**PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS SYLLABUS IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE THROUGHOUT THE SEMESTER**

**Course: Advanced Qualitative Methods**

**Professor Sarah Swider**

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| **Class location:** 0114 STAT | **Phone:**  313-577-3282 |
| **Hours/Days:** Friday. 12:30 -3:50 pm | **Email:** [sswider@wayne.edu](mailto:sswider@wayne.edu) |
| **Office hours:** Friday. 10:00-12:00 or by appointment | **Mailbox:** In Room 2228 F/AB |
| **Office location:** 2247 Faculty and Administration Building |  |
| Course Number: SOC-7500 |  |

**Course Description**

Welcome to Advance qualitative methods. This is an advanced qualitative methods course which requires that you have had at least one other course in qualitative methods along with at least one course in quantitative methods. While basic level methodology courses are designed to expand your methodological repertoire, this course is will focus on improving your ability to design a research project and to assess the quality of qualitative research. You will learn about how and when to use different methodological tools and how to justify choosing research methods and study designs for a specific research project. This course should fill any gaps that students may have in qualitative methods and deepen their existing knowledge.

The overall objectives for the course are summarized below:

* Help students learn when and why to use different qualitative methodologies and research designs.
* Help students become more familiar with fieldwork strategies and observational methods.
* Help students improve their writing skills.

**Course Organization**

The course is designed to help you gain deeper knowledge of qualitative methods including the nature and value of qualitative research, themes in qualitative research, theoretical orientations, and fieldwork strategies. The course starts with an introduction to qualitative methodology and throughout the semester will move into more complex issues and questions that are central to the practice of qualitative research. Not only does the class deal with the theoretical and philosophical underpinnings of qualitative research, it deals with the practical questions of design and implementation. The class will also deal with broader research issues of quality, reliability and validity.

You will be required to complete several readings for each class. Some of them are very empirical and practical in the sense that they will provide you with a how-to guide of sorts. However, these readings are not sufficient since each project is different and each researcher must decide and justify it at each fork along the road of designing their research proposal. These “how-to” readings are supplemented by some of the most amazing qualitative research done in sociology, and more specifically, urban sociology. I am hoping that these readings and examples will not only help you but that they will inspire you, especially since we live in a city which provides unique research opportunities.

**Course Text**

The main texts for the class is available in the bookstore. It is your responsibility to make sure you get a copy of them.

Qualitative Research & Evaluation Methods Fourth Edition Integrating Theory and Practice (4th edition) Patton, Michael ISBN: 9781412972123 Thousand Oaks, Calif.: Sage. Also see associated website: <https://study.sagepub.com/patton4e>

Duneier, Mitchell, Philip Kasinitz, and Alexandra Murphy, eds. The urban ethnography reader. Oxford University Press, 2014.

These are additional books I recommend for purchase but do not require:

**HIGHLY Recommended:**

1. Becker, Howard S. *Tricks of the trade: How to think about your research while you're doing it*. University of Chicago Press, 2008.
2. Burawoy, Michael. "The extended case method." *Sociological theory* 16.1 (1998): 4-33.
3. Charmaz, Kathy. *Constructing grounded theory: A practical guide through qualitative analysis*. Sage Publications Limited, 2006.
4. Duneier, Mitchell, Philip Kasinitz, and Alexandra Murphy, eds. *The Urban Ethnography Reader*. Oxford University Press, 2013.
5. Ragin, Charles C. "The logic of the comparative method and the algebra of logic." *Journal of Quantitative Anthropology* 1.4 (1989).

**Course Policies**

**Class Attendance and Participation:** You are expected to come to class and participate. Please attempt to show up on time, entering the class after the discussion and lecture has begun is disruptive to your peers. Also, please deal with all personal needs before or after class or during the break. If you miss class you are responsible for all materials, announcements, and assignments covered in class. Most of this information will be posted on Blackboard (lectures are NOT posted). You should speak with classmates about what you missed in class and get lecture notes.

**Classroom Behavior and Code of Conduct.**  All students are expected to behave appropriately in the classroom. This is outlined in the University’s Code of Conduct (<http://www.doso.wayne.edu/judicial/index.htm>). Students will follow instructions and treat the professor, and each other, with respect. Violations of the Code of Conduct (including any disruptive behavior) will be reported to the Dean of students and dealt with according to policy. Furthermore, inappropriate classroom behavior will impact your grade, adjusted down by 1%- 20% depending on how egregious the behavior.

**Email and Blackboard:** All important information can be found on Blackboard. It will be used for making important announcements, transmitting assignments, communicating any changes and posting class materials. I will send emails using your campus email. You are responsible for setting up your campus email, checking it and Blackboard regularly. Campus email is also a convenient way for you to communicate with me.

