

QUALITATIVE RESEARCH METHODS

100% online

Professor: Roslyn Schoen, PhD

Office: Heritage Hall 204B

Office hours will be 1-4 PM on Tuesdays and Thursdays

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. Undergraduate 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.

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*.

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>*

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.
- 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.

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

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.

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.

For more [information regarding the Student Conduct process](https://tamuct.campuslabs.com/engage/organization/tamuct-student-conduct-panel),
[https://tamuct.campuslabs.com/engage/organization/tamuct-student-conduct-panel].

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].

[Link to the course plagiarism policy.](#)

Resources:

Each link below will take you to a page describing the campus resource and details on how to access the resource.

[The TAMUCT University Library](#)

[Get help with writing from our Writing Center!](#)

[Tutoring at TAMUCT](#)

[Academic Accommodations](#)

[Information for Pregnant and/or Parenting Students](#)

[How to Drop a Course](#)

This course is stacked with both undergraduate and graduate student sections.

If you are an UNDERGRADUATE student, please see your course schedule here: [Undergraduate Course Schedule](#)

If you are a GRADUATE student, please follow this course schedule: [Graduate Student Course Schedule](#)

Both sections will participate in Discussion Boards. Requirements are available here: [Discussion board requirements](#)

COURSE TOPICS:

Introduction and identifying the field site. Weeks 1 and 2.

Data sources beyond talk: How to examine documents, artifacts, and digital materials. Week 3.

Qualitative interviews: What to do when preparing, conducting, and analyzing interviews followed by discussions of “the active interview” and collaborative construction. Weeks 4-6.

Methodological frameworks, epistemology, and the role of theory and social position in research design. Weeks 7 and 8.

Ethical concerns in qualitative research. Focus will be on confidentiality issues, making in-field decisions, maintaining parity, and managing data. Weeks 9 and 10.

Analysis: Condensing, patterning, unifying followed by interpreting and theorizing based on data. Weeks 11 and 12.

Wrap up: Exiting the field and closing out the project, followed by discussion of scholarly writing and professional research presentations. Weeks 13-15.

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.

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