

School: Lauder School of Government, Diplomacy & Strategy M.A

Qualitative Research Methods

Lecturer:

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Course No.:	Course Type :	Weekly Hours :	Credit:
24247	Lecture	2	2

Course Requirements :	Group Code :	Language:
Final Paper	222242472	English

Course Description

The course offers an opportunity for advanced postgraduate students to experience the practice of qualitative research in the social sciences.

During the semester we will address the nature of qualitative research in the context of political science, and offer plentiful opportunities to discuss the implications of the choices made by various studies in designing, implementing and reporting on the findings.

Practically, the course aims to help students to develop skills to design a qualitative research study, and consequently collect and analyze qualitative data.

The course combines frontal learning with a practical application that will allow the student a hands-on experience in applying the material taught.

Course Goals

The goal of the course is to provide the students with basic knowledge of qualitative methodology and the quality criteria employed to review research based on qualitative methodology.

Grading

3 Midterm papers - **30%** of final grade (**10% each**)

Final paper **70%** of final grade

!A passing grade (60) [in all 3 midterm papers and final paper] is mandatory in order to pass the course!

Mandatory attendance as well as active participation are crucial in order to succeed in the course!

Lecturer Office Hours

By request - schedule via e-mail

Niva.Golan@post.idc.ac.il

Tutor Office Hours

By request - schedule via e-mail

yuvalbartovidc@gmail.com

Teaching Assistant

Mr. Yuval Bartov

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Additional Notes

For administrative inquiries - contact Mr. Yuval Bartov at: yuvalbartovidc@gmail.com

Reading List

Week 1 - Introduction to Qualitative Research Methods: Characteristics and Limitations

Flick, U. (2018). An introduction to qualitative research. Sage Publications Limited, ch. 1-2.

Goertz, G., & Mahoney, J. (2012). A tale of two cultures: Qualitative and quantitative research in the social sciences. Princeton University Press, pp. 1-16.

Week 2 – Theoretical Frameworks in Qualitative Research

Flick, U. (2018). An introduction to qualitative research. Sage Publications Limited, ch. 3.

Lin, A. C. (1998). Bridging positivist and interpretivist approaches to qualitative methods. *Policy Studies Journal*, 26(1), 162-180.

Week 3 – Data Collection: The Classic Participant Observation

Berg, B. L. (2009). *Qualitative Research Methods for the Social Science*. Boston: Ally & Bacon, pp. 190-245.

Clark, A., Holland, C., Katz, J., & Peace, S. (2009). Learning to see: lessons from a participatory observation research project in public spaces. *International Journal of Social Research Methodology*, 12(4), 345-360.

Week 4 – Data Collection: The Interview as a Tool in Political Research

Robinson, O. C. (2014). Sampling in interview-based qualitative research: A theoretical and practical guide. *Qualitative Research in Psychology*, 11(1), 25-41.

Fontana, A., & Prokos, A. H. (2007). The interview: From formal to postmodern. Left coast press, ch. 1-2, 4, 6.

Week 5 – Data Collection: Focus Groups as a Tool in Political Research

Krueger, R. A. (1998). Developing questions for focus groups (Vol. 3). Sage Publications, pp. 19-51.

Colucci, E. (2007). "Focus groups can be fun": The use of activity-oriented questions in focus group discussions. *Qualitative Health Research*, 17(10), 1422-1433.

Stanley, L. (2016). Using focus groups in political science and international relations. *Politics*, 36(3), 236-249.

Week 6 – Data Collection: Formal Documents, Historical Archives and the Media as Tools in Political Research

Flick, U. (2018). An introduction to qualitative research. Sage Publications Limited, ch. 5.

Bowen, G. A. (2009). Document analysis as a qualitative research method. *Qualitative research journal*, 9(2), 27-40.

Thies, C. G. (2002). A pragmatic guide to qualitative historical analysis in the study of international relations. *International Studies Perspectives*, 3(4), 351-372.

Altheide, D. L., & Schneider, C. J. (2012). *Qualitative media analysis* (Vol. 38). Sage Publications, ch. 4.

