

Qualitative Research Methods Section 01

SOCI 105

Spring 2023 3 Unit(s) 01/25/2023 to 05/15/2023 Modified 01/18/2023

Contact Information

Course and Contact Information Instructor(s): Dr. Natalie Boero Office Location: DMH 211

Telephone: Please use email or Canvas messaging

Email: natalie.boero@sjsu.edu

Office Hours: MONDAYS 10:15am-11:15am or by appointment Class Days/Time: Mondays and Wednesdays 9:00am-10:15am
Classroom: DMH 231

Prerequisites: SOCI 1, SOCI 100W, SOCI 101, Upper Division Standing

Professor: Dr. Natalie Boero

Email: natalie.boero@sjsu.edu

Office: DMH 211

The best way to contact me is through Canvas messaging or through email. Most answers to course-related questions are in the syllabus and various assignment sheets. I generally respond to messages within 24 hours on weekdays and 48 hours over the weekend. If I go longer than that, I apologize in advance and please feel free to message me again!

Office Hours

Mondays 10:15-11:15 am or by appointment
DMH 211

Course Description and Requisites

Philosophy and logic of research design, interviewing techniques, field methods, issues of participant observation, theoretical perspectives, content analysis and qualitative microcomputer techniques. Required for Sociology majors.

Prerequisite: SOCI 1 or equivalent, SOCI 100W, SOCI 101 and upper division standing.

Letter Graded

* Classroom Protocols

Canvas

The syllabus, all readings, assignments, and links related to the course will be posted on our Canvas page. Please consult both

the Canvas page and your syllabus often!!!! Materials will be organized into modules corresponding with the week on the course schedule below. Please read/complete materials in each module in the order they are posted. NEW MODULES WILL BE AVAILABLE BY 5PM EACH WEDNESDAY.

Communication

I encourage all of you to come by my office hours (listed above). Even if you don't have a specific question, office hours are a great chance for me to get to know you better and for you to give me feedback on the course. If you are having any problems that could impact your success in the course, come see me as soon as possible. It is much easier to deal with problems early on. Please note that I do not give incompletes except in the most extreme situations, and then only if a student has already completed a majority (at least 75%) of the work for the course.

I am also available by email at the address above or through the Canvas site. However, given the large number of students in my classes, I may take a day or two to respond to emails. It is also important that you check your email as well as the "news" section of Canvas for any course updates. I will email the class of any changes in the schedule. If you do email me, please include your name and the course number and section in the subject line.

I very much understand that you all have complicated and busy lives and that these past few years have been very difficult on all of us. I really encourage you to come talk to me if you need my assistance or have questions. Communication is key!

Readings and Missed Classes

I expect that you will have each week's readings completed by class on Monday of each week. I have tried to make the reading interesting and manageable so that we can all participate in active discussions. Please bring your course packet to class each day so that we can refer to the readings in discussions.

Participation is important and it helps make discussions livelier as well as to clarify materials. Coming to class is important as I will be lecturing on materials not included in the readings.

If you cannot come to class, it is your responsibility to get notes from one of your peers. Please limit cell phone/laptop use in class as it is distracting to me and other students.

A Note for Students with Children

This classroom is open to students' children when you have difficulty securing childcare. Please be sure your child complies with SJSU Covid policies and please do not bring sick children to class. Please bring something age appropriate for your child to do during class, and if you can, let me know ahead that they will be joining us. My priority is for all students to attend and participate in class, so do not feel that you have to decide between class and caring for your kids. That said, please use this option only when necessary, given the smaller size and limited number of seats in some classrooms.

Program Information

Program Learning Outcomes

1. Students will be able to think sociologically about the relationship between social structure, interaction, identities, and inequalities.
2. Students will be able to identify and explain major sociological theories and apply them to everyday life.
3. Students will be proficient in qualitative and quantitative research design, data collection and data analysis.
4. Students will be proficient in oral and written communication skills appropriate to the discipline.
5. Students will be able to practice sociology as educated and civically engaged persons.

Course Goals

In this course, we will focus on the philosophy and design of qualitative research. Unlike quantitative research methods, which focus on the measurement of social phenomena, qualitative research methods focus on questions of meaning and experience, which often do not lend themselves to quantification. For example, if you were interested in how many women have babies each year, you would use quantitative methods. If you want to know what it feels like to have a baby and the experience of being pregnant, you would use qualitative methods. In this course you will learn about various qualitative research methods and read and analyze examples of qualitative research. Most important, you will gather and analyze your own data through participant observation and in-depth

interviewing on a topic of your own choosing. This course will give you the opportunity to gain hands-on experience with various qualitative methods. You will learn to read and evaluate qualitative research and gain important analytic and practical skills.

Course Materials

REQUIRED COURSE PACKET

A **REQUIRED** course reader is available for purchase at Maple Press (330 S. 10th Street), or order online at :

<https://maplepress.net/readers/product/sociology-105-boero/> (<https://maplepress.net/readers/product/sociology-105-boero/>)

You must bring your reader to class for credit on Monday, January 30th.

