

AEC 6932 Qualitative Research Methods
Fall 2019 (August 20 – December 4) section 3C61; 3 Credits
Tuesday 8-10 periods (3:00-6:00)

Instructor:

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-Office hours: By appointment

Class Meets:

The class meets in 306 Rolfs Hall. The course also has an online component available through the University of Florida's e-learning system. The e-learning system can be accessed by login on to <http://elearning.ufl.edu/> and clicking on "Log in to E-learning". When prompted, enter your Gatorlink ID and password.

Course Description:

This course is designed to cover concepts relevant to designing and conducting qualitative research. The course is structured as an authentic research experience that will give the student an appreciation of the basic skills and steps needed to implement a rigorous qualitative study. Research teams will be formed at the beginning of the semester and every student will be part of a team. These research team(s) will be responsible for designing and implementing a qualitative study relevant to Agriculture and Natural Resources.

Objectives:

Upon completing the course, students will be able to conceptualize and carry out qualitative research. Specifically, students will be able to...

- Understand the philosophical foundations of social research.
- Identify, describe, and apply qualitative research designs and approaches.
- Design and implement rigorous qualitative studies.
- Properly utilize qualitative methods for data collection and analysis.
- Report qualitative research findings to different audiences.
- Contribute effectively to the work of a research team.

Required Textbook and Readings:

Students are expected to purchase the texts (available at the University of Florida Bookstores or at online providers):

- Yin, R. K. (2016). *Qualitative research from start to finish* (2nd Ed). New York, NY: The Guilford Press [ISBN-13: **978-1462517978**]
- Harding, J. (2018). *Qualitative data analysis from start to finish* (2nd. Ed). Thousand Oak, CA: Sage [ISBN-13: **9781526402806**]

-- Supplementary readings will be assigned.

Class Dynamics:

Class participation is a key component of this course since the social construction of knowledge is a chief expectation from students; this will be achieved through transformative dialogue in the form of online and in-class group discussion and collaborative hands-on experience. All students are expected to actively participate in the discussion of the assigned readings for the week and on the different research activities. Every week the instructor will use lectures, discussions, and/or hands-on activities to help the students acquire and apply knowledge and skills required to design and implement a qualitative study. The course instructor will monitor the on-line discussion forums (see: [A note about on-line participation](#)).

Assignments, Dates, and Grades:

The overall activity for the course is to practice different qualitative research tasks and design/implement a qualitative study to answer real research question(s) related to externally-funded ongoing research/teaching/extension projects at UF. Completion of this task will be evidenced by the presence and quality of several deliverables, evaluations, and assignments. The deliverables, evaluations, and assignments are listed below with their due dates indicated.

(Full descriptions of each deliverable will be distributed by the instructor)

Deliverable	Due Date	Total Point Value
Class attendance & participation	Weekly	150
Online participation	Weekly	140
Class facilitation (individual / group)	TBD	120
Quizzes (three)	Multiple	90
Research project	Multiple	450
Peer evaluation	12/03/19	50
Total Points		1000

Course Grading Scale

A	950-1000	A-	900-949	B+	860-899
B	830-859	B-	800-829	C+	760-799
C	730-759	C-	700-729	D+	660-699
D	630-659	D-	600-629	E	599 or less

Even though submitting a refined version of the course study to a scientific journal is not a required deliverable of this class, research teams are encouraged to pursue this milestone and publish their

findings. The course instructor is open to continue collaborating with the teams that decide to accomplish this task.

Course Schedule

	Date	Topics	Readings	Due
1	8/20/19	Course introduction		
2	8/27/19	What is qualitative research	Yin: Ch. 1 Harding: Ch. 1 Additional reading(s)	<i>*Proposed research question(s)</i>
3	9/03/19	Starting a research study	Yin: Ch. 2 & 3 Additional reading(s)	
4	9/10/19	Designing a qualitative study	Yin: Ch. 4 Harding: Ch. 2 Additional reading(s)	
5	9/17/19	Approaches and fieldwork	Yin: Ch. 5 Harding: Ch. 3 Additional reading(s)	<i>Quiz 1</i>
6	9/24/19	Data Collection I	Yin: Ch. 6 Additional reading(s)	Research Project: <i>Introduction, Research question(s), and methodology.</i>
7	10/01/19	Data Collection II	Harding: Ch. 4 & 5 Additional reading(s)	
8	10/08/19	Recording data	Yin: Ch. 7 Additional reading(s)	
9	10/15/19	Preparing data for analysis	Additional reading(s)	
10	10/22/19	Data Analysis I	Harding: Ch. 7 & 8	<i>Quiz 2</i>
11	10/29/19	<i>No class: Research Team Activities</i>		
12	11/05/19	Data Analysis II	Harding: Ch. 9 Additional reading(s)	
13	11/12/19	Data Analysis III	Yin: Ch. 8 & 9 Additional reading(s)	Research Project: <i>Transcriptions, preliminary results, and data collection reflection.</i>
14	11/19/19	Data Analysis IV	Harding: Ch. 10 & 11	

