

## Advanced Qualitative Research Methods

### Core Texts

- A.B. Marvasti, *Qualitative Research in Sociology: An Introduction* (London: Sage, 2004)  
D.D. Porta and M. Keating, *Approaches and Methodologies in the Social Sciences* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2008)  
G. Ritzer, *The Blackwell Encyclopaedia of Sociology* (Oxford: Blackwell Publishing, 2007)  
J. Ritchie and J. Lewis, *Qualitative Research Practice: A Guide for Social Science Students and Researchers* (London: Sage, 2003)  
L.M. Given, *The Sage Encyclopaedia of Qualitative Research Methods* (London: Sage, 2008)

### Course Requirements and Grading

**Reflection Papers:** Students are required to write a reflection paper of no more than 500 words on each of the assigned readings. In this paper, students will critically reflect on the day's readings. Reflection papers must be **submitted during the class time**. Cumulative percentage of all reflection papers will be 20% of the final grade.

**Research Paper:****Students are required to write a 15-20 page research paper.** Topic of the paper should fall within the framework of the concepts covered in the class. At the minimum, **paper should include at least six articles from academic journals (or two books and two academic articles)**. This is a minimum requirement and by no means should be taken as a limit. Those students who wish to get a better grade would consider more in-depth study of their topics. Students may also cite materials covered in the class or sources like newspaper articles and other non-academic journals to boost their arguments in the paper. This paper will count for 15% of the student's final grade. Students are encouraged to start working on the paper at their earliest, and consult teacher of the course along the way to make sure that they are on the right track. **Research papers should be submitted three weeks before the final term exams.**

**Presentation (Research Paper):** Students are required to present their research papers during allotted times. Presentation time is 15 minutes, followed by a question-answer session. Students will be graded based on content, organization, and manner of presentation, as well as their participation in question-answer sessions, both as presenters and audience. This assignment will be worth 5% of the final grade.

**Book Report:** Students are required to write a critical book report on a classical text and discuss it in the classroom (**Books for report must be approved by the instructor**). Specific instructions for this assignment will be distributed during the fifth week of the classes. On average, length of this report should be anywhere between 9-12 pages. Total worth of this book report is 10%. **Book report should be submitted one week before the midterm exams**

**Exams:** There will be two exams in this class, a midterm and a final. These exams will be closed book and conducted in the class room. Exams will be based on assigned readings, class discussions, lectures and any other learning activities done in the class room by the exam date. Midterm exam will be worth 20% and final exam will be worth 25% of the final grade.

**Attendance & Class Participation:** Students are required to come to class regularly. Attendance will be taken in each class. University policy on attendance will be followed. Class participation is also a vital part of this class. Students are required to read the assigned material prior to the class meetings and come prepared to take part in the discussion and learning activities related to that material. Participation includes, but not limited, reading the assigned material for the class, asking questions about the day's readings, answering questions raised by the instructor, spontaneously responding to the on-going discussion in the class, and taking part in the in-class activities. Overall, combined grade for attendance and participation is 5% of the student's final grade.

### **Grade Evaluation Criteria**

Following is the criteria for the distribution of marks to evaluate final grade in a semester.

<b>Marks Evaluation</b>	<b>Marks in percentage</b>
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Reflection Papers	20%
Research Paper	15%
Presentation (Research Paper)	5%
Book Report	10%
Midterm Exam	20%
Final Term	25%
Attendance & Class Participation	5%

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Total	100%
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### **COURSE POLICIES**

**A Note on Academic Honesty:** It must be emphasized that university policies on academic dishonesty will be strictly followed. These policies prohibit acts of cheating, lying and deceit in their diverse forms. Since this class includes research component, students must also be fully aware of plagiarism. Plagiarism involves presenting someone else's ideas or written work as your own, without giving proper citation and credit to the original source. If you still have any question or confusion about academic dishonesty, please do not hesitate to discuss with the teacher.

**Make-up Exams and Late Assignments:** There will be no make-up exams, unless there is a valid (documented) reason for not taking the scheduled exams, or prior arrangements have been made with the instructor. As of late assignments, ten per cent of the grade will be deducted for each day an assignment is late. Students will also lose percentage of assignment grades if incomplete assignments are turned in.

## **Course Schedule and Assigned Readings**

### **Week 01**

#### **Meta-Methodology: Epistemology, Ontology, Explanation and Interpretation**

[Porta and Keating, 19-39; related entries from Given (2008)]

### **Week 02-03**

#### **Issues in Qualitative Research Design**

[Marvasti, 1-13; Ritchi and Lewis, 47-108]

### **Week 04-05**

#### **Theoretical Frameworks: Objectivism, Constructionism and Grounded Theory**

[Marvasti, 81-88; Porta and Keating, 80-98]

### **Week 06**

#### **Interviews**

[Marvasti, 14-33]

### **Week 07**

#### **Ethnography**

[Marvasti, 34-61]

### **Week 08**

#### **Participant and Non-Participant Observation**

[Related entries from Ritzer (2007) and Given (2008)]

**\*\*MID-TERM\*\***

### **Week 09**

#### **Deciphering Data: Concepts, Categories and Codes**

[Porta and Keating, 177-197; related entries from Given (2008)]

### **Week 10**

#### **Case Study and Comparative Analysis**

[Porta and Keating, 223-239; Given, 68-71 and 100-103]

**Week 11**

**Content Analysis**

[Marvasti, 88-94]

**Week 12**

**Narrative and Conversational Analysis**

[Marvasti, 94-107]

**Week 13**

**Discourse Analysis**

[Marvasti, 107-112]

**Week 14**

**Evaluating Findings and Presentation of Research**

[Marvasti, 113-115 and 125-130]

**Week 15**

**Ethics in Qualitative Research & Final Term**

[Marvasti, 133-144]