All required readings will be also posted in PDF format on the course Canvas page

Course Requirements and Assignments

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Course Requirements and Assignments

The assignments and activities for this course are designed to enhance understanding of course material. Please note:

- All work must be submitted on Canvas; I will not accept emailed work.
- I will post detailed instruction sheets for each assignment well in advance of the due dates. We will go over all assignment expectations in class.
- I require any written documents you submit to be in .doc, .docx, or .pdf These are the only file formats that Canvas can display in its grading system and I do not download work to my computer to grade it. This means that if you create your work in an application like Apple's Pages, you will need to save it in one of the above formats before you can submit it

Research Assignment: Observation Project

Two In-depth Observations: This represents your first opportunity to independently conduct qualitative research. You will make two separate observations and take extensive field notes.

Research Assignment: Interview project

Interview Project: This is the central course project that we will work on for the majority of the It allows you the opportunity to design and conduct a mini in-depth qualitative research project from start to finish and gain interviewing experience. You will choose a topic/research question, design an interview guide, recruit and interview two people, and write a final reflection paper.

There is also a smaller assignment to write the research question you will study in your interviews (see grading info).

Exam: Midterm Exam

This is an in-class exam based on your understanding of course materials including readings, lectures, and supplemental materials. The exam will take place late in the semester as there is no final exam in this course.

Participation: Participation Activities

Class Participation/Class Activities: Because this is a workshop-style course, student participation is vital for the success of the class. I will evaluate your class participation based on the following:

Participation in course discussions

Successful completion of ten participation assignments (i.e. interview & coding exercises, writing exercises, small group activities, and peer review work). Some of these participation assignments will be done outside of class and turned in via Canvas, some will be completed in-class and turned in via Canvas after class.

*I do not accept late participation assignments however I will drop the lowest participation assignment grade.

✓ Grading Information

Breakdown

Grading Information

Your grade for the course will be out of a possible 500 points broken down as follows:

Observation assignment: 15% or 75 points

Research question: 10% or 50 points

Midterm Exam: 25% or 125 points Interviews and

Final interview paper: 30% or 150 points

Participation: Participation in class discussions, Eleven short participation assignments (only ten will count toward your grade, I will drop the lowest grade), three of these participation assignments are in class, most will be done on your own time outside of class, each participation assignment is worth 10 points. I will drop the lowest participation assignment. 20% or 100 points

Grade	Range	Notes
		Final letter grades for the course will be assigned based on the following scale: A = 500-465 points A- = 464-450 B+ = 449-435 points B = 434-415 points B- = 414-400 points C+ = 399-385 points C = 384-365 points C- = 364-350 points D+ = 349-335 points D = 334-315 points points D- = 314-300 points F = 299 points or less

Criteria

I will give you sample grading rubrics for the observation and interview projects in advance of the due dates.

Please note: I do not offer extra credit in this course

University Policies

Per [University Policy S16-9 \(http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.pdf\)](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.pdf), relevant university policy concerning all courses, such as

student responsibilities, academic integrity, accommodations, dropping and adding, consent for recording of class, etc. and available student services (e.g. learning assistance, counseling, and other resources) are listed on [Syllabus Information web page](https://www.sjsu.edu/curriculum/courses/syllabus-info.php) (<https://www.sjsu.edu/curriculum/courses/syllabus-info.php>) (<https://www.sjsu.edu/curriculum/courses/syllabus-info.php>). Make sure to visit this page to review and be aware of these university policies and resources.

Course Schedule

When	Topic	Notes
Week 1/ Module 1 1/25		Introduction: What is Qualitative Research?
Week 2/ Module 2 1/30 & 2/1		<p>Introduction: What is Qualitative Research?</p> <p>Participation Assignment #1: Bring course packet from Maple Press TO CLASS Monday, 1/30</p> <p>Participation Assignment #2: You've Read More Qualitative Research Than You Know!!! Due via Canvas Sunday, 2/5 11:59 pm</p> <p>Reading: Warren and Karner Ch. 1 and THE SYLLABUS!!!</p>
Week 3/ Module 3 2/6 & 2/8		<p>Observational Research</p> <p>Participation Assignment #3: "Body Ritual" reading response due Friday 2/10 by 11:59 pm</p> <p>Reading: Warren and Karner Ch. 3 and Ch. 4</p>
Week 4/ Module 4 2/13 & 2/15		<p>Observational Research, Observation assignment</p> <p>Participation Assignment #4: Watch "Sidewalk" Documentary and "Principles of Ethnographic Research" Film response. Due Sunday 2/19 by 11:59 pm</p> <p>Reading: Warren and Karner Ch. 5, Duneier "Sidewalk"</p>
Week 5/ Module 5 2/20 & 2/22		<p>Observational Research, Research Ethics</p> <p>Participation Assignment #5 (IN CLASS) :</p> <p>Bring a hard copy of field notes from Observation #1 to Class on Wednesday, 2/22.</p> <p>Reading:</p> <p>Brandt. "Racism and Research: The Case of the Tuskegee Syphilis Study", Warren & Karner Ch. 2</p> <p>OBSERVATION ASSIGNMENT DUE SUNDAY 2/26 11:59 PM</p>

