

Qualitative Research Methods Section 61

SOCI 105

Summer 2023 3 Unit(s) 06/05/2023 to 07/07/2023 Modified 06/07/2023

Contact Information

Office Location:	Online
Email:	natalie.boero@sjsu.edu
Office Hours:	by appointment
Class Days/Time:	Mon/Wed 10:00am-2:05pm (we will zoom from 10am-12pm each class day)
Classroom:	Zoom Link: https://sjsu.zoom.us/j/7257553099
Prerequisites:	SOCI 1, SOCI 100W, SOCI 101, Upper Division Standing

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

I expect that you will have each week's readings completed by class of each day for our live Zoom session. I have tried to make the reading interesting and manageable so that we can all participate in active discussions. Please bring your readings to class each day so that we can refer to them 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. I will post any power points and in-class handouts on the Canvas page, but I will not post recorded Zoom sessions.

Zoom

This course is considered “bi-chronous” meaning we will spend about half of our allotted classroom time on zoom and the other half of our classroom time you will work independently and I will post video lectures and other materials in lieu of meeting for the full class period.

We will meet as a live Zoom class each day from 10am-12pm. I value the live interaction and I like to get to interact with and get to know each of you throughout the semester. Please be on time to our Zoom meetings and do your best to ensure your internet connection is stable (I know this isn’t always possible). We will talk more about Zoom etiquette in class but I will say that it is helpful to me to be able to see your faces so, when possible, please join the Zoom via video. If you can’t join via video, I would appreciate it if each of you would upload a profile photo of yourself to Zoom so I am not staring at a sea of black boxes!

Academic integrity

Your commitment as a student to learning is evidenced by your enrollment at San Jose State University. The [University's Academic Integrity policy](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/S07-2.htm), located at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/S07-2.htm>, requires you to be honest in all your academic course work. Faculty members are required to report all infractions to the office of Student Conduct and Ethical Development. The [Student Conduct and Ethical Development website](http://www.sa.sjsu.edu/judicial_affairs/index.html) is available at http://www.sa.sjsu.edu/judicial_affairs/index.html.

Instances of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Cheating on exams or plagiarism (presenting the work of another as your own, or the use of another person’s ideas without giving proper credit, including the use of ChatGPT type AI programs to write work) will result in a failing grade and sanctions by the University. For this class, all assignments are to be completed by the individual student unless otherwise specified. If you would like to include your assignment or any material you have submitted, or plan to submit for another class, please note that SJSU’s Academic Policy S07-2 requires approval of instructors.

Campus Policy in Compliance with the American Disabilities Act

If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, or if you need to make special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please make an appointment with me as soon as possible, or see me during office hours. Presidential Directive 97-03 requires that students with disabilities requesting accommodations must register with the [Disability Resource Center \(DRC\)](http://www.drc.sjsu.edu/) at <http://www.drc.sjsu.edu/> to establish a record of their disability.

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 that focus on the measurement of social phenomena, qualitative research methods focus on questions of meaning and experience

that often do not lend themselves to quantification. For example, if you are 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

All readings will be posted on Canvas in PDF or link format

Course Requirements and Assignments

The assignments for this course are designed to give you some experience designing and conducting a qualitative research project. We will spend a lot of time in class working on and talking about your projects and I will give you detailed assignment sheets well in advance of the due date.

All assignments will be turned in via Canvas unless specified. It is your responsibility to make sure I receive all of your work so be sure you keep an electronic copy of all of your work.

LATE PAPERS (READ CAREFULLY)

Given the intensity and speed of a summer course, I will not accept any late papers

The assignments and activities for this course are designed to enhance understanding of course material. Your final grade in this class will be based on the following:

- 1. Two In-depth Observations:** This represents your first opportunity to independently conduct qualitative research. You will make two separate observations in a public setting and take extensive field notes.
- 2. Interview Project:** This is the central course project that we will work on for the majority of the term. 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, compile articles on your topic, design an interview guide, recruit and interview two people, and write a final reflection paper.
- 3. Quizzes:** At the start of class each day beginning the second day of class, there will be a reading quiz. The quizzes will happen **AT THE START OF OUR DAILY ZOOMS AND WILL BE TIME-LIMITED SO PLEASE BE ON TIME** There will be no make-up quizzes, however, I will drop the lowest quiz grade. There will be eight quizzes and I will count seven of them.
- 4. In 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 participation in course discussion and successful completion of various in-class activities (writing exercises, small group activities, and peer review work).

