

San José State University
Department of Sociology and Interdisciplinary Social Sciences
Sociology 105: Qualitative Research Methods
Spring, 2025, Course Syllabus

COURSE AND CONTACT INFORMATION

Instructor:	Soma de Bourbon
Office Location:	DMH 238A
Telephone:	N/A
Email:	soma.debourbon@sjsu.edu
Office Hours:	Mondays 12:00 to 1:30 pm and by appointment
Class Days/Time:	Mondays and Wednesdays 10:30 to 11:45 am
Classroom:	DMH 231

COURSE DESCRIPTION

SJSU Catalog Description: Philosophy and logic of research design, interviewing techniques, field methods, issues of participant observation, theoretical perspectives, content analysis, and qualitative techniques required for Sociology majors.

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

Grading: Letter Graded

COURSE FORMAT

This class meets in person in DMH 231.

Copies of the course materials such as the syllabus, major assignment handouts, etc. may be found on Canvas. You are responsible for regularly checking with the messaging system through MySJSU (or other communication systems as indicated by the instructor). To log onto Canvas, go to <https://one.sjsu.edu/>

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES (CLO)

CLO	Measurement
Provide examples for some of the sociological theories researchers utilize to engage in qualitative methods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Midterm and final exam • Reading quizzes • In-class exercises
Understand several different qualitative methodologies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Midterm and final exam • Reading quizzes • In-class exercises
Identify and describe some of the ethical challenges to conducting qualitative research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Midterm and final exam • Reading quizzes
Record, transcribe, and analyze a qualitative interview	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Qualitative interview project

REQUIRED TEXTS / READING

- All readings will be available on Canvas or via an internet link.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND ASSIGNMENTS

“Success in this course is based on the expectation that students will spend, for each unit of credit, a minimum of 45 hours over the length of the course (normally three hours per unit per week) for instruction, preparation/studying, or course related activities, including but not limited to internships, labs, and clinical practica. Other course structures will have equivalent workload expectations as described in the syllabus.”

****If you are struggling or think you may fail the class, please come and see me during office hours. The earlier you talk with me, the more I can assist you. Please do not come to discuss passing the class in the last three weeks of the semester.**

Exams (30%: 15% for midterm, 15% for final exam)

The exams, one midterm and one final, will consist of multiple choice, true/false, and short answers based on the readings, classroom presentations, and discussions. A makeup of a missed exam requires an official notice from a doctor, court officer, or other official.

In-Class Reading Quizzes (15%)

Some information about the Reading Quizzes:

- The quizzes will take place during the first ten minutes of class. If you come late, you will not be able to take the quiz.
- There will be nine quizzes during the semester.
- Your lowest score will be dropped.
- You can bring one hand-written sheet of paper with you to use for the quiz.
- There are no make-up quizzes since you can miss one quiz without it affecting your grade.
- The first two quizzes will consist of the following open-ended question: “Discuss three things you learned from the reading.” You will be asked to respond with a one to two paragraphs answer.

Participation/Discussion/Films (15%)

We will do in-class assignments most class sessions. You get points for showing up to class and doing the assignment. Points are not assigned based on how many times you raise your hand or talk in class. Some students do not enjoy talking in front of the class, and other students enjoy it. I would like every person to participate as much as they are able. See classroom protocol for use of devices, which is a different issue. In addition, there will be a couple of times this semester where you will not come to campus for class. For those dates, I will assign something and you will turn in your notes and/or post to a discussion board. For specifics, please see the below schedule.

Research Project (40%)

You will be conducting a research interview in this class. The class will work together to decide on the topic and type of interview for this project, and I will post that information on canvas.

General Outline of the Research Project:

Aspect of Research Project	Breakdown of 40%
Literature Review:	5%
Questions for Interview:	5%
Interview Transcript:	5%
Two Rounds of Coding the Transcript:	10%
Written materials:	10%
Class Presentation:	5%

POLICIES

LATE POLICY

I will accept assignments turned in to me before class up until one week past the due date. **I will not accept assignments through email.** If you turn in the assignment late, you will receive partial credit, up to one half of the full credit for the assignment.

