## SOC 9101: QUALITATIVE RESEARCH METHODOLOGY AND DATA ANALYSIS

Credit Units: **4**

Credit Hours: **60**

**Course Objective**

To explore and appreciate the qualitative methodology as an approach to a research problem.

**Learning Objectives:**

At the end of this course, students will:

* Be knowledgeable in the philosophical underpinnings of qualitative research.
* Have acquired skills of literature search, critical analysis and writing.
* Be able to identify would-be qualitative research problems
* Be able to call into use appropriate qualitative research methods of investigating the identified problem(s)
* Appreciate analysis of qualitative data (manually and by use of computer software)
* Able to explore various ways of writing a qualitative research report

**Course Content**

**The Qualitative Research Paradigm**:

* What it is. Features of the qualitative research paradigm (e.g. grounded theory, phenomenology, naturalistic, interpretative, qualitative, subjectivity, triangulation and riqour…)
* Examples of the qualitative research paradigm (e.g. feminist research, historical research, action research, anthropology, enthographic
* Debate of objectivism and subjectivisim (Diffrences between qualitative and quantitative research paradigms and application to the research problem)

**Qualitative Research Designs:**

Ethnonography, Critical enthnography, Case study, Action Research, Historical/ life histories, Grounded theory

**Ethical issues in qualitative research**

Informed consent, Confidentiality, Ethical clearance, Ethical reporting of results, Ethical dilemmas

**Qualitative research approach in the field**

Accessing the field, Sampling

**Data collection in qualitative research (toolbox of methods): A practical approach**

* Focus group discussions
* Interviews: Key Informant Interviews, In depth Interviews, Case studies, Life histories, Genealogical methods, Social network, Narratives, Conversation, Observations
* Documents: public documents such as minutes of meetings, newspapers, private documents such as journal, diary, letter..
* Audio-visual materials e.g. film, photographs, art object, video tapes
* Discourse analysis

**Instruments/tools (guides and checklists**

* Focus group guide, Key informant Guide/checklist, In-depth Interview, guide, Observation guide/checklist

**Qualitative Data analysis (Manual & computer-assisted)**

* Constant comparative method, Categorisation, Thematic analysis, Theory generation

**Writing qualitative research reports**: Publishing qualitative research

**Course Assessment:**

Continuous Assessment (40%)

* + Group Projects
  + Individual projects (written & oral)
  + Research Presentations

Final Research Essay (60%)

Based on mini-field work and literature review

**Course Delivery:**

* Lectures
* In-class Practical work (Hands-on analysis and critique of qualitative research problems in previous dissertations and research papers)
* Mini-field work and report writing
* Students’ research presentations

**Reading List**

1. Feldman Martha S., (1994) [Strategies for Interpreting Qualitative Data](http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/ASIN/0803959168/eval) (Qualitative Research Methods, Vol 3) , Sage
2. Fielding Nigel, Fielding Jane, (1985) [Linking Data](http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/ASIN/0803925182/eval) (Qualitative Research Methods). Sage
3. Miles Matthew, Huberman Michael, (1994) Qualitative Data Analysis, Sage, 352 p

Other Books on general qualitative research design

- Books on discourse analysis in every discipline

- Books on grounded theory (Glaser & Strauss)

Books on qualitative data analysis