



**\*\*REVISED\*\***

## QUALITATIVE RESEARCH METHODS

**100% online**

Professor: Roslyn Schoen, PhD

Office: Heritage Hall 204B

Office hours 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 or an equivalent research methods course 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. Students will be able to...

1. Understand qualitative research in the social sciences, including data collection techniques, analysis, writing, and presenting qualitative material.
2. Discuss the epistemological position of qualitative methods and review the various areas in sociology where qualitative work has been most effective.
3. 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. Think collectively and critically about qualitative research, including the ability to locate and assess the quality of published qualitative studies.
5. Identify the professional norms and styles for writing and presenting qualitative research findings.

**Mode of instruction and course access:** This is an online course with all assessments and lectures available through our course Canvas page.

*\*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). I check email every day during the week and often on the weekends as well. I do not respond to email after 8 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.*

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

- Saldana, Johnny and Matt Omasta. 2017. *Qualitative Research: Analyzing Life*. Sage Publications. 978-1506305493
- Goffman, Alice. 2014. *On the Run: Fugitive Life in an American City*. The University of Chicago Press.
- Holstein, James and Jaber Gubrium. 1995. *The Active Interview*. Sage. 978-0803958951

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:**

1. Discussion Boards: Students will participate on our course discussion board, with graded discussion taking place during 5 of the 16 weeks this semester. Participation on graded discussion boards is an important part of learning for this course. Primary/initial postings will address my weekly discussion question(s) and should be 300 words or longer. Primary posts are due by midnight (11:59 PM CST) each Thursday. Once several initial posts have been made, you will move on by reading and responding to at least two of your peers' primary posts. Response posts commenting and reflecting upon the comments of your peers should be made by midnight (11:59 PM CST) each Sunday.
2. Quizzes: Students will take 6 quizzes at regular intervals throughout the course. Quizzes are each worth 25 points, or 150 points in total (30% of your grade). Quizzes will cover the readings and other material assigned for the same week. On weeks when you have a quiz, you should first complete the readings and take notes. There will be no discussion board or reflection essay during the weeks you take a quiz so that you can focus on and prepare for the quiz. Prepare and manage your time wisely; you will not be able to re-take a quiz, nor

can you re-open a quiz once you have started it. Quizzes will be available from Wednesday afternoon until Sunday at 11:59 PM CST.

3. Methods Exercises: Students will complete 5 methods exercises in order to practice and apply information from the readings. Exercises are worth 50 points each for a total of 250 points. The exercises will be...
  1. Earning a CITI certificate in human subjects research
  2. Analysis 1 – analyzing spaces and objects in their surroundings
  3. Conducting an interview
  4. Ethics essay – applying ethical principles to a hypothetical research situation
  5. Analysis 2 – coding and analyzing interview data

**Point distribution**

	<b>Points</b>	<b>Percent of grade</b>
<b>Discussion boards</b> 5 @ 20 points each	100	20%
<b>Quizzes</b> 6 @ 25 points each	150	30%
<b>Methods exercises</b> 5 @ 50 points each	250	50%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>500</b>	<b>100%</b>

**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 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 13 – Jan 19      Introduction

Read: Saldana and Omasta chapter 1

Complete: Discussion board 1 and syllabus quiz (Quiz 1)

Week 2.      Jan 20 – Jan 26

Read: Introduction to Sociological Research (see link in [week 2 Module](#))

Begin [CITI online modules](#) for Social-Behavioral-Educational (SBE) basic course

Complete: Discussion board 2

Week 3.      Jan 27 – Feb 2      The field site

Read: Saldana and Omasta chapter 2

Complete: CITI Certificate

Week 4.      Feb 3 – Feb 9      Documents, artifacts, and digital materials

Read: Saldana and Omasta chapter 3

Complete: Quiz 2

Week 5.      Feb 10 – Feb 16      Preparing and analyzing interviews

Read: Saldana and Omasta chapters 4 and 5

Complete: Analysis exercise #1

Week 6. Feb 17 – Feb 23 Active interviewing

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

Goffman prologue, preface, and introduction (\*Goffman = Alice Goffman's book *On the Run*)

