**Qualitative Research Methods** 2021/2022

**-Final assignment-**

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The purpose of the final assignment is to implement the course’s materials, as the students will exercise and illustrate the degree of their familiarity with the tools, analysis methods and practices that qualitative research has to offer, as well as the issues it carries regarding generalization and ethics.

Below, you can find a grading rubric with a detailed information on the assignment requirements.

**Important** – for each category in the grading rubric you will need to **thoroughly explain the decisions you make** in designing your qualitative research!

Always focus on the importance of the choices you make for your case study!

**General -**

* **Due date – Submission on courses website no later than 28 February, 2022 at 23:59.**
* **Format – Times New Roman, 12, double spaced**
* **Page limit – Max 11 pages (bibliography not included)**
* **The paper constitutes 70% of the final grade**

**The assignment**

**Grading rubric**:

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **Points** | **Task** | **Comments** |
| **10** | **Choosing a qualitative topic for research. Use the syllabus literature (weeks 1-2) to justify chosen topic**  **Within-case analysis - Choosing the case study for research**  **Determining the specific population of study (sample universe)** | The topic should be relevant for qualitative political inquiry. The reading should be integrated analytically to explain the case in point  -------------  The case study should be applicable to the topic you wish to investigate  -------------  Who will you study? There should be an analytical explanation on each decision as it ought to be suitable to the chosen case study |
| **10** | **Phrasing research variables**  **Presenting a qualitative research question**  **Presenting a qualitative research hypothesis**  **Determining causality** | The two variables should be coined elegantly, and self-explanatory  --------------  The research question should address the topic of choice, determine the connection between the two variables and reflect on the qualitative nature of the study  ---------------  The hypothesis is, in fact, your answer to the research question (using the same variables as in the question)  \*Short and elegant in nature\*  --------------  Does the hypothesis determine causality? explain |
| **10** | **Creating a literature review using 12 articles that apply directly to your research question**  **Illustrating the added value of your study to the state of the arts** | The reading items are outside the course syllabus (use the library website, Google Scholar)  The selection of reading items depends on your specific topic  The reading should be integrated analytically to explain the case in point and the general theoretical framework of your study  -----------------  The research should address the topic of choice, while adding a value that was never investigated before, thus innovative. This discussion should relate to the review of literature |
| **10** | **Choosing 2-3 data collection techniques that are appropriate for your specific research, and adequate to the population investigated** | Explain and exemplify your choices:  Why the data collection techniques of your choice best fits your study?  How does it maximize your ability to access data? Is it within budget?  How does triangulation assist data collection and analysis? |
| **10** | **Choosing a data analysis** **technique/s that is most appropriate for your specific research, and adequate to the data you have collected** | Show why and how the data analysis technique of your choice is best to analyze your data  You may choose 1-2 data analysis techniques – one for each kind of data**, only if it enhances your research design! Explain why.** |
| **10** | **Composing an interview questionnaire for your study and pointing on the sample out of the sample universe** | Decide on the kind of questionnaire (structured/half-structured)  It should consist of 12 questions, while dividing the questions into the varied kinds we have studied (opening, transition, key, ending, etc.)  Mention the kind next to each question). (see in presentation 5).  Who is your sample population for this tool? |
| **10** | **Discussing MODERTUM generalization in your study** | To what degree is your study’s generalization limited? Write a paragraph discussing this kind of generalization |
| **15** | **Filling in an Ethics Committee Request form and a Consent Letter** | Establish that all ethics and participants protection requirements are kept |
| **5** | **Answer - would a mixed method design enhance the validity of your study?** | Discuss how would adding a research tool such as a quantitative survey to your qualitative study can provide you a more meaningful data and strengthen your study |
| **5** | **Organization of paper** | The paper needs to be organized by idea and logically consistent.  It should use appropriate answer numbering and/or sub-titles |
| **5** | **Using APA citation** | The paper should include APA in-text citation + reference list (APA manual on our website) |

**Good Luck!**