

Course Outline

School / Portfolio:	Faculty of Education and Arts
Course Title:	QUALITATIVE SOCIAL RESEARCH
Course ID:	ATSGC2597
Credit Points:	15.00
Prerequisite(s):	(One Introductory (Level 1000) Sociology Course)
Co-requisite(s):	(One Introductory (Level 1000) Sociology Course)
Exclusion(s):	(One Introductory (Level 1000) Sociology Course)
ASCED Code:	090301

Program Level:

AQF Level of Program						
	5	6	7	8	9	10
Level						
Introductory	■	■	■	■	■	■
Intermediate	■	■	✓	■	■	■
Advanced	■	■	■	■	■	■

Learning Outcomes:

Knowledge:

- K1.** Recognise which qualitative research methods are appropriate for particular social problems;
- K2.** Understand the uses and limitations of qualitative research;
- K3.** Develop a sociological position regarding qualitative research methods.

Skills:

- S1.** Gain expertise on how to establish a qualitative research framework;
- S2.** Gain understanding about the components of a research proposal using qualitative methods
- S3.** Summarise relevant key approaches, issues and debates around qualitative methods.

Application of knowledge and skills:

- A1.** Utilise and integrate relevant methodological frameworks;
- A2.** Apply methodological approaches appropriate to the study of particular social issues
- A3.** Identify links and tensions between issues, debates, concepts and perspectives.

Course Content:

Qualitative research is now an accepted and widely used approach in social and cultural inquiry. It is a powerful way of exploring and finding things out about the social world. Qualitative research in sociology involves the study of groups and/or individuals in what is often called their 'natural setting', that is, as they

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go about or make sense of their daily lives. In the study of social life qualitative researchers are curious about what people do and why they do it. Qualitative researchers want to understand the world from the perspective of the social actors under study; they use open-ended, exploratory methods. In their investigations qualitative researchers inevitably work with various assumptions and theories, and it is important to be able to formalise and reflect upon these suppositions to ensure rigour and quality.

This course is an introduction to qualitative social research. Students will be introduced to key methodological concepts and discussions, as well as qualitative techniques of data collection. Questions around how to analyse qualitative data and around writing will also be addressed.

Values and Graduate Attributes:

Values:

- V1.** Professional autonomy and accountability in the field of social science;
- V2.** Importance of building a sociological understanding of the Australian society;
- V3.** Understanding social issues and critically negotiating present public policies
- V4.** Developing a sociological imagination in writing and understanding need for argument;
- V5.** Critical evaluation of contemporary and historical sociological theories and methods.

Graduate Attributes:

Attribute	Brief Description	Focus
Continuous Learning	