

QUALITATIVE METHODS: FIELD WORK AND DATA COLLECTION

Master's in Public Policy and Master's in Urban Planning

UPPP 220

Spring Quarter, 2021

Wednesdays: 9:30-12:20

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Zoom Office Hours:

- Fridays: 3:00pm-4:00pm. Appointments available upon request.
- Sign up for 20-minute slots on Canvas no later than 24 hours before meeting time.

Course Objectives:

This course is for master's students in public policy, urban planning and related fields. The course introduces students to qualitative methods used to inform policy and urban planning. Specifically, students learn about ethnography, semi-structured interviews and/or content analysis. Students take a hands-on approach to learn these methods by collecting these types of data for a pilot case study on a topic of interest. Having identified a clear research question, students consider research design and conceptual, ethical and practical issues as part of their study. Substantive topics in this course address community engagement, equity, diversity and social justice. Students culminate with a research paper highlighting their preliminary findings and an oral presentation.

Remote Learning: During spring 2021, we will meet weekly (synchronously) for approximately 2 hours to engage in discussions of the readings and assignments via zoom. In addition, I will upload approximately 1-hour lectures on weekly material. Students are responsible to watch these asynchronous videos in advance of the weekly seminar. I will record all zoom meetings for students unable to attend the zoom meeting due to sickness or exceptional circumstances. Please notify me if you are unable to attend.

Learning Objectives

Upon completion of the course, students will be able to:

- Recognize and evaluate the value of qualitative research for public policy and urban planning.
- Compare and practice the use of distinct qualitative research methods: ethnography, interviewing and/or content analysis.
- Analyze and summarize preliminary qualitative data and propose ways to improve their qualitative research.
- Draw links between their preliminary findings and public policy and urban planning.

Books for Class

Students will read and consult the following books in this class. These are valuable resources to keep as a reference for research beyond this course. Other readings are available via Canvas.

- Yin, Robert K. 2014. Case Study Research: Design and Methods. 5th Edition. (purchase hard copy)
- Weiss, Robert S. 1994. Learning from Strangers: The Art and Method of Qualitative Interview Studies. The Free Press. (purchase hard copy)

Highly recommended but optional

- Robert Emerson, Rachel Fretz and Linda Shaw. 2011. Writing Ethnographic Fieldnotes. University of Chicago. (purchase hard copy)
- Robert Emerson. 2001. Contemporary Field Research: Perspectives & Formulations, Ed

Grading:

<u>Seminar, Live Zoom Discussion</u>	<u>Points</u>
10 seminars (1 point each class)	10
<u>Class Discussion Board</u>	
4 - Muddiest Points Discussion	8
Biography	3
Research Question & Intro (w/citations)	8
Matching Question and Methods	8
<u>Data Collection</u>	
Fieldnotes or 5 text/archival sources	5
Interview Guide	5
Transcript 1	5
Extra Transcript(s), Fieldnotes or Texts	5
<u>Pilot Research Paper</u>	
Draft: RQ, Lit Review and Methods	10
Appendix: Coded Data with Code Scheme	3
Final: RQ, Lit Review, Methods and Findings	20
10 min- Presentation	10
Total Points	100