

**Course syllabus**  
**«Methodology and Research methods in Sociology: Qualitative Research methods»**

Approved by  
Programme Academic Council  
Protocol Nr. 01 from 25.06.2018

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Number of credits	4
Contact hours	32
Self-study hours	120
Kypc	1
Educational format	Without use of online course

**I. Aim, Results of Mastering the Discipline and Prerequisites**

The objective of the discipline " Methodology and Research methods in Sociology: Qualitative Research methods " is to introduce students to the use of qualitative methods in sociological research.

As a result, students should:

**Know:**

- the basic fundamentals of qualitative inquiry
- the concept of reflexivity in qualitative research

**Be able to:**

- design a qualitative research project by selecting appropriate qualitative methods
- select and use appropriate qualitative methods to answer their research question
- frame a theoretical problem into a qualitative inquiry
- reflect on their position as researcher

**Have:**

- the skill to conduct ethnographic fieldwork and gather data in the field
- the skill to conduct an ethnographic observation and a qualitative interview
- the skill to analyse data and frame qualitative data into an appropriate theoretical framework

Basic knowledge of concepts and theories of social sciences are required for this course.

The basics of this discipline should be used in the following courses and activities:

- Master thesis writing
- Comparative sociology
- Applied social research

The course is strongly related and complementary to other compulsory courses provided in the first year (e.g. Research Seminar) and sets a crucial prerequisite for later courses and research

projects as well as for the master thesis. The course gives students an important foundation to develop and conduct their own research as well as to evaluate research of others.

## **II. Content of the Course**

### **SESSION ONE: Introduction**

The first session will introduce the main basics of qualitative research and lay out the course plan and requirements for student participation. Some first observations on qualitative inquiry and the particularities of the qualitative approach in the social sciences will be discussed.

### **SESSION TWO: What is qualitative inquiry?**

In this session, the emphasis will be put on the positioning of the researcher in qualitative approaches as well as the central role of reflexivity in the research process. Philosophical assumptions and worldviews underlying qualitative inquiry will be studied.

### **SESSION THREE: Qualitative inquiry and research design**

This session will examine how to design a qualitative research proposal. The different components of a proposal will be discussed from the definition of the research problem and the formulation of a research question to the selection of cases and settings, the choice of methods to study the problem and the literature review.

### **SESSION FOUR: Field research**

This session will introduce the concept of fieldwork and examine how to gain access and rapport in the field in order to adopt an “insider” perspective. It will discuss the advantages and disadvantages of the “insider” and “outsider” perspectives.

### **SESSION FIVE: Conducting interviews**

This session will discuss sampling strategies, types of interviews and how to conduct various types of interviews.

### **SESSION SIX: Qualitative Data Analysis**

In this session, the relation between data collection and theory-building in qualitative research will be discussed. How can data be analysed in order to relate it to a theoretical framework? How does the researcher “move up” from raw data to analytical concepts?

### **SESSION SEVEN: Presentation of observation reports and analysis I**

This session will be devoted to the presentation of individual observation reports by groups of students. The students will discuss their individual observation reports and their analysis of observation data in groups in order to establish comparisons.

### **SESSION EIGHT: Presentation of observation reports and analysis II**

This session will be devoted to the presentation of individual observation reports by groups of students. The students will discuss their individual observation reports and their analysis of observation data in groups in order to establish comparisons.

### **III. Grading**

Attendance makes up 10 percent of the final grade.

Participation makes up 10 percent of the final grade.

An individual oral presentation in class based on the reading material with a 2-pages written hand out or a written assignment on the reading material makes up 30 percent of the final grade.

A final observation report makes up 50 percent of the final grade.

If the final grade is non-integer, it is rounded according to algebraic rules. If has a half (.5) at the end, we are rounding upward.

### **IV. Grading Tools**

Oral presentation: 15-20 minutes with a PowerPoint or Pdf file and a written handout of two pages. The student can choose a session to do a presentation in the first, second or third week of the course. The reading material is sent by the instructor one week prior to the presentation.

Written assignment: answering questions sent by the instructor on the reading material for a particular session. Length: 1500 words. Questions are sent by the instructor one week before the session and the assignment is submitted by the student a day prior to the session.

Observation report: it consists of two parts: observation notes (1000-1300 words) and analysis (1000-1300 words) with 3 literature references (references to texts read in class (at least 2) and to other sociological literature). Observation notes record an ethnographic observation in a particular setting. The analysis refers to sociological concepts and ideas derived from a close analysis of observation data.

Details about the observation report are given in the first session of the course and students' questions about the observations are answered in details in the second and third sessions.

### **V. Sources**

#### **5.1 Main Literature**

1. Hammersley, Martin, 1990: Dilemma Qualitative Method : Herbert Blumer and the Chicago Tradition. URL <https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/hselibrary-ebooks/detail.action?docID=179074&query=dilemma+qualitative+method> ProQuest
2. Yanow, Dvora; Schwartz-Shea, Peregrine (eds), 2006: Interpretation and Method : Empirical Research Methods and the Interpretive Turn. URL

<https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/hselibrary-ebooks/detail.action?docID=302458&query=dvora+yanow> ProQuest

3. Brinkmann, Svend, 2013: Qualitative Interviewing : Qualitative Interviewing. URL <https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/hselibrary-ebooks/detail.action?docID=1274289&query=brinkmann> ProQuest

4. Saldana, Johnny; Leavy, Patricia; Beretvas, Natasha, 2011: Fundamentals of Qualitative Research. URL <https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/hselibrary-ebooks/detail.action?docID=665394&query=johnny+saldana> ProQuest

5. Berger, Rony: Now I see it, now I don't: researcher's position and reflexivity in qualitative research, Qualitative Research 5(2): 219 -234. URL <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/abs/10.1177/1468794112468475> SAGE Journals

6. Watson, C. W. (ed), 1999: Being There : Fieldwork in Anthropology. URL <https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/hselibrary-ebooks/detail.action?docID=3386556&query=fieldwork+in+anthropology> ProQuest

### Additional Literature

1. May, Tim (ed), 2002: Qualitative Research in Action. URL <https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/hselibrary-ebooks/detail.action?docID=254691&query=qualitative+research+in+action> ProQuest

2. Mahony, James, 2007: Qualitative Methodology and Comparative Politics, Comparative Political Studies 40(2): 122-144. URL <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/10.1177/0010414006296345> SAGE Journals

3. Mosley, Layna (ed), 2013: Interview Research in Political Science. URL <https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/hselibrary-ebooks/detail.action?docID=3138479&query=Mosley%2C+Layna> ProQuest

## 5.2 Software

№ п/п	Name	Access conditions
1.	MicrosoftWindows 7 Professional RUS MicrosoftWindows 10 MicrosoftWindows 8.1 Professional RUS	<i>From the university's internal network (contract)</i>
2.	Microsoft Office Professional Plus 2010	<i>From the university's internal network (contract)</i>

## 5.3. Professional databases and reference systems. Internet resources (electronic educational resources)

№	Name	Access conditions
<i>Professional databases and reference systems</i>		
1.	Consultant Plus	<i>From the university's internal network (contract)</i>
2.	URAIT Electronic library system	URL: <a href="https://biblio-online.ru/">https://biblio-online.ru/</a>
<i>Internet resources (electronic educational resources)</i>		
1.	Open Education	URL: <a href="https://openedu.ru/">https://openedu.ru/</a>

#### **5.4 Material and technical support**

Classrooms for lectures on the discipline provide for the use and demonstration of thematic illustrations corresponding to the program of the discipline, consisting of:

- PC with Internet access (operating system, office software, antivirus software);
- multimedia projector with remote control.