CLASSROOM PROTOCOL

You are expected to arrive on time, participate in class discussions, and to be attentive during lectures and discussions. It is important to be courteous and respectful to your peers as well as to the instructor. Please refrain from using computers (unless typing notes from lecture), cell phones, earphones or other devices during class. When someone is using their phone or browsing the web on their computer, it is difficult to lecture, and makes discussions impossible. It is also distracting to other students. We do activities in class, so if you cannot participate in class without your technology, you should find another class.

If you are using your phone or computer while in class (unless cleared ahead of time), you may be asked to leave for the rest of the class period. If you are talking while the professor is lecturing or other students are presenting, you may be asked to leave for the remainder of the class period. This is not meant as a punishment; it is meant to ensure the wellbeing of the class as a whole. If you come to class, I expect you will give the class your full attention.

EMAIL: I am utilizing a colleague's email policy because I receive too many emails to respond to them in a timely manner. I cannot respond to hundreds of emails every day, and I do not want to miss any important emails from students who have an emergency or are requesting an in-person meeting. You can talk to me in class two days a week, so please only use email to set up an appointment with me or in case of an emergency.

Assignment	Percentage of Final Grade
Reading Quizzes	15

Recording and Privacy: Recording any class activities, including lectures, is only allowed with the instructor's permission. You are not permitted to share or distribute class recordings. Instructor-generated materials (like syllabi, lectures, and presentations) are protected by copyright. Violation may result in referral to Student Conduct and Ethical Development office.

Artificial Intelligence (AI)

Use of an AI Generator such as ChatGPT, MidJourney, DALL-E, etc. is explicitly prohibited unless otherwise noted by the instructor. The information derived from these tools is based on previously published materials. Therefore, using these tools without proper citation constitutes plagiarism. Additionally, be aware that the information derived from these tools is often inaccurate or incomplete. It's imperative that all work submitted should be your own. Any assignment that is found to have been plagiarized or to have used unauthorized AI tools may receive a zero and / or be reported for academic misconduct.

PHONE: I do not check the phone assigned to me, so please see me in class or during office hours for any important issues.

UNIVERSITY POLICIES

Per [University Policy S16-9](#), 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). Make sure to visit this page to review and be aware of these university policies and resources.

SJSU COUNSELING SERVICES

The SJSU Counseling Services is located on the corner of 7th Street and San Fernando Street, in Room 201, Administration Building. Professional psychologists, social workers, and counselors are available to provide consultations on issues of student mental health, campus climate or psychological and academic issues on an individual, couple, or group basis. To schedule an appointment or learn more information, visit [Counseling Services website](#).

GRADING

Percentage	Grade Assigned
100 or higher	A+
93-99	A

90-92	A-	Research Project	40
88-89	B+	Midterm	15
83-87	B	Final Exam	15
80-82	B-	TOTAL	100
78-79	C+		
73-77	C		
70-72	C-		
68-69	D+		
63-67	D		
60-62	D-		
59-	F		

