Long Assignment for

Qualitative Research Methods

Anthropology/Sociology 215

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Introduction for Faculty Colleagues

About the course

This course is on qualitative research methods. It is designed for social sciences students to learn and practice methods for selecting a qualitative research question or problem, collecting information, and analyzing data qualitatively.

How Research Project assignment fits into the course

In this long-writing assignment, students are paired to select their own qualitative research problem, data collection methods and process of analysis, through in-class and out-of-class activities at Elon University. This research project is made up of four smaller assignments (introduction, methods, results and discussion), in which students turn in their assignment for grading and receive feedback at each stage. The audience of the students is their classmates. At the end of the term, students have to produce a final research paper that incorporates all the smaller assignments (1-4) and include the feedback given for the smaller assignments earlier in the semester. This is a project in pairs and, thus, both individuals are going to be graded together.

Aims for the assignment

During the term, this assignment gives students the opportunity to learn valuable research-methods skills that they can use in their academic, professional and personal development. Through this research project assignment students will:

- Learn how to design a researchable qualitative research question or problem, collect information, and analyze data qualitatively.
- Learn how to effectively write a qualitative research report.
- Conduct qualitative research scientifically and ethically.
- Learn how to follow proper in-text citation and references using APA style/

Important features of the assignment
This assignment gives students the opportunity to learn by practicing and writing. It requires students to work in class and outside of class collaboratively.

This assignment was originally given to the students in the form of a research proposal project. Now, it is modified into a research project assignment. The reason for this change is to enhance the students' learning opportunities by increasing the practice and writing portions. In addition, expectations are detailed and a grading rubric is provided.

Rubric
A grading rubric follows after the assignment.

The Assignment I Distribute to Students

ANT/SOC 215 – Qualitative Research Methods

Research Project Assignment in Pairs (100 points):

Assignment Overview
This assignment gives you the opportunity to learn valuable research methods skills that you can use in your academic, professional and personal development.

During the term, you will work in pairs. You and your classmate will be taking the role of qualitative social researchers, and both of you will conduct a study at Elon University. Your audience will be your classmates. Your group will identify a qualitatively researchable question or problem. Then, you will collect data and analyze it. This is a project in pairs and thus both individuals are going to be graded together. It is, therefore, required that both of you work collaboratively and share responsibilities for all the assignments equally. All assignments should follow proper in-text citation and references using APA style.

Process
This research project will be made up of four smaller assignments, which you will turn in for grading and feedback at each stage. Specific detailed guidelines for each smaller assignment will be provided separately. At the end of the term, you will have to produce a final research paper that incorporates all the smaller assignments (1-4) and includes the feedback given for the assignments. You should upload it on Moodle on December 5.

Assignment 1: Introduction (3-5 pages)- 20 points
Your qualitative research question and why it is important to study it is introduced to the reader in this part, which includes some background and a literature review on the topic. You should begin by introducing your qualitative research question or problem. Here you will review and summarize related literature to your research topic (i.e., 3-5 peer reviewed journals published in the last 5-10 years and their impact on the study of your topic). Research is conducted on the writings of other authors who have studied the same subject. The negative and positive aspects of all perspectives are presented. Then, you will describe what will be the unique contribution of your research to the existing literature. By the end of this paper, your readers (classmates) should be able to follow the rationale of your study. *Due date, September 15, submit on Moodle.*

Assignment 2: Methods (2-3 pages):- 20 points
The research design of your research project is explained in this part, along with the procedures for sampling and the data collection methods. You will explain specific qualitative research methods used to answer your research problem. Please provide a specific rationale for your sample size, the demographic characteristics of your participants, and a description of how did you select your sample participants. Describe what you did to get informed consent and establish a trusting relationship with your research participants. Give a specific rationale for the specific qualitative data collection methods used in your study (ex., semi-structured interview, focus group, participant observation, etc.). End by describing what type of material data you were able to collect and how your data is relevant to answer your research question. *Due date, October 8, submit on Moodle.*

Assignment 3: Results (2-3 pages) -20 points

Here you will provide a detailed description of how the collected data was analyzed qualitatively and appropriately (ex., grounded theory, phenomenology narrative analysis etc.). You will provide a description of the specific qualitative analysis steps you used to examine your data and to see what patterns, regularities, and themes emerged. At the end, conclude by explaining how your data results are related to your research question. *Due date, October 27, submit on Moodle.*

Assignment 4: Discussion (2-3 pages)- 20 points

In this section, you will provide discussion on the meaning of your results and how do you interpret them as a qualitative social researcher. You will focus on how the results of your study will be of significance to the specific field of study and the literature, in particular. Discuss the limitations of your

study and meaningfully suggest future research directions. At the end, you should conclude by articulating the significance of your research to the common good of society, in general. *Due date, November 10, submit on Moodle.*

Putting together your Final Draft (10-15 pages)- 20 points

This final draft should include an abstract and all the smaller assignments (1-4), and it should appropriately address the feedback given previously. The paper should have a cover page that includes the title of the group research project and the first and last names of the two group members. The body of the final paper should be about 10 to 15 pages long, double-spaced. Use 12 point/ Times New Roman font, and 1 inch margins, with page numbers at the bottom center of each page in the Footer section. At the end, include the References section. Proper in-text citation and references should follow APA style. *Due date, December 5, submit on Moodle.*

Rubric

Very Successful: meets all the criteria at a high level of achievement; developed, organized, focused and clear in making connections between the different parts of the assignment

Somewhat successful: meets some criteria; uneven; some lapses in development, organization, focus, connection or clarity.

