



Bentley University

PHD 1503 Qualitative Methods II

—*Interpretive Methods and Qualitative Research Practicum*

Spring 2015

Instructor:

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Thursdays, 2-5 pm Jen 214

Course Description:

This course deepens students' exposure to qualitative methods by in-depth study of interpretative and collaborative methods that were only briefly examined in Qualitative Methods I, such as discourse analysis, interpretive case study, ethnography, and grounded theory development. In addition, the course provides students with an opportunity to complete a qualitative investigation in their dissertation topic area using the qualitative method of their choice. Emphasis in the practicum will be on executing the chosen method well according to its unique evaluation criteria and on producing a complete written work, of quality sufficient for submission to a leading journal in the student's field. Students are expected to conduct significant fieldwork, whether via participant-observation, interviews, or document analysis, during the semester in addition to interpretation/data analysis and writing. Discussion of course texts and clinics of students' work will be complemented by occasional guest lectures on methods by practicing qualitative researchers.

Course Objectives:

Knowledge:

- Know the principles, practices, and appropriate evaluation criteria of several interpretive methods and be able to compare and contrast them with the realist case study approach
- Learn the detailed methodological procedures associated with one qualitative method of the student's choice

Skills:

- Practice extensively the fieldwork and data analytic procedures relevant to the student's chosen project and method
- Produce a complete written qualitative research paper of submission quality for an appropriate leading journal in the student's field
- Exercise the art of mentoring and helpful critique of fellow researchers' work

Perspectives:

- Develop greater appreciation for diverse qualitative research methods, especially those other than one's own

Required Texts:

- Nelson Phillips and Cynthia Hardy, *Discourse Analysis*, Sage 2002.
- And one additional methodology text in the student's chosen qualitative method:
 - Case study:
 - Gerring. 2006. *Case Study Research: Principles and Practices*, Cambridge University Press (realist) or Stake. 1995. *The Art of Case Study Research*, Sage (interpretive).
 - Ethnography:
 - Jorgensen. 1989. *Participant Observation: A Methodology for Human Studies*, Sage or Spradley. 1979. *The Ethnographic Interview*, Wadsworth.
 - Grounded theory:
 - Charmaz. 2006. *Constructing Grounded Theory*, Sage.

Course Project:

An organizational meeting will be held in November 2014. Among the topics to be discussed at that time will be:

- Research topic or questions
- Qualitative method of choice
- Relevant prior literature and/or theoretical background
- General fieldwork plans
- Publication target

The purpose of this meeting is to give students an opportunity to start lining up their fieldwork opportunities ahead of time so that the majority of class sessions during the semester can be productively devoted to research clinics, i.e., presentation of preliminary results, collaborative interpretation, data analysis, or theorizing (as appropriate to the method), problem-solving about investigative challenges, and so forth.

Students are expected to participate extensively in fieldwork throughout the semester but especially at the beginning and to submit field notes, memos, and interim written products throughout the semester. The final report is a complete written research report of submission quality to a leading journal.