Course Schedule

Dates	Topics, Readings, Assignments, and Deadlines (THIS IS A GENERAL GUIDE, BUT TOPICS AND DEADLINES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITH ADEQUATE NOTICE)
Jan 27	Topic(s): First Class! <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Getting to know your classmates • Syllabus discussion • Setting expectations
Jan 29	Topic(s) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Getting to know your classmates • Picking Group Projects
Feb 3	Topic(s): What is Social Science Research? Reading(s): <i>Principles of Sociological Inquiry: Qualitative and Quantitative Methods</i> , Chapter 1 Due: Quiz 1: In-class Reading Quiz on <i>Principles of Sociological Inquiry</i> , Chapter 1
Feb 5	Topic(s): The Connection Between Theory and Method Reading(s): <i>Principles of Sociological Inquiry: Qualitative and Quantitative Methods</i> , Chapter 2 Due: Quiz 2: In-Class Reading Quiz on <i>Principles of Sociological Inquiry</i> , Chapter 2
Feb 10	Topic(s): Transgender Rights Reading(s): “Understanding Gender,” and “Some Common Myths About Gender,” and “The Language of Gender” (Canvas) Due: Put up Trans Flags on Campus
Feb 12	Topic(s): Trans Teach In Student Union, Room 2AB
Feb 17	Topic(s): Research Ethics Reading(s): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Article: Shuster, Fifty Years Later: The Significance of the Nuremberg Code • <i>The World medical Association Declaration of Helsinki</i>

Feb 19	<p>Topic(s): Research Ethics</p> <p>Reading(s):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dixon, Singleton, and Straits, <i>The Process of Social Research</i>, Chapter 3 • The Belmont Report <p>DUE: Quiz 3: In-class Reading Quiz on Dixon, Singleton, and Straits, Chapter 3</p>
Feb 24	<p>Topic(s): Some Ethical Issues with Qualitative Methodologies</p> <p>Reading(s):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Article, Tuck and Yang • Okoko, Tunison, and Walker, <i>Varieties of Qualitative Research Methods</i> (pp. 1-47) <p>DUE: Quiz 4: In-Class Reading Quiz on the Tuck and Yang article</p>
Feb 26	<p>Topic(s): Group Work on Research Project</p>
Mar 3	<p>Topic(s): Different Types of Qualitative Research</p> <p>Reading(s): Saldaña, <i>Fundamentals of Qualitative Research</i>, Chapter 1</p> <p>Due: Quiz 5: In Class Reading Quiz on Saldaña, Chapter 1</p>
Mar 5	<p>Midterm Review—time to create your study guide</p>
Mar 10	<p>In-Person Midterm Exam</p>
Mar 12	<p>Group Work</p>
Mar 17	<p>Topic(s): Qualitative Data Collection Methods</p> <p>Reading(s): Saldaña, <i>Fundamentals of Qualitative Research</i>, Chapter 2</p> <p>DUE: Quiz 6: In-Class Reading Quiz on Saldaña, <i>Fundamentals of Qualitative Research</i>, Chapter 2</p>
Mar 19	<p>Group Work</p>
Mar 24	<p>Topic(s): Qualitative Research Design</p> <p>Reading(s): Saldaña, <i>Fundamentals of Qualitative Research</i>, Chapter 3</p> <p>DUE: Quiz 7: In-Class Reading Quiz on Saldaña, <i>Fundamentals of Qualitative Research</i>, Chapter 3</p>
Mar 26	<p>Topic(s): Creating an IRB</p> <p>Reading(s):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IRB Consent Handbook • IRB Exemption Categories
Mar 31	<p>Spring Break</p>
Apr 2	<p>Spring Break</p>
Apr 7	<p>Topic(s): Methods for Analyzing Qualitative Data</p> <p>Reading(s): Saldaña, <i>Fundamentals of Qualitative Research</i>, Chapter 4</p> <p>DUE: Quiz 8: In-Class Reading Quiz on Saldaña, <i>Fundamentals of Qualitative Research</i>, Chapter 4</p>
Apr 9	<p>Topic(s): Coding</p> <p>Reading(s): Article: Braun and Clark</p> <p>DUE: Quiz 9: In-Class Reading Quiz Article: Braun and Clark</p>
Apr 14	<p>Group Work</p>
Apr 16	<p>Group Work</p>
Apr 21	<p>Group Presentations</p>

Apr 23	Group Presentations
Apr 28	Group Presentations
Apr 30	Group Discussion
May 5	REDress Project? Hang Dresses
May 7	Final Study Guide
May 12	Reflection on Semester
May 16	Final Exam: May 16, 10:45 am to 12:45 pm