Qualitative Data Analysis

Overview
This course is designed for graduate students who have already taken an introductory qualitative methods course, selected 1 or more qualitative methodological approaches for their research project, and are ready to start collecting their evidence or have already started to collect their evidence. The emphasis in this course is data analysis for inductive insight, rather than deductive, hypothesis testing. Students should note that this distinction is often arbitrary, since scholars participate in lines of research inquiry that are at various stages of epistemological evolution and any one project may move between deductive and inductive approaches. In general, students will be expected to understand clearly where their research lies in relation to these epistemological standpoints.

Learning Goals
There are four learning goals for this course:

- Develop your skills for systematically analyzing your evidence for inductive learning and grounded theory insights, including memo writing, coding, and analysis for publication.
- Develop your skills for ethically, transparently and clearly documenting your study design, collection of evidence, analysis of your evidence and presentation of your results.
- Develop your capacity to reflexively assess your relationship to your evidence and your subsequent interpretations.
- Develop your skills in communicating a reasonable and effective argument for the quality of your evidence, your analytical approach and the strength of your evidence in supporting your conceptual and theoretical insights.

Requirements
There are four requirements for this course:

- Attend all scheduled class meetings.
- Attend three 30-60 minute individual meetings with Professor Curran subsequent to QDA Memo Completion
- Complete three QDA memos with documentary appendices (5 pages each).
- Complete a first draft of a thematically organized, analytic paper (25 pages).
Readings

Required Texts
- Additional, scholarly articles and selected chapters are available on the course Google Drive.

Recommended References

Grading & Assessment

Your grade will reflect how well you accomplish the following: graduate level work requires taking on responsibility for your own learning, professionally responding to collegial feedback, careful and high quality preparation of all written and oral presentation material, and effectively communicating your professional progress and learning.

There will be several milestone products that will provide some assistance in marking your professional development during this course.

1. QDA Memos 1-3 (10 points each)
2. Individual Tutorial Sessions 1-3 (10 points each)
3. First Draft of Analysis for Publication (20 points)
4. Participation in Class (20 points)
Schedule

Week 1 (January 4) – Introductory Preparation Memo Due

Week 2 (January 11)– Overview and Review

TOPICS: Review of the following epistemological approaches: Narrative Analysis, Case Study Approaches, Ethnographic, Phenomenological, Grounded Theory

TASKS: Sign up for individual tutorial session 1, 2, 3; Attend individual tutoring session

NB: QUAL Applied Case Study Examples, 10:30-12:20pm, Thursdays in Savery 121
14 January - What do you really do in a literature review? – David Lopez, Political Science

*Week 3 (January 18) – No class (individual tutorials)

TOPICS: Continue review

READINGS:

Lofland et al. Chapters 10 & 1-4.

Bernard and Ryan Ch. 1

Miles, Huberman and Saldana. Ch. 1

*Week 4 (January 25) – Qualitative Sampling & Cases

TOPICS: Linking epistemologies to methods (interviews, observation, texts, visual, audio) to cases or samples. Ethical issues related to entrée and observation.

READINGS:

Lofland et al. Chapters 6 & 7 (re-read selections in Chapters 3-5)

Bernard and Ryan Ch. 2 & 17.

NB: QUAL Applied Case Study Examples, 10:30-12:20pm, Thursdays in Savery 121
28 January - What do you with data you’ve collected? – Afsaneh Haddadian, JSIS
*Week 5 (February 1) – Collecting Observations & Evidence, part 1

TOPICS: Developing techniques for: mindful observing and interviewing, sensitivity to visual or nonverbal cues & clues, relational indicators

TASKS: QDA Memo 1 due; Draft a data compilation and management plan (i.e. Organize yourself)

READINGS:

Lofland et al. Chapters 8 & 9

Miles, Huberman and Saldana. Ch. 2-3

Week 6 (February 8) – Collecting Observations & Evidence, part 2

TOPICS: Toolkits for thick description: Memos with a purpose (priors, attending, summative, interpretative), transcriptions, biographical sketches, structuring reflexivity throughout, fact sheets.

TASKS: Meet with Professor Curran

NB: QUAL Applied Case Study Examples, 10:30-12:20pm, Thursdays in Savery 121
11 February – How do you analyze the data you’ve collected? – Maggie Fesenmaier, Communication

*Week 7 (February 15) – Systematizing Analysis

TASKS: QDA Memo 2, due during individual tutorial session 2; Draft codebook guide or memo structure

READINGS:

Lofland et al. Chapter 5.

Week 8 (February 22) – Memo Writing & Coding Round 1

READINGS:

Bernard and Ryan. Ch. 5-6, 13, 16

Miles, Huberman and Saldana. Ch. 6
TASKS: QDA Memo 2, due during individual tutorial session 2

NB: QUAL Applied Case Study Examples, 10:30-12:20pm, Thursdays in Savery 121
25 February – Revisiting the Research Question? – Sara Tomczuk, Sociology

Week 9 (February 29) – Memo Writing & Coding Round 2

TOPICS: Developing topics and themes, arousing interest.

TASKS: QDA Memo 3, due during individual tutorial session 3

READINGS:

Lofland et al. Chapter 8 & 9 (re-read chapters 6 & 7)

Bernard and Ryan Ch. 7-9, 14-15

Week 10 (March 7) – Memo Writing for Publication

TOPICS: Writing analysis, inductive substantiation and relationship to social science and practical literature

TASKS: QDA Memo 3, due during individual tutorial session 3

READINGS:

Lofland et al. Chapter 10.

Miles, Huberman and Saldana. Ch. 11, 12, 13

Finals Week – First Draft of Qualitative Data Analysis Paper, due March 18.
Qualitative Methods Resources

@ UW
The Qualitative Multi-Method Research Initiative at UW (QUAL) offers a community of scholars interested in growing qualitative research methods capacities across campus. There are workshops, seminars, and speaker series throughout the year.  http://depts.washington.edu/qual/

The Center for Social Science Computing Resources in Savery Hall offers consultative services for QDA software packages, as well as workshops for using Atlas.ti. http://julius.csscr.washington.edu/

The Center for Studies in Demography & Ecology provides free access to Atlas.ti via its terminal servers and a Remote Desktop application. Access if free to all UW students. Visit the Windows Terminal link here: https://csde.washington.edu/services/computing.shtml to sign up for an account.

@ WORLD

Some of the many journals and publications dedicated to qualitative research epistemologies (here you might find an exemplary approach that you could adopt for your study)

American Journal of Cultural Sociology.
http://www.palgrave-journals.com/ajcs/index.html
American Journal of Cultural Sociology Blog site
http://www.ajcs-blog.com/

Cultural Studies – Critical Methodologies
https://us.sagepub.com/en-us/nam/cultural-studies-%E2%86%94-critical-methodologies/journal201379

Discourse Analysis Online
http://extra.shu.ac.uk/daol/index.html

Discourse Processes
http://www.tandfonline.com/loi/hdsp20#.VpWTIZMrLgE

Discourse Studies
https://us.sagepub.com/en-us/nam/discourse-studies/journal200865

Ethnography
http://eth.sagepub.com/
Sage Publishing offers numerous texts and hosts several journals that provide guides for a full range of qualitative methods across disciplines. UW libraries purchases or subscribes to most. To see their offerings: [https://us.sagepub.com/en-us/nam/product/qualitative%20methods](https://us.sagepub.com/en-us/nam/product/qualitative%20methods)

**Qualitative Research Communities**

Grounded Theory Online
http://www.groundedtheoryonline.com/

Qualitative Research Guidelines Project (Robert Wood Johnson Foundation project)
http://www.qualres.org/index.html