Week 7 – Qualitative Data Analysis Tools

- Leech, N. L., & Onwuegbuzie, A. J. (2007). An array of qualitative data analysis tools: A call for data analysis triangulation. *School Psychology Quarterly*, 22(4), 557.
- Simons, L., Lathlean, J., & Squire, C. (2008). Shifting the focus: sequential methods of analysis with qualitative data. *Qualitative Health Research*, 18(1), 120-132.

Week 8 – Designing the Research: Case selection, Hypotheses and Generalization

- Goertz, G., & Mahoney, J. (2012). *A tale of two cultures: Qualitative and quantitative research in the social sciences*. Princeton University Press, pp. 177-219.
- Seawright, J., & Gerring, J. (2008). Case selection techniques in case study research: A menu of qualitative and quantitative options. *Political Research Quarterly*, 61(2), 294-308.
- Payne, G., & Williams, M. (2005). Generalization in qualitative research. *Sociology*, 39(2), 295-314.

Week 9 – Qualitative Case Study Research

- Stake, R. E. (2005). Qualitative Case Studies. In N. K. Denzin & Y. S. Lincoln (Eds.), *The Sage handbook of qualitative research* (p. 443–466). Sage Publications Ltd.
- Bennett, A., & Elman, C. (2006). Qualitative research: Recent developments in case study methods. *Annual Review of Political Science*, 9, 455-476.
- Goertz, G., & Mahoney, J. (2012). *A tale of two cultures: Qualitative and quantitative research in the social sciences*. Princeton University Press, pp. 87-99.

Week 10 – Process Tracing as a Qualitative Tool to Determine Causality

- Flick, U. (2018). *An introduction to qualitative research*. Sage Publications Limited, ch. 8.
- Beach, D., & Pedersen, R. B. (2019). *Process-tracing methods: Foundations and guidelines*. University of Michigan Press, ch. 1-3.
- Mahoney, J. (2012). The logic of process tracing tests in the social sciences. *Sociological Methods & Research*, 41(4), 570-597.
- Bennett, A. (2010). Process tracing and causal inference. In H. E. Brady & D. Collier (Eds.), *Rethinking social inquiry: Diverse tools, shared standards* (2 ed.) (pp. 207-219). Lanham: Rowman and Littlefield.

Week 11 – Quality, Morality, Ethics and Anonymity in Qualitative Research

- Tracy, S. J. (2010). Qualitative quality: Eight "big-tent" criteria for excellent qualitative research. *Qualitative inquiry*, 16(10), 837-851.
- Wiles, R. (2012). *What are qualitative research ethics?*. London: A&C Black., ch. 3-4.
- Parry, O., & Mauthner, N. S. (2004). Whose data are they anyway? Practical, legal and ethical issues in archiving qualitative research data. *sociology*, 38(1), 139-152.

Week 12 – The Art of Mixed Method Research Designs

- Creswell, J. W., & Clark, V. L. P. (2017). *Designing and conducting mixed methods research*. Sage publications, ch. 1, ch. 3.
- Creswell, J. W., Fetters, M. D., & Ivankova, N. V. (2004). Designing a mixed methods study in primary care. *The Annals of Family Medicine*, 2(1), 7-12.
- Golan-Nadir, N. (2016) "Marriage Regulation in Israel and Turkey: the interplay between institutional dynamics and public preferences", in: *The Jarring Road to Democratic Inclusion: A Comparative Assessment of State–Society Engagements in Israel and Turkey*, Aviad Rubin and Yusuf Sarfati (eds.), New York: Lexington Books, Ch. 8.

Week 13 – Summary: Qualitative Research versus Big Data: The Relevance of Qualitative Research Today

- Davidson, E., Edwards, R., Jamieson, L., & Weller, S. (2019). Big data, qualitative style: a breadth-and-depth method for working with large amounts of secondary qualitative data. *Quality & Quantity*, 53(1), 363-376.
- Bisel, R. S., Barge, J. K., Dougherty, D. S., Lucas, K., & Tracy, S. J. (2014). A round-table discussion of "big" data in qualitative organizational communication research. *Management Communication Quarterly*, 28(4), 625-649.