

Qualitative Research Methods 2021/2022

-Course assignments-

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Assignments:

The purpose of the three assignments is to construct a qualitative research study in political science. The tasks are co-dependent, hence minding the TA's comments is essential in order to achieve an optimal grade at the following assignments.

The assignments are due **prior** to our class at the week mentioned at each assignment.

Assignment 1 – Defining research question and variables: (10 points, 2 pages, due week 3).

- Choose a topic for your qualitative study within the realm of political science.
- Using the syllabus literature (weeks 1-2), explain why is the topic of your choice suitable for a qualitative analysis.
- Determine your research variables (independent and dependent).
- Using your research variables, phrase a qualitative research question.

Grading rubric:

Points	Task	Comments
10	Choosing a qualitative topic for research	The topic should be relevant for qualitative political inquiry <u>The topic should be approved by the TA via email by week 2</u>

<p>20</p>	<p>Using the syllabus literature (weeks 1-2) to justify chosen topic</p>	<p>The readings for weeks 1-2 will be used to justify the chosen topic's qualitative nature.</p> <p>The reading should be integrated analytically to explain the case in point</p>
<p>30</p>	<p>Phrasing research variables</p>	<p>The two variables should be coined elegantly, and self-explanatory</p>
<p>30</p>	<p>Presenting a qualitative research question</p>	<p>The research question should address the topic of choice, determine the connection between the two variables and reflect the qualitative nature of the study</p>
<p>5</p>	<p>Organization of paper</p>	<p>The paper needs to be organized by idea and logically consistent.</p> <p>It should use appropriate answer numbering and sub-titles</p>
<p>5</p>	<p>Using APA citation</p>	<p>The paper should include APA in-text citation + reference list (manual on our website)</p>

Assignment 2 – Defining research population and creating a literature review: (10 points, 4 pages, due week 7).

- Decide on your population of study.
- Write a short summary of 6 articles that apply directly to your research question.

Grading rubric:

Points	Task	Comments
20	Determine the specific population of study	There should be an analytical explanation on each decision
10	Mention the research question from assignment #1 (corrected to meet the TA’s comments) at the top of the page	The literature review and research question should align - the purpose of the literature review is to show the connection between the variables
50	Create a literature review using 6 articles that apply directly to your research question	The reading items are <u>outside</u> 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
10	Note the added value of your study to the <u>state of the arts</u>	The research should address the topic of choice, while adding a value that was never

		investigated before, thus innovative
5	Organization of paper	The paper needs to be organized by idea and logically consistent. It should use appropriate answer numbering and sub-titles
5	Using APA citation	The paper should include APA in-text citation + reference list

Assignment 3 – Deciding on data collection and data analysis techniques: (10 points, 3 pages, due week 11).

- Choose your data collection techniques (2-3).
- Choose your data analysis techniques.

Grading rubric:

Points	Task	Comments
20	Mention the research question from assignment #1 and research population from assignment #2 at the top of the page (both corrected to meet the TA's comments)	Explain and exemplify what kind of data your study requires The question and population should align with the data collection techniques
40	Choose 2-3 data collection techniques that are appropriate for your specific research, and adequate to the population investigated	<u>Explain and exemplify your choices:</u> Why the data collection techniques of your choice best fits your study? How do they maximize your ability to access data?
30	Choose a data analysis technique 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 needed!
5	Organization of paper	The paper needs to be organized by idea and logically consistent. It should use appropriate answer numbering and sub-titles
5	Using APA citation	The paper should include APA in-text citation + reference list

Good Luck!