**Plagiarism:** Plagiarism is considered egregious behavior with severe consequences. You are expected to know what constitutes plagiarism (ignorance is not innocence). Please take a moment to review Wayne State University’s academic honor code. Also, listed below are two websites which explain how to properly cite and use material without plagiarizing. You should review this information PRIOR to doing any written assignments.

<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/handouts/research/r_plagiar.html>

<http://www.indiana.edu/~wts/wts/plagiarism.html>

If there are any violations of the academic honor code (including plagiarism) there are severe penalties including: a zero on the assignment, an “F” in the class, and potential additional repercussions in terms of your standing with the University. Please review the academic integrity policies at Wayne State University: <http://www.doso.wayne.edu/judicial/academic-integrity.htm>.

**Assignments and late work:** Assignments need to be printed out and brought to class (on time) on the day they are due. **Late assignments are not accepted.** Only in the case of a documented emergency (death, accident, hospitalization, etc) will an exception to this policy be made. The same policies apply to all assignments and tests. All written assignments, unless otherwise specified, must be typed (using 12 point Times Roman font, double spaced, with one inch margins) and printed in black ink.

**Cell Phone Policy:** Cell phone use is prohibited in class.Cell phones must be shut off or on vibrate and placed out of sight for the duration of the class. If you have a true emergency and you must answer your phone, please leave the classroom. If students don’t refrain from using the phone during our class time and they become distracting, I will institute a policy of requiring that all students place their phones in a box in the front of the classroom and retrieve them after class.

**Recordings/Photos/Videos:** You are not allowed to video, record or tape the professor in this class. If the professor shares audio or video recordings they are only to be used for this class. They should not be shared, posted on social media or placed on the internet in any forum.

**Laptop Policy**: If you choose to use a laptop to take notes you must sit in the front row of the class. Laptops can only be used to take notes. If students end up using laptops for purposes other than taking notes, or if the laptops become distracting, you will be asked not to use them in class.

**Grading Policy:** If you believe that you have been graded unfairly on an assignment you must either come to my office hours or set up an alternative meeting time to discuss the issue. When you come to discuss grading issues, you should have a prepared written statement clarifying what you think was graded unfairly, why, and what you think the grade should have been. In this statement you should clearly identify the section of the assignment which you feel was graded unfairly, you should provided evidence and material (from the course) supporting your argument and reasoning for wanting a grade review. I will review your written statement along with the graded assignment and make a determination on the grade. The possible outcomes include increasing the grade, decreasing the grade, or keeping the original grade. If you are not satisfied with the outcome, you have a right to contact the Chair of Sociology (Room 2233 in the Faculty Administration Building, 313-577-8131). The final level of appeal is the Liberal Arts and Sciences Dean’s Office, 2nd floor of “Old Main” Room 2155.

**Syllabus:** This syllabus is an outline of the course for this semester. However, readings and deadlines may change. Any changes will be announced in the class and posted on Blackboard, so please check Blackboard often! If you have any questions on the assignments, due dates, or class activities, please check Blackboard and the syllabus to find the answers. If you cannot find the answer then email me, ask in class, or stop by my office.

**Reasonable Accommodation:** If you have a disability that makes it difficult/impossible for you to complete this course in the manner specified in the syllabus, please feel free to contact me privately to discuss your specific needs and/or contact the Office of Educational Accessibility Services (EAS) which is responsible for coordinating reasonable accommodations for students with documented disabilities. The Office is located in 1600 David Adamany Undergraduate Library, phone: 313-577-1851 (Voice) / 577-3365 (TTD).

**Advising and Assistance:** I am always willing to talk to students about any difficulties they are having in my class or in general. I have office hours and I am willing to meet with students by appointment. If I cancel my office hours, I will announce alternative hours for that week in class and post it on Blackboard. In addition, WSU also provides a number of services to help students succeed. Some potential resources include: *The* *Academic Success Center* (David Adamany Undergraduate Library Suite 1600, (313) 577-3165) the *Writing Center* (2nd Floor Undergraduate Library, *(313) 577-2544)* or Counseling and Psychological Services (Student Center, Room 552).

**Important Dates**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Late Registration (Add'l $70 for Initial Reg. only), and 1st Week Late Adds | Mon Jan 9 - Sun Jan 15 |
| Late Registration (Add'l $70 for Initial Reg. only), and 2nd Week late Adds | Mon Jan 16 - Mon Jan 23 |
| Last Day for Tuition Cancellation - Full Term Courses/Census Date/Enrollment Confirmation Deadline | Mon Jan 23 |

**Assignments:**

**Readings:** The reading assignments are central to the course. Each week there are between 50-75 pages of reading. Each student should expect to spend around six (6) hours outside of class reading, preparing for class and doing assignments- or longer depending on your reading skills. All discussions, assignments and tests are centered on the readings. We will be referring to the reading materials in class so you will be expected to bring your book or a print out of the readings due each week. All students are expected to complete all assigned readings for the week.

