Students will work on the second data collection assignment - narrative analysis and dreams. Assemble your own dream, and include the dreams of 3 other people (you can find</p>

			dream reports on the internet by searching for examples of dreams). Narrative analysis assignment is due by Friday 16th March. By 5pm. 10%
March 19 th -24 th	<i>Spring break – no classes</i>		
	16. Introduction to phenomenological approaches to research	Read pdf on phenomenological research approaches	View powerpoint.
	17. Data collection 2 – how to do an interview	Read pdf on interviewing and listening in interviews.	View powerpoint on interviewing. Each student should come up with 7 good questions that tap into this topic. Interview two people about their experiences of nightmares Transcribe your interviews by April 6th.
	18. Introduction to Interpretative Phenomenological Analysis (IPA)	Read Chapter 3 in the text book by Smith and Osborn Read pdf of IPA and paranormal experience paper on courseden.	View powerpoint and video of a worked example of how to do an IPA. Conduct an - IPA of nightmare experiences using the transcriptions from your 2 interviews. Submit IPA assignment by April 13th 5pm
	19. Introduction to grounded theory	Read chapter 4 in the text book	View powerpoint
	20. .Grounded theory 2	Read pdf of example of grounded theory.	
Thursday April 12th	21. Working with existing data II Exploring stories of near death		Students should sample 5 NDE stories each from the IANDS website -

	<p>experiences using grounded theory</p>		<p>http://iands.org/ndes/nde-stories/iands-nde-accounts.html or other sources – books, other internet sites) to use in the final data collection assignment. Submit grounded theory assignment by Monday 30th April, 5pm.</p>
	<p>22. Introduction to Transpersonal Research methods</p>	<p>Read pdf by Braud http://www.inclusivepsychology.com/uploads/CanResearchBeTranspersonal.pdf And Braud and Anderson: http://s3.amazonaws.com/academia.edu/documents/36081702/Global_Perspective_final.pdf?AWSAccessKeyId=AKIAJ56TQJRTWSMTNPEA&Expires=1483468990&Signature=jb%2B6PMRafGX49AJhFTpR6bGR1vo%3D&response-content-disposition=inline%3B%20filename%3DTranspersonal_Research_From_a_Global_Per.pdf</p> <p>Read introduction to Anderson, R. (2011). Transforming self and others through research: Transpersonal research methods</p>	

		and skills for the human sciences and humanities. E book in the library; BF76.5 .A68 2011eb PubDate:2011	
	Participatory methods of research		
			Complete the end of semester quiz on topics covered during the semester [Tuesday May 9th 2-4.30

Graduation is on May, 10th 2018

Assignments and grading

Final grades will be calculated based on the various components of the assessed work for this course. Rubrics will be provided for all assignments. If you submit assignments after the deadline, without a valid reason (illness or extreme personal circumstances) your grade will be reduced. All assignments should be submitted via the assignment dropbox in courseden by the deadlines listed below.

Summary of Assignments and grading

Final grades will be calculated based on the various components of the assessed work for this course. If you submit assignments after the deadline, without a valid reason (illness or extreme personal circumstances) your grade will be reduced.

Assignments consist of:

- 1. Matching quiz – 5%**
- 2. CITI (ethics) training - 5%**
- 3. Literature search and summary 10%**
- 4. Submission of 4 data collection and analysis assignments - 40%**

For each, you should include the data that you and your group collected, your analysis and a reflection on the advantages and disadvantages of this method.

- 1) Thematic analysis (analysis of male versus female penned love songs)
- 2) Narrative analysis (dreams)
- 3) IPA (interviews on attitudes toward the paranormal)

4) Grounded theory (Near Death Experiences)
Each assignment is equivalent to 10%.

5. Quiz on foundations of qualitative research (module 1) - 15

6. End of semester quiz- 15%

7. Participation– 10 %.

You will get more out of this class if you login regularly, engage with the class and participate in discussions. If you know you will be away, and unable to login or complete an assignment, discussion or activity for valid reasons (illness or extreme personal circumstances) please provide evidence. Your grade will go down if you do not participate in the discussions, if you fail to submit some of the work, if you are late with your submissions.

Important information

Please read the information contained in the following link, with regard to academic support, online courses, the UWG honor code and other UWG policies. This information is updated each semester. http://www.westga.edu/assetsDept/vpaa/Common_Language_for_Course_Syllabi.pdf

Plagiarism and Turnitin

When someone presents another person's ideas (written or spoken) as their own, this is **plagiarism**. See <http://www.plagiarism.org/plagiarism-101/what-is-plagiarism/>. Prior to submitting your work, please read it over (and ask a friend to do so) and make sure that you are presenting your ideas using your own words. If you are describing the work of others, make sure that you include citations to their work. **Turnitin** is some electronic software (that is tied to the dropbox in courseden) that allows you and your professor to check the originality in your written work and it can help you to avoid plagiarism. Although assignments are due in during class time, I will also ask you to submit your assignments via the dropbox in courseden. It is highly unlikely that you will get an originality report of 0 – but the reports will be color coded, and a higher score (above 25% similarity) implies that your work is less original, you should aim for a low score (this means that your work is more original). Plagiarism is a serious issue. If plagiarism is detected in your work, you will automatically fail the assignment.

What to do if you miss your final exam

If you miss your final exam and prior arrangements have not been made, you may receive a grade of F on that exam or paper and this may affect your final grade in the class. If you miss your exam due to an emergency, please contact the Psychology office at (678)839-6510 or go to Melson Room 123 as soon as possible to complete the application: "Missed Final Exam:

Verification of Emergency”. This form will need to be approved by the chair for an incomplete grade which may allow you the time to make up your exam or complete your final assignments. This application will require documentation and authorization from you to verify your emergency.

Other information

- A lot of this course relies on your participation in your group. Please make sure that you obtain contact information for the other members of your group and meet the data deadlines so that your group members can be successful in this class.
- You can email me at csimmond@westga.edu or via email within coursesden
- I can only discuss grades using Coursesden, or in a face to face meeting.

Link to the site of the registrar’s office which contains important dates concerning add/drop and withdrawal <http://www.westga.edu/registrar/802.php>

**this syllabus may be subject to minor alterations and amendments.*