			Additional reading(s)	
15	11/26/19	Sharing the findings	Yin: Ch. 10 & 11 Harding Ch. 12 Additional reading(s)	<i>Quiz 3</i>
16	12/03/19	Quality in qualitative research	Additional reading(s)	<i>Research Project:</i> <i>Final report/presentation</i> <i>Peer Evaluation</i>

A note about online participation:

Even though this course is being taught face-to-face, students are expected to be active participants in the class web-discussions and exercises. The course discussion board provides a venue to increase interaction. Points for online posts are awarded based on student participation and quality of the content, please make sure that your input and comments are both appropriate and applicable to the weekly topic. Failure to be engaged in the sharing of ideas not only limits the value you gain from this course, but also that of others in the course.

A note about written reports:

Cite all references using APA style format. APA (American Psychological Association) has a reference manual available at the University of Florida Library and they have information about writing and references on their website, which is <http://www.apa.org/>. The format to be used for papers is double-spacing; one-inch margins, and typed in 12-point font, unless otherwise noted. A consistent style is used for grading written papers. Primarily, show that you have learned and are able to apply the course material through your writing. In grading, the instructor looks for student's cognitive understanding and application of theories, principles, concepts, ideas, approaches that have been covered in readings and the course.

Lateness Policy:

A *10% per day* deduction will be assessed for assignments turned in late. Work more than a week late will *not* be accepted. This policy will be strictly enforced. All assignment and online discussion deadlines are *critical* for your individual success in this course and the success of the course overall. If you feel that you will be unable to meet these deadlines, you *must* communicate this to the course instructor *at least one day before the assignment or discussion posting is due*.

Grades and Grade Points

For information on current UF policies for assigning grade points, see <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>

Absences and Make-Up Work

Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments and other work are consistent with university policies that can be found at:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>.

Academic Honesty

“UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states, “We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: “On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.” The Honor Code (<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honorcode/>) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor or TAs in this class.

Course Evaluation

Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing online evaluations at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu>. Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester, but students will be given specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results/>.

Software Use:

All faculty, staff and students of the university are required and expected to obey the laws and legal agreements governing software use. Failure to do so can lead to monetary damages and/or criminal penalties for the individual violator. Because such violations are also against university policies and rules, disciplinary action will be taken as appropriate.

Campus Helping Resources

- Health and Wellness
 - **U Matter, We Care:** If you or a friend is in distress, please contact umatter@ufl.edu or 352 392- 1575 so that a team member can reach out to the student.
 - **Counseling and Wellness Center:** <http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/Default.aspx>, 392-1575; and the University Police Department: 392-1111 or 9-1-1 for emergencies.
 - **Sexual Assault Recovery Services (SARS)** Student Health Care Center, 392-1161.
 - **University Police Department**, 392-1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies).
<http://www.police.ufl.edu/>.
- Academic Resources
 - **E-learning technical support**, 352-392-4357 (select option 2) or e-mail to Learningsupport@ufl.edu. <https://lss.at.ufl.edu/help.shtml>.
 - **Career Resource Center**, Reitz Union, 392-1601. Career assistance and counseling.
<http://www.crc.ufl.edu/>.
 - **Library Support**, <http://cms.uflib.ufl.edu/ask>. Various ways to receive assistance with respect to using the libraries or finding resources.
 - **Teaching Center**, Broward Hall, 392-2010 or 392-6420. General study skills and tutoring.
<http://teachingcenter.ufl.edu/>.
 - **Writing Studio**, 302 Tigert Hall, 846-1138. Help brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers. <http://writing.ufl.edu/writing-studio/>.

Services for Students with Disabilities

Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with the Disability Resource Center (352-392-8565, www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/) by providing appropriate documentation. Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter which must be presented to the instructor when requesting accommodation. Students with disabilities should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester.

Disclaimer about syllabus:

Serious effort and consideration were used in formulating the syllabus presented by the instructor. While viewed as an educational contract between the instructor and student, unforeseen events may cause changes to the scheduling of assignments, readings, etc. The instructor reserves the right to make any changes deemed necessary to best fulfill the course objectives. Students registered for this course will be made aware of any changes in a timely fashion using reasonable means. This disclaimer does not abrogate any student rights as described by University rules and regulations.