5. **Participation assignments:** Most classes there will be a "participation assignment" worth 20 points each. There will be a total of 6 such assignments. Some participation assignments will be credit/no credit and some will be graded – I will specify on each assignment whether it is graded or CR/NCR. I WILL NOT ACCEPT ANY LATE PARTICIPATION ASSIGNMENTS. PLEASE NOTE, NOT ALL DUE DATES FOR PARTICIPATION ASSIGNMENTS ARE THE SAME!*Participation assignments will generally be in the form of a short response to a reading or a video, posting and responding to a discussion thread, or answering reading questions.

✓ Grading Information

Your grade for the course will be broken down as follows:

Observation assignment: 11% or 55 points

Research question: 10% or 50 points

Participation Assignments: 24% or 120 points (20 points x 6 Assignments)

Interviews and reflection paper: 20% or 100 points

Reading quizzes: 35% or 175 points (25 points x 7 quizzes)

Final letter grades for the course will be assigned based on the following scale:

A = 500-465 points	B = 434-415 points	C = 384-365 points	D = 334-315 points
A- = 464-450 points	B- = 414-400 points	C- = 364-350 points	D- = 314-300 points
B+ = 449-435 points	C+ = 399-385 points	D+ = 349-335 points	F = 299 points or less

University Policies

Per [University Policy S16-9 \(PDF\)](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 the [Syllabus Information](https://www.sjsu.edu/curriculum/courses/syllabus-info.php) (<https://www.sjsu.edu/curriculum/courses/syllabus-info.php>) web page. Make sure to visit this page to review and be aware of these university policies and resources.

Course Schedule

Soci 105 / Qualitative Research Methods, Summer 2023 Course Schedule*

This schedule is subject to change. I will inform you in class and via email of any changes as soon as possible.

When	Topic	Notes
Mon, 6/5	Introduction to Qualitative Research	<p>Reading: Warren and Karner Ch. 1</p> <p>Video Lecture (see module)</p> <p>Zoom: 10am-12pm</p> <p>Participation Assignment #1 Due 11:59pm Tuesday, 6/6</p>
Wed 6/7	roduction to Qualitative Research continued Ethnography and Observation, Field Notes, Observation assignment	<p>Reading: Rios, "The Fine Line Between Education and Incarceration", Warren and Karner Ch. 3</p> <p>Film: "Sidewalk"</p> <p>Zoom: 10am-12pm</p> <p>QUIZZES #1 and #2 (start of class)</p> <p>Participation Assignment #2 Due 11:59pm Friday 6/9</p>
Mon. 6/12	Observations and Observation Assignment	<p>Reading: Warren and Karner, Chaps. 4 & 5</p> <p>Film: "Sidewalk- Methodological Appendix"</p> <p>Zoom: 10am-12pm</p> <p>QUIZ #3 (at the start of the zoom)</p> <p>Participation Assignment #3 Due 11:59pm Tuesday, 6/11</p>
Wed. 6/14	Research Ethics	<p>NO ZOOM</p> <p>Reading: Warren and Karner Ch. 2, Brandt, "Racism and Research"</p> <p>Video Lecture</p> <p>Participation Assignment #4 Due 11:59pm Friday, 6/16</p>
Mon, 6/19	Research Ethics, Interviews, Research Questions	<p>No Zoom, Juneteenth.</p> <p>Reading: Warren and Karner, Chapter 6, Hermanowicz, "The Great Interview"</p> <p>Video Lecture</p> <p>Research Question Due Tuesday, 6/20 11:59pm</p> <p>Observation Assignment due Monday 6/19 11:59pm</p>

When	Topic	Notes
Wed. 6/21	Interviews, Interview Guides	<p>Reading: Hermanowicz "The Great Interview"</p> <p>Video Lecture</p> <p>Zoom: 10am-12pm</p> <p>QUIZ #4 (start of zoom)</p> <p>Participation Assignment #5 Due 11:59pm Friday, 6/23</p>
Mon. 6/26	Interviews	<p>Reading: Chapter 7, Bettie, "Exceptions to the Rule"</p> <p>Bring draft interview guides to class 6/26</p> <p>Zoom: 10am-12pm</p> <p>QUIZ #5 (Start of Class)</p> <p>Participation Assignment #6 Due 11:59pm Tuesday, 6/27</p>
Wed. 6/28	Guest Speaker, Interviews	<p>Reading: Tuan "Neither Real Americans nor Real Asians"</p> <p>Zoom: 10am-12pm</p> <p>QUIZ #6</p>
Mon. 7/3	Qualitative Research in Action	<p>Guest Speaker</p> <p>Reading: TBA</p> <p>Zoom: 10am-12pm</p> <p>Quiz #7 (at the start of zoom)</p>

When	Topic	Notes
Wed. 7/5	Interview project, Last class	Zoom: 10am-12pm Last day of class Bring Transcript of Interview #1 to class for quiz #8 credit