Complete: Discussion board 3

Week 7. Feb 24 – March 1 The active interviewer and collaborative construction

Read: Holstein and Gubrium chapters 5-8 (pgs. 38-80) In: *The Active Interview*, Goffman chapter 1

Complete: Quiz 3

Week 8. March 2 – March 8 Methodological frameworks

Read: Saldana and Omasta chapter 6

Goffman chapter 2

Complete: Interview exercise

**Spring Break is March 9 to 15, 2020**

Week 9. March 16 – March 22 No assignments this week

**Week 10 March 23 – March 29 Research design**

Read: Saldana and Omasta chapter 7

Goffman chapter 3 and 4

Complete: Discussion board 4

**Week 11. March 30 – April 5 Ethical concerns in qualitative research**

Read: Saldana and Omasta chapter 8, Goffman chapter 5, and eRes: Glesne and Peshkin “But is it Ethical?” Pgs. 109-125 In: *Becoming Qualitative Researchers*

Complete: Ethics essay

**Week 12. April 6 - 12 Analysis: Condensing, patterning, unifying**

Read: Saldana and Omasta chapter 9

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

Goffman chapter 6

Complete: Quiz 4

**Week 13. April 13 - 19 Analysis: Interpreting and theorizing**

Read: Saldana and Omasta chapter 10

Goffman chapter 7 and conclusion

Complete: Analysis exercise #2

**Week 14. April 20 – 26 Writing qualitative research**

Read: Saldana and Omasta chapter 11

Complete: Discussion board 5

**Week 15. April 27 – May 3 Analytic presentation**

Read: Saldana and Omasta chapter 12

Complete: Quiz 5

**Week 16. May 3 – May 8 Exit and closure**

Read: Saldana and Omasta chapter 13

Goffman's epilogue

Complete: Quiz 6

**UNIVERSITY RESOURCES, PROCEDURES, AND GUIDELINES**

**Drop Policy**

If you discover that you need to drop this class, you must complete a [Drop Request Form](https://www.tamuct.edu/registrar/docs/Drop_Request_Form.pdf)  
[[https://www.tamuct.edu/registrar/docs/Drop\\_Request\\_Form.pdf](https://www.tamuct.edu/registrar/docs/Drop_Request_Form.pdf)].

Professors cannot drop students; this is always the responsibility of the student. The Registrar's Office will provide a deadline on the Academic 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, working with others in an unauthorized manner, 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 referred 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.

For more [information regarding the Student Conduct process](https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/student-conduct.html),

[<https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/student-conduct.html>].

If you know of potential honor violations by other students, you may [submit a report](https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?TAMUCentralTexas&layout_id=0),

[[https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?TAMUCentralTexas&layout\\_id=0](https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?TAMUCentralTexas&layout_id=0)].

### **Academic Accommodations**

At Texas A&M University-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 Office 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 Office of Access and Inclusion, WH-212; or call (254) 501-5836. Any information you provide is private and confidential and will be treated as such.

For more information please visit our [Access & Inclusion](https://tamuct.instructure.com/courses/717) Canvas page (log-in required)

[<https://tamuct.instructure.com/courses/717>]

### **Important information for Pregnant and/or Parenting Students**

Texas A&M University-Central Texas supports students who are pregnant and/or parenting. In accordance with requirements of Title IX and related guidance from US Department of Education's Office of Civil Rights, the Dean of Student Affairs' Office can assist students who are pregnant and/or parenting in seeking accommodations related to pregnancy and/or parenting. Students should seek out assistance as early in the pregnancy as possible. For more information, please visit [Student Affairs](https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/index.html) [https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/index.html]. Students may also contact the institution's Title IX Coordinator. If you would like to read more about these [requirements and guidelines](#) online, please visit the website [http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/pregnancy.pdf].