When	Topic	Notes									
Week 6/ Module 6 2/27 & 3/1		<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td style="padding: 5px;">Interviews</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 5px;"> </td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 5px;"> </td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 5px;">RESEARCH QUESTION ASSIGNMENT DUE: Friday 3/3 11:59pm</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 5px;"> </td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 5px;"> </td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 5px;">Participation Assignment #6: Due Sunday, 3/5 11:59pm</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 5px;"> </td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 5px;">Reading: Warren & Karner Ch. 6</td></tr> </table>	Interviews			RESEARCH QUESTION ASSIGNMENT DUE: Friday 3/3 11:59pm			Participation Assignment #6: Due Sunday, 3/5 11:59pm		Reading: Warren & Karner Ch. 6
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Week 7/ Module 7 3/6 & 3/8		<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td style="padding: 5px;">Interviews Continued...Interview Guides</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 5px;"> </td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 5px;"> </td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 5px;"> </td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 5px;"> </td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 5px;"> </td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 5px;">Reading: Hermanowicz "The Great Interview", Warren and Karner Ch. 7</td></tr> </table>	Interviews Continued...Interview Guides						Reading: Hermanowicz "The Great Interview", Warren and Karner Ch. 7		
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Week 8/ Module 8 3/13 & 3/15		<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td style="padding: 5px;">Interview Guides</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 5px;"> </td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 5px;"> </td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 5px;">Participation Assignment #7: Draft Interview Guide due Friday 3/17 by 11:59pm</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 5px;"> </td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 5px;">Reading: Bettie, "Exceptions to the Rule"</td></tr> </table>	Interview Guides			Participation Assignment #7: Draft Interview Guide due Friday 3/17 by 11:59pm		Reading: Bettie, "Exceptions to the Rule"			
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Participation Assignment #7: Draft Interview Guide due Friday 3/17 by 11:59pm											
Reading: Bettie, "Exceptions to the Rule"											
Week 9/Module 9 3/20 & 3/22		<p>Issues in Interviewing</p> <p>Participation Assignment #8 due Friday, 3/25 11:59pm</p> <p>Reading: Blee, "White on White", Fetner & Heath, "Studying the Right Can Feel Wrong"</p>									
Week 10/ Module 10 3/27 & 3/29		<p>SPRING BREAK, NO CLASSES</p>									
Week 11/ Module 11 4/3 & 4/5		<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td style="padding: 5px;">Qualitative Research in Practice</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 5px;"> </td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 5px;"> </td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 5px;">Participation Assignment #9: Due Friday, 4/7 by 11:59 pm</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 5px;"> </td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 5px;">Reading: Tuan, "Neither Real Americans nor Real Asians", Rios, "Navigating the Thin Line Between Education and Incarceration"</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 5px;"> </td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 5px;"> </td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 5px;"> </td></tr> </table>	Qualitative Research in Practice			Participation Assignment #9: Due Friday, 4/7 by 11:59 pm		Reading: Tuan, "Neither Real Americans nor Real Asians", Rios, "Navigating the Thin Line Between Education and Incarceration"			
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When	Topic	Notes						
Week 12/ Module 12 4/10 & 4/12		Qualitative Research in Practice Continued: NO CLASS MONDAY 4/10 Participation Assignment #10: Due Monday 4/10 by 11:59 pm Wednesday 4/12: Guest Speaker: Kathy Barron, Host: "Women Who Sarcast"						
Week 13/ Module 13 4/17 & 4/19		<table border="1" data-bbox="477 384 1307 558"> <tr> <td data-bbox="477 384 1307 443">Midterm Review</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="477 443 1307 501"> </td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="477 501 1307 558">MIDTERM EXAM IN CLASS Wednesday, 4/19</td> </tr> </table>	Midterm Review		MIDTERM EXAM IN CLASS Wednesday, 4/19			
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Week 14/ Module 14 4/24 & 4/26		<table border="1" data-bbox="477 583 1179 1104"> <tr> <td data-bbox="477 583 1179 680">Analyzing Qualitative Data</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="477 680 1179 739"> </td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="477 739 1179 835">Participation Assignment #11 (IN CLASS):</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="477 835 1179 953">Bring a hard copy of your transcript from interview #1 to Class on Monday, 4/24</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="477 953 1179 1012"> </td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="477 1012 1179 1104">Reading: Warren and Karner Ch. 9, Connell, "Thank You for Coming Out Today"</td> </tr> </table>	Analyzing Qualitative Data		Participation Assignment #11 (IN CLASS):	Bring a hard copy of your transcript from interview #1 to Class on Monday, 4/24		Reading: Warren and Karner Ch. 9, Connell, "Thank You for Coming Out Today"
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Participation Assignment #11 (IN CLASS):								
Bring a hard copy of your transcript from interview #1 to Class on Monday, 4/24								
Reading: Warren and Karner Ch. 9, Connell, "Thank You for Coming Out Today"								
Week 15/ Module 15 5/1 & 5/3		Analyzing Qualitative Data continued...						
Week 16/Module 16 5/8 & 5/10		Discuss Final Papers						
Week 17/ Module 17 5/15		No Class. Dr. Boero will have open office hours during class time to discuss final papers.						