Qualitative Research Methods

ABOUT THE COURSE
Beyond acquainting students with a number of qualitative research methods, this course will take into account ontology, epistemology, and axiology of various qualitative methodologies. Students will research and conduct qualitative data collection considering issues of ethics, representation, legitimacy, and value. Through a series of writing projects, students will engage qualitative research. Methodological focus of the course will be on ethnographic methods.

OBJECTIVES
At the end of the course, students should be able to:
✓ Understand the value of qualitative research
✓ Explain philosophical assumptions of interpretive and critical qualitative methods
✓ Engage in observation, in-depth interviewing, and personal narrative writing
✓ Analyze, as appropriate by discussed methods, data
✓ Evaluate ethical considerations of qualitative research
✓ Design a qualitative research project in communication studies
✓ Write a qualitative research study

COURSE TEXT:
Outside journal readings in Communication that will be assigned via Blackboard

COURSE EXPECTATIONS
Be in class, be on time, and be prepared. As a graduate seminar course, I expect that you will be present for every class meeting. It’s critical that you are prepared for each class period. If you are not prepared for class, you are absent. If you are absent, you will lose 10% of your final grade for each day.

Be connected. You should be checking your Angelo State University email on a daily basis. You are responsible for any material sent via email. This means that if you know you are experiencing e-mail problems, you should ask someone in class if she or he might let you in on any e-mail correspondence
pertaining to class.

Be respectful. In order to provide class members the opportunity to do their best work, and to provide a relatively comfortable environment for giving presentations and learning, students need to conduct themselves in an appropriate manner at all times.

ASSIGNMENTS
A Series of Short Paper Assignments – 200 points (2 papers in total) 2-3 pages each
These papers are designed to develop your research project throughout the semester. You are asked to share your paper contents with other classmates during class meetings. Your short paper assignments include, not limited to, topic paper, research design analysis paper, research rationale, annotated bibliography, literature review, definitions (conceptual/operational), research question(s), data collection method(s), research proposal, IRB document, data preparation/reduction, open-coding findings, focused-coding findings, discussion/implication, and limitation(s) and future development.
All assignments must be completed by their due dates or you will fail the entire course.

Semester Seminar Project – 200 points
Each student will present on a “semester seminar topic,” within the framework of Qualitative Research. Each student will pick from a “lottery draw,” at the beginning of the semester to determine what week each student will present. We will have at least one Seminar presentation per week during the semester. The topics will be based upon the one’s area of research interest. For each presentation, please send to me your Power Point or presentation to me prior to the class setting. Your in-class Power Point presentation should be 30 minutes, followed by 15 minutes of questions from the other students in the class. Your presentation will be critiqued by the other students in the class. You must come prepared to report on your seminar project.

Chapter Book Report-200 Points
Each graduate student will provide a chapter Power Point lecture from the Patton textbook via a lottery draw at the first week of the course. Your lecture should be one hour in length to be served as an interactive discussion. Use Power Point to discuss key points and references from the PATTON textbook, develop lead research questions for each chapter as a basis of discussion.

Final Paper – 400 points
At the end of the semester, you are to submit a 25 double-spaced page, formal, and data-driven qualitative/critical research paper. We will develop the student schedules for these presentations by November. You are to present your paper using as Power Point discussion.

While participation is not the same thing as attendance, I expect that you will be in class. You can’t participate if you don’t come to class. Don’t just plan on being here physically. Filled seats are nice, but I am looking for more. I am asking that you really be here—be here physically, mentally, emotionally, and spiritually.

FINAL COURSE GRADES
All of the course assignments add up to 1,000 points. Final grades will be calculated using the following point scale.
**Total Points**

900-1000 A | 800-899 B | 700-799 C | 600-699 D | 599 and below F
OTHER INFORMATION

Academic Advising
Dr. Flor Madero is the Graduate Advisor for the Department of Communication. Confer with Dr. Madero for registration each semester to be sure you are on the path to graduation.

Academic Integrity
Violations of academic integrity are very serious matters and are clearly documented in the ASU Student Handbook. The work a student submits in a class is expected to be the student's own work and must be work completed for that particular assignment. Plagiarism means intentionally or knowingly representing words or ideas of another as one's own. This may include your own previous work. Plagiarism includes quoting or paraphrasing from other sources without acknowledging/citing the source of your information or presenting quoted material as your own words. You must be very clear about attribution of sources and you must know how to cite sources in a paper. Plagiarism in this course will result in automatic failure (F) for the entire course.

Americans with Disabilities Act
Angelo State University complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act in making reasonable accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. If you suspect that you may have a disability (physical impairment, learning disability, psychiatric disability, etc.), please contact the Dean of Student Life and Student Services at 942-2191. If you need disability accommodations in this class, please see me as soon as possible.

Campus Closures
If the University is officially closed when we are scheduled to meet, then we obviously will not be meeting. If that happens, plan on picking up where we left off before the closure the next class meeting.

Religious Observances
A student wishing to observe a religious holy day must notify me via email at least 14 days prior to the classes scheduled on dates the student will be absent. For religious holy days that fall within the first two weeks of the semester, notice should be given on the first day of the semester.