Unsuccessful or incomplete: meets few criteria; often under developed, unorganized, unfocused, unconnected or unclear.

Assignment 1: Introduction Rubric

	Very Successful			**Somewhat successful**		**Unsuccessful or incomplete**				
Points	**10**	**9**	**8**	**7**	**6**	**5**	**4**	**3**	**2**	**1**
How well the importance of the study is introduced and described to the reader										
How well the qualitative research question or problem is formulated										
How well related background research and literature review are summarized and assessed in relation to the study										
How well the introduction ends with clear reasoning on the										

rationale of the study										
How well is the paper formatted using in-text citations and references that follow APA style; and the paper is free from spelling and grammatical errors										

Assignment 2: Methods Rubric

	Very Successful			**Somewhat successful**		**Unsuccessful or incomplete**				
Points	**10**	**9**	**8**	**7**	**6**	**5**	**4**	**3**	**2**	**1**
A well-described ethical sampling procedure is provided, along with a description of who the participants were and how they were selected in the study										
The paper describes what specific qualitative data collection techniques were used, and what rationale was given that connects the relevance of the techniques used to the research question or problem										
Relevance of the actual material collected to answer the research question or problem is evident										
The entire data collection methods design is clear and well developed										
How well is the paper formatted using in-text citations and references that follow APA style; and the paper is free from spelling and grammatical errors										

Assignment 3: Results Rubric

	Very Successful			**Somewhat successful**		**Unsuccessful or incomplete**				
Points	**10**	**9**	**8**	**7**	**6**	**5**	**4**	**3**	**2**	**1**
Provides a detailed description of how the data was appropriately analyzed qualitatively (ex. narrative analysis, conversation analysis, etc.)										
Provides a detailed description of the specific qualitative analysis method steps used in generating results										
Provides logically developed themes										
How well is the paper formatted using in-text citations and references that follow APA style; and the paper is free from spelling and grammatical errors										

Assignment 4: Discussion Rubric

	Very Successful			**Somewhat successful**		**Unsuccessful or incomplete**				
Points	**10**	**9**	**8**	**7**	**6**	**5**	**4**	**3**	**2**	**1**
A clear connection is made between the results of the study and how the results were discussed and interpreted qualitatively to make a meaningful contribution to the topic under study										
Provides the clear significance of the findings to the specific field of study and the literature										
Addresses the limitations of the study										
Provides meaningful suggestions for future research directions										
How well is the paper formatted using in-text citations and references that follow APA style; and the paper is free from spelling and grammatical errors										

The Final Draft Rubric

Introduction										
	Very Successful			**Somewhat successful**		**Unsuccessful or incomplete**				
Points	**10**	**9**	**8**	**7**	**6**	**5**	**4**	**3**	**2**	**1**
How well the importance of the study is introduced and described to the reader										
How well the qualitative research question or problem is formulated										
How well related background research and literature review are summarized and assessed in relation to the study										
How well the introduction ends with clear reasoning on the rationale of the study										
Methods										
Points	**10**	**9**	**8**	**7**	**6**	**5**	**4**	**3**	**2**	**1**
A well-described ethical sampling procedure is provided, along with who the participants were and how they were selected in the study										
What specific qualitative data collection techniques were used, and what rationale was given that connects the relevance of the techniques used to the research question or problem										
Relevance of the actual material collected to answer the research question or problem										
The entire data collection methods design is clear and well developed										
Results										
	10	**9**	**8**	**7**	**6**	**5**	**4**	**3**	**2**	**1**
Provides a detailed description of how the data was appropriately analyzed qualitatively (ex. narrative analysis, conversation analysis, etc.)										
Provides a detailed description of the specific qualitative analysis method steps used in										

generating results										
Provides logically developed themes										
Discussion										
	10	**9**	**8**	**7**	**6**	**5**	**4**	**3**	**2**	**1**
A clear connection is made between the results of the study and how the results were discussed and interpreted qualitatively to make a meaningful contribution to the topic under study										
Provides the clear significance of the findings to the specific field of study and the literature										
Addresses the limitations of the study										
Provides meaningful suggestions for future research directions										
General										
Appropriately addresses the feedback given by the instructor to the smaller assignments (1-4)										
The paper includes an appropriate cover page that includes the title of the group project and the first and last names of the group members										
How well is the paper formatted using in-text citations and references that follow APA style; and the paper is free from spelling and grammatical errors										