



**Class Location: Founder's Hall 213**  
**Class day/time: Mondays @ 6-8:45 PM**

Professor: Roslyn Schoen, PhD

Office: Founder's Hall 217

Office Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays 11 AM to 2 PM, and by appointment

**Course Description:** This course will provide students with an understanding of the methodological approaches we commonly think of as qualitative research methods, with special emphases on various types of interviewing, observation techniques, ethnographic field-based methods, and content analysis. Students will learn both the techniques of qualitative research and engage in philosophical, ethical, and theoretical conversations around qualitative methods. The course will explore issues of research ethics as they pertain to qualitative research in the social sciences as well as the history and epistemological basis of qualitative research methodology. Students are encouraged to take SOCI 4316 before or in conjunction with this course.

**Course Objectives:** The primary objective of this course is to introduce students to the intellectual and pragmatic issues concerning qualitative research methods in the social sciences. Objectives of this course are...

1. To provide basic training in qualitative research including exposure to data collection techniques, analysis, writing, and presenting qualitative material.
2. To understand the epistemological position of qualitative methods and the various areas in anthropology and sociology where qualitative work has been most effective.
3. To examine the ethical responsibilities of qualitative researchers in light of the much closer contact with "subjects" and "informants" than in other areas of research.
4. To think collectively and critically about qualitative research, especially regarding how to assess the quality and location of published qualitative studies.

**Mode of instruction and course access:** This is a face-to-face course that has online components. In order to access your grades and certain learning materials, you will need to log on to our course Canvas site at <https://tamuct.instructure.com>.

\*Students should set notification preferences in Canvas so that you receive course announcements in your email inbox or via text. Set preferences: <https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-10624>

**Contacting your professor:**

The best way to contact me is through email ([roslyn.schoen@tamuct.edu](mailto:roslyn.schoen@tamuct.edu)). I check email every day during the week and often on the weekends as well. I do not respond to email after 9 PM; if you email in the middle of the night, please look for my response the following day. I am on campus during my office hours should you need to talk to me in person.

\*Please note that the best way to refer to your professor in email or in person is as "Professor Schoen" or "Dr. Schoen," pronounced *SHANE*.

**911 Cellular:**

Emergency Warning System for Texas A&M University – Central Texas  
 911Cellular is an emergency notification service that gives Texas A&M University-Central Texas the ability to communicate health and safety emergency information quickly via email, text message, and social media. All students are automatically enrolled in 911 Cellular through their myCT email account. Connect at [911Cellular](https://portal.publicsafetycloud.net/Texas-AM-Central/alert-management) [https://portal.publicsafetycloud.net/Texas-AM-Central/alert-management] to change where you receive your alerts or to opt out. By staying enrolled in 911Cellular, university officials can quickly pass on safety-related information, regardless of your location.

**Required Reading and Textbook(s):**

Saldana, Johnny and Matt Omasta. 2017. *Qualitative Research: Analyzing Life*. Sage Publications. 978-1506305493

Holstein, James A. and Jaber F. Gubrium. 1995. *The Active Interview*. Qualitative Research Methods Series 37. Sage Publications.

Other required reading materials listed on the syllabus will be available through our course E-Reserve page.

**Recommended Book(s):**

*ASA Style Guide*, 5th edition. American Sociological Association.

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS:**

Below is a description of the main activities for this course. They include (1) completing the readings, (2) class attendance, (3) one hour of discussion leading, (4) five methods exercises, and (5) two take-home exams. Detailed instructions for methods exercises will be distributed in class.

Attendance and participation	14 days @ 3.5 points per day	49 points +1 = 50 points
Discussion leading	1 @ 50 points	50 points
Methods exercises	5 @ 40 points each <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CITI certificate</li> <li>• Analysis #1</li> <li>• Interview exercise</li> <li>• Ethics essay</li> <li>• Analysis #2</li> </ul>	200 points
Take-home exams	2 @ 100 points each	200 points
	Total:	500 points

Point distribution for letter grades

446 - 500	90 – 100%	A
396 - 445	80 - 89%	B
346 - 395	70 – 79%	C
296 - 345	60 – 69%	D
295 or below	0 – 59%	F

**Posting of Grades:**

- All student grades will be posted using the Canvas grade book and students should monitor their grade status through this tool.
- Students should always refer to the syllabus for total points and points possible. The Canvas gradebook tool may misinform students from time to time.
- Grades will usually be posted within 7-10 days of due dates. Some assignments, like the life history paper, require more personalized feedback. These assignments could take longer to grade and so you may need to be patient.

**COURSE SCHEDULE:**

The course schedule is a plan, not a promise.

Many of the assigned chapters are from your book, *Qualitative Research: Analyzing Life*, and are marked with page and/or chapter numbers. Other readings not in your book will be available on our course E-Reserves page, which you can access through the TAMUCT library web site.