Title IX of the Education Amendments Act of 1972 prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex and gender—including pregnancy, parenting, and all related conditions. A&M-Central Texas is able to provide flexible and individualized reasonable accommodation to pregnant and parenting students. All pregnant and parenting students should contact the Associate Dean in the Division of Student Affairs at (254) 501-5909 to seek out assistance. Students may also contact the University's Title IX Coordinator.

### **Tutoring**

Tutoring is available to all A&M-Central Texas students, both on-campus and online. Subjects tutored on campus include Accounting, Advanced Math, Biology, Finance, Statistics, Mathematics, and Study Skills. Tutors are available at the Tutoring Center in Warrior Hall, Suite 111. Tutor.com tutoring **will not offer writing support** beginning August 1, 2019, but will continue to offer other tutoring support.

If you have a question regarding tutor schedules, need to schedule a tutoring session, are interested in becoming a tutor, or have any other question, contact Academic Support Programs at (254) 501-5836, visit the Office of Student Success at 212F Warrior Hall, or by emailing [studentsuccess@tamuct.edu](mailto:studentsuccess@tamuct.edu) .

Chat live with a tutor 24/7 for almost any subject from on your computer! Tutor.com is an online tutoring platform that enables A&M-Central Texas students to log in and receive online tutoring support at no additional cost. This tool provides tutoring in over 40 subject areas. Access Tutor.com through Canvas.

### **University Writing Center**

Located in Warrior Hall 416, the University Writing Center (UWC) at Texas A&M University-Central Texas (TAMUCT) is a free workspace open to all TAMUCT students from 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Monday thru Thursday with satellite hours in the University Library Monday thru Thursday from 6:00-9:00 p.m. This semester, the UWC is also offering online only hours from 12:00-3:00 p.m. on Saturdays.

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 UWC is here to help!

Students may arrange a one-to-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 [WCOonline](https://tamuct.mywconline.com/) [https://tamuct.mywconline.com/]. In addition, you can email Dr. Bruce Bowles Jr. at [bruce.bowles@tamuct.edu](mailto:bruce.bowles@tamuct.edu) if you have any questions about the UWC and/or need any assistance with scheduling.

### **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 85,000 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 24 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://tamuct.libguides.com/index) [http://tamuct.libguides.com/index].

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### **A Note about Sexual Violence at A&M-Central Texas**

Sexual violence is a serious safety, social justice, and public health issue. The university offers support for anyone struggling with these issues. University faculty are mandated reporters, so if someone discloses that they were sexually assaulted (or a victim of Domestic/Dating Violence or Stalking) while a student at TAMUCT, faculty members are required to inform the Title IX Office. If you want to discuss any of these issues confidentially, you can do so through Student Counseling (254-501-5955) located on the second floor of Warrior Hall (207L).

Sexual violence can occur on our campus because predators often feel emboldened, and victims often feel silenced or shamed. It is incumbent on ALL of us to find ways to actively create environments that tell predators we don't agree with their behaviors and tell survivors we will support them. Your actions matter. Don't be a bystander; be an agent of change. For additional information on campus policy and resources visit the [Title IX webpage](https://www.tamuct.edu/departments/compliance/titleix.php) [<https://www.tamuct.edu/departments/compliance/titleix.php>].

### **Behavioral Intervention**

Texas A&M University-Central Texas cares about the safety, health, and well-being of its students, faculty, staff, and community. If you are aware of individuals for whom you have a concern, who are exhibiting concerning behaviors, or individuals causing a significant disruption to our community, please make a referral to the Behavioral Intervention Team. Referring your concern shows you care. You can complete the [referral](https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?TAMUCentralTexas&layout_id=2) online [[https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?TAMUCentralTexas&layout\\_id=2](https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?TAMUCentralTexas&layout_id=2)].

Anonymous referrals are accepted. Please see the [Behavioral Intervention Team](https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/bat.html) website for more information [<https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/bat.html>]. If a person's behavior poses an imminent threat to you or another, contact 911 or A&M-Central Texas University Police at 254-501-5800.