**Class Presentation (3):** In this class you will be required to led class discussions 3 (3) times during the semester. Each time you will be required to (A) verbal summarize the major points of the main text readings, (B) raise three issues/questions for discussion and (C) write outline of your talk and questions to be handed into the professor. The outline will

**Essays (4):** Throughout the semester you will be assigned four essays. The essays will be written how the principles of qualitative methods apply to examples of ethnographic studies. The essays are expected to be well-thought out written pieces that are formulated into standard essay format (including an introduction, organized paragraph, claim statements followed by supporting evidence, etc). The essays will also be graded on grammar, writing style, and spelling.

**Final Exam:**  The final exam will be essay format.

**Grading:**

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **Assignment** | **Points** | % |
| 1. Three class presentations (3) x 100 point each | 300 | 30 |
| 1. Four Short Essays/Summaries of studies (25 each) | 400 | 40 |
| 1. Attendance and Participation | 100 | 10 |
| 1. Final Exam | 200 | 20 |
|  |  |  |
| Total | 1000 | **100** |

**Determining Final Grade**

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **Points** | **Percentage** | **Final Grade** |
| 970-1000 | 97-100 | A+ |
| 930-969 | 93-96 | A |
| 900-929 | 90-92 | A- |
| 870-899 | 87-89 | B+ |
| 830-869 | 83-86 | B |
| 800-829 | 80-82 | B- |
| 770-799 | 77-79 | C+ |
| 730-769 | 73-76 | C |
| 700-729 | 70-72 | C- |
| 670-699 | 67-69 | D+ |
| 630-669 | 63-66 | D |
| 600-629 | 60-62 | D- |
|  | below 60 | F |

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| **Class Schedule and Assignments** | | | | |
| **WEEK 1** | **Date** | **Topics/Reading Assignment** | **Assignments Due**  (C=Column; P=Paragraph) | **Student Presenter(s)** |
| 1 | 01/13/16 | **Chapter 1.** The Nature, Niche, and Value of Qualitative Inquiry | Patton Pages 1-44 |  |
| 2 | 01/20/16 | **Chapter 2.** Strategic Themes in Qualitative Inquiry | Patton Pp 45-83 |  |
| 3 | 01/27/16 | **Chapter 3.** Variety of Qualitative Inquiry Frameworks: Paradigmatic, Philosophical, and Theoretical Orientations | Patton Pp 85-115 | **Essay 1 handout** |
| 4 | 02/03/16 | **Chapter 3. (continued)** Variety of Qualitative Inquiry Frameworks: Paradigmatic, Philosophical, and Theoretical Orientations | -Patton Pp 115-168  -Essay 1  -Ethnography (choose 2 readings from part 1- readings 1 through 10) | **Essay 1 Due** |
| 5 | 02/10/16 | **Chapter 4.** Practical and Actionable Qualitative Applications | -Patton Pp 169-242 |  |
| 6 | 02/17/16 | **Chapter 5**. Designing Qualitative Studies | -Patton Pp 244-288 | **Essay 2 handout** |
| 7 | 02/24/16 | **Chapter 5**. Designing Qualitative Studies | Patton Pp 288-322  Essay 2  -Ethnography (choose 1 reading from part 2, choose one from part 3) | **Essay 2 Due** |
| 8 | 03/03/16 | **Chapter 6**. Fieldwork Strategies and Observation Methods | Patton Pp 327-381 | **Essay 3 handout** |
| 9 | 03/10/16 | **Chapter 6**. Fieldwork Strategies and Observation Methods | Patton Pp 381-415  **-**Essay 3 | **Essay 3 Due** |
| 10 | 03/17/16 | Spring Break |  |  |
| 11 | 03/24/16 | **Chapter 7.** Qualitative Interviewing | Patton Pp 422-474 |  |
| 12 | 04/07/16 | **Chapter 7.** Qualitative Interviewing | -Patton Pp 474-503  -Ethnography (choose 1 reading from part 4 and 1 reading from part 5) | **Essay 4 handout** |
| 13 | 04/14/16 | **Chapter 8.** Qualitative Analysis and Interpretation | 530-582 -Essay 4 | **Essay 4 Due** |
| 14 | 04/21/16 | **Chapter 8**. Qualitative Analysis and Interpretation | -Patton Pp 583-630  -Ethnography (choose 2 readings, one from part 6 and one from part 7)  -Essay 4 |  |
| 15 | 04/28/16 | Finals Week | **Final exam -essays-take home** |  |