STS 304A: Social Research Methods Lab

Wednesday 8:30-10-35   Dr. Theresa Hunt
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Course Description

This course is the laboratory component of PSY 304. Many students enrolled take this section concurrently. In this course, we will explore the scope of social science research, and practice a range of applied qualitative methods. You will have an opportunity to think critically about existing methods and practices in various fields related to your major, including new and challenging questions related to ethics.

Course Objectives

Students enrolled in this lab will complete the course with proficiency in

- Designing appropriate questions for a qualitative research study
- Using a range of bibliographic research methods foundational to primary research
- Selecting effective tools for the collection of qualitative data
- Selecting appropriate analytical methods for qualitative data
- Use of computer-assisted qualitative data analysis software (CAQDAS)

Course Texts

All readings are available on Canvas.

Evaluation and Assessment

Reflexivity Statement	10%
Small Group Jigsaw Notes	25%
Citation Chaining Activity	15%
CITI Course & Informed Consent Statement	20%
Focus Group Analysis and Review	20%
Attendance, Participation, and Collaboration	10%

- September Lab activities include research on current practices and issues in the field of qualitative research generally and your own major specifically. We will review literature on *research positionality* and *reflexivity*, as well as investigate the scope of the field. Assignments related to this module include the **reflexivity statement** and **source share-out.**

- October and November activities include hands-on practice with bibliographic research, including advanced methods social researchers practice when beginning a new study. This module also includes an introduction to institutional review boards (IRB) and the requirements social researchers undergo prior to conducting fieldwork. Assignments related to this module include **citation chaining,** and **CITI and Informed Consent documents.**

- At the end of the term, you will be asked to practice one method of data analysis common to qualitative research called **Coding.** Your report on your process will be due the last week of classes.

University Code on Academic Integrity

If you claim someone else's words or ideas are your own, you are plagiarizing. Plagiarism and all other kind of cheating are not tolerated at NJIT. Any violation of the University Code on Academic Integrity will result in failure of assignments and possibly the course. In additional, all instances of violation will be reported to the Dean of Students office. For strategies to avoid plagiarism, review the material available from VanHouten Library: https://researchguides.njit.edu/artscitation/citingandplagiarism

Accommodation of Learning Differences

Learning differences will be accommodated and supported in this classroom. Official documentation should be presented to your instructors via the Office of Accessibility Resources and Services. You are also welcome to discuss your learning practices and needs with me directly.

Schedule

This schedule may change as needed; keep checking Canvas and/or email for any updates.

Date	Topic	Assignments Due
September 11	Introduction to Lab	
September 18	Reflexivity and Positionality	**READ** Ping-Chun Hsiung, "Reflexivity" (be sure to review ALL categories in the dropdown menu!)
September 25	Reflexivity Statement Samples: Small Group Jigsaw Meet with your group; **return to class to de-brief by 9:30**	**READ** Morrison et al, "Thanks for Using Me: An Exploration of Exit Strategy in Qualitative Research"
October 2	Exam Week / conferences	
October 9	Interview Prep: Small Group Jigsaw Meet with your group; **return to class to de-brief by 9:30**	**Reflexivity Statement Due by 5 PM on 10/10**

October 16	**Mock-focus group session 1**; Meet with your group; **return to class to de-brief by 9:30**	**READ** Nyumba et al, "The Use of Focus Group Discussion Methodology"
October 23	**Mock-focus group session 2**	**Focus Group Write-Up Due by 5 PM on 10/25**
October 30	Exam Week / conferences	
November 6	Introduction to CITI Modules & Informed Consent Documents	**CITI Certificate and Informed Consent Activity Assigned** **READ** Nijhawan et al, "Informed Consent: Issues and Challenges"
November 13	Introduction to Advanced Research and Lit Review Techniques	
November 20	Support Session: Groups & Schedule TBA	**Citation Chaining Project due by 5 PM on 11/22**
December 4	Support Session: Groups & Schedule TBA	**Reminder: CITI Certificate and Informed Consent Documents Due** Upload or email copy of certificate & IC to Canvas no later than 5 PM on 12/4
December 11	Support Session: Groups & Schedule TBA	