**Week 1.      Jan 15      No classes. MLK, Jr. Day**

**Week 2.      Jan 22      Introduction**

Read: Saldana and Omasta chapter 1

**Week 3.      Jan 29      The field site**

Read: Saldana and Omasta chapter 2

**Week 4.      Feb 5      Documents, artifacts, and digital materials**

Read: Saldana and Omasta chapter 3

**Due:** CITI certificate

**Week 5. Feb 12 Preparing and analyzing interviews**

Read: Saldana and Omasta chapters 4 and 5

**Due:** Analysis exercise #1

**Week 6. Feb 19 Active interviewing**

Read: Holstein and Gubrium chapters 1-4 (pgs. 1-37) In: *The Active Interview*

Guest speaker at 6 PM, class resumes afterward

**Week 7. Feb 26 The active interviewer and collaborative construction**

Read: Holstein and Gubrium chapters 5-8 (pgs. 38-80) In: *The Active Interview*

**Due:** Interview exercise

**Week 8. March 5 Methodological frameworks**

Read: Saldana and Omasta chapter 6

Gubrium and Holstein chapter 1 “Method Talk.” Pgs. 3-16. In: *The New Language of Qualitative Method*

Haraway, D. “Situated Knowledges.” Pgs. 575-599 in *Feminist Studies*

**Mid-term exam due by Sunday, March 11th**

**Spring Break is March 12 to 18<sup>th</sup>, 2018**

**Week 9. March 19 Research design**

Read: Saldana and Omasta chapter 7

**Week 10. March 26 Ethical concerns in qualitative research**

Read: Saldana and Omasta chapter 8

Glesne and Peshkin “But is it Ethical?” Pgs. 109-125 In: *Becoming Qualitative Researchers*

**Week 11. April 2 Analysis: Condensing, patterning, unifying**

Read: Saldana and Omasta chapter 9

Marshall and Rossman chapter 5 “Managing, Analyzing, and Interpreting Data.” In: *Designing Qualitative Research*, 4<sup>th</sup> edition

**Due:** Ethics essay

**Week 12. April 9 Analysis: Interpreting and theorizing**

Read: Saldana and Omasta chapter 10

**Week 13. April 16 Writing qualitative research**

Read: Saldana and Omasta chapter 11

**Due:** Analysis exercise #2

**Week 14. April 23 Analytic presentation**

Read: Saldana and Omasta chapter 12

**Week 15. April 30 Exit and closure**

Read: Saldana and Omasta chapter 13

***Final exam due by Friday, May 4th***

Spring commencement: Saturday, May 12<sup>th</sup>, Bell County Expo Center at 7:00 p.m.

## **COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES AND POLICIES**

### **Technology Requirements**

This course will use the A&M-Central Texas Instructure Canvas learning management system.

Logon to A&M-Central Texas Canvas [<https://tamuct.instructure.com>].

Username: Your MyCT username (xx123 or everything before the "@" in your MyCT e-mail address)

Password: Your MyCT password

### **Canvas Support**

Use the Canvas Help link, located at the bottom of the left-hand menu, for issues with Canvas. You can select "Chat with Canvas Support," submit a support request through "Report a Problem," or call the Canvas support line: 1-844-757-0953.

For issues related to course content and requirements, contact your instructor.

### **Other Technology Support**

For log-in problems, students should contact Help Desk Central.

24 hours a day, 7 days a week:

Email: [helpdesk@tamu.edu](mailto:helpdesk@tamu.edu)

Phone: (254) 519-5466

[Web Chat](http://hdc.tamu.edu): [<http://hdc.tamu.edu>]

*Please let the support technician know you are an A&M-Central Texas student.*

### **Late/Makeup policy**

Some assignments may be rescheduled in case of a documented illness or injury. A student may make up an assignment if there is illness, injury, or another documented excuse. If a student foresees that they might

miss a presentation or exam due to illness, injury, or something out of their control they must 1. Provide documentation (doctor's note, police report, etc.), 2. Notify me as soon as possible of intent to make up the work, and 3. Prepare to make up their work within 1 week of the excused absence. Students who miss an assignment without a documented excuse will receive a zero on the assessment. If the student foresees that s/he will be unable to complete the course, then s/he should drop the course or accept the posted grade. Students cannot make up coursework for undocumented events.

**Drop Policy.**

If you discover that you need to drop this class, you must go to the Registrar's Office and complete a [Drop Request Form](#). Professors cannot drop students; this is always the responsibility of the student. The Registrar's Office will provide a deadline on the University Calendar for which the form must be completed, signed and returned. Once you return the signed form to the Registrar's Office, you must go into Warrior Web and confirm that you are no longer enrolled. If you still show as enrolled, FOLLOW-UP with the Registrar's Office immediately. You are to attend class until the procedure is complete to avoid penalty for absence. Should you miss the drop deadline or fail to follow the procedure, you will receive an F in the course, which may affect your financial aid and/or VA educational benefits.

