

SOC*6140 Qualitative Research Methods Fall 2020
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Course Instructor: Dr. Erin Nelson

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Does the course require face-to-face contact?

NO. This course will be delivered remotely. Some synchronous activities will be organized for the scheduled time of Thursdays, 11:30-2:20.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course aims to prepare students to conduct qualitative research as part of their graduate studies. Students will gain knowledge about key philosophical, epistemological, political and ethical issues central to qualitative research. They will also learn about the different stages of the research process, including identification of research questions, selection of an appropriate research approach, and design of methods for data collection and analysis. The course will be organised around a collection of readings, activities and discussion. Evaluation will be based on a set of assignments over the semester, with the major one being a detailed proposal for each student's graduate research project.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

The overall goal of this course is to help students who are about to embark on their own independent research projects familiarize themselves with research design and methods. By the end of the course, students will have developed a proposal to help guide their research, and should have an increased level of comfort with the idea of designing and carrying out their own research project.

More specifically, by the end of the course students should be able to:

- Recognize good research questions and objectives, and develop questions and objectives that suit their own area of research interest;
- Understand the different research frameworks that are available to them, including the philosophical underpinnings of each, and have an idea of which framework best addresses their own research goals;
- Work with a range of qualitative research methods, and have an idea of which methods would be most appropriate for their own research projects;
- Evaluate the qualitative research methods used in projects done by others; and,
- Have an understanding of key ethical considerations relevant to conducting qualitative research.