**Academic Integrity.**

Texas A&M University -Central Texas values the integrity of the academic enterprise and strives for the highest standards of academic conduct. A&M-Central Texas expects its students, faculty, and staff to support the adherence to high standards of personal and scholarly conduct to preserve the honor and integrity of the creative community. Academic integrity is defined as a commitment to honesty, trust, fairness, respect, and responsibility. Any deviation by students from this expectation may result in a failing grade for the assignment and potentially a failing grade for the course. Academic misconduct is any act that improperly affects a true and honest evaluation of a student's academic performance and includes, but is not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work, plagiarism and improper citation of sources, using another student's work, collusion, and the abuse of resource materials. All academic misconduct concerns will be reported to the university's Office of Student Conduct. Ignorance of the university's standards and expectations is never an excuse to act with a lack of integrity. When in doubt on collaboration, citation, or any issue, please contact your instructor before taking a course of action.

Bottom line: Do not cheat. Do not plagiarize. You will get caught and it will be an embarrassment for you, a bureaucratic pain for me, and it can ruin your academic career.

**Access & Inclusion.**

At Texas A&M-Central Texas, we value an inclusive learning environment where every student has an equal chance to succeed and has the right to a barrier free education. The Department of Access and Inclusion is responsible for ensuring that students with a disability receive equal access to the University's programs, services and activities. If you believe you have a disability requiring reasonable accommodations please contact the Department of Access and Inclusion at (254) 501-5831. Any information you provide is private and confidential and will be treated as such.

For more information please visit our Access & Inclusion [webpage](#):  
<http://www.tamuct.edu/departments/access-inclusion>.

**Tutoring.**

Tutoring is available to all A&M-Central Texas students, both on-campus and online. On-campus subjects tutored include Accounting, Advanced Math, Biology, Finance, Statistics, Mathematics, and Study Skills. Tutors are available at the Tutoring Center in Warrior Hall, Suite 111.

If you have a question regarding tutor schedules, need to schedule a tutoring session, are interested in becoming a tutor, or any other question, contact Academic Support Programs at 254-519-5796, or by emailing Dr. DeEadra Albert-Green at [deeadra.albertgreen@tamuct.edu](mailto:deeadra.albertgreen@tamuct.edu).

Chat live with a tutor 24/7 for almost any subject on your computer! Tutor.com is an online tutoring platform that enables A&M-Central Texas students to log-in and receive FREE online tutoring and writing support. This tool provides tutoring in over forty subject areas. Access Tutor.com through Canvas.

### **University Writing Center.**

Located in 416 Warrior Hall, the University Writing Center (UWC) at Texas A&M University-Central Texas is a free workspace open to all TAMUCT students from 10am-5pm Monday-Thursday with satellite hours in the University Library Monday-Thursday from 6:00-9:00pm. Students may arrange a one-on-one session with a trained and experienced writing tutor by visiting the UWC during normal operating hours (both half-hour and hour sessions are available) or by making an appointment via [WOnline](http://WOnline) at [<https://tamuct.mywconline.com/>]. In addition, you can email Dr. Bruce Bowles Jr. at [bruce.bowles@tamuct.edu](mailto:bruce.bowles@tamuct.edu) to schedule an online tutoring session. Tutors are prepared to help writers of all levels and abilities at any stage of the writing process.

While tutors will not write, edit, or grade papers, they will assist students in developing more effective composing practices. By providing a practice audience for students' ideas and writing, our tutors highlight the ways in which they read and interpret students' texts, offering guidance and support throughout the various stages of the writing process. In addition, students may work independently in the UWC by checking out a laptop that runs the Microsoft Office suite and connects to WIFI, or by consulting our resources on writing, including all of the relevant style guides. Whether you need help brainstorming ideas, organizing an essay, proofreading, understanding proper citation practices, or just want a quiet place to work, the University Writing Center is here to help!

If you have any questions about the University Writing Center, please do not hesitate to contact Dr. Bruce Bowles Jr. at [bruce.bowles@tamuct.edu](mailto:bruce.bowles@tamuct.edu).

### **University Library.**

The University Library provides many services in support of research across campus and at a distance. We offer over 200 electronic databases containing approximately 250,000 eBooks and 82,000 journals, in addition to the 72,000 items in our print collection, which can be mailed to students who live more than 50 miles from campus. Research guides for each subject taught at A&M-Central Texas are available through our website to help students navigate these resources. On-campus, the library offers technology including cameras, laptops, microphones, webcams, and digital sound recorders.

Research assistance from a librarian is also available twenty-four hours a day through our online chat service, and at the reference desk when the library is open. Research sessions can be scheduled for more comprehensive assistance, and may take place on Skype or in-person at the library. Assistance may cover many topics, including how to find articles in peer-reviewed journals, how to cite resources, and how to piece together research for written assignments.

Our 27,000-square-foot facility on the A&M-Central Texas main campus includes student lounges, private study rooms, group work spaces, computer labs, family areas suitable for all ages, and many other features. Services such as interlibrary loan, TexShare, binding, and laminating are available. The library frequently offers workshops, tours, readings, and other events. For more information, please visit our [Library website](http://Library website) [<https://tamuct.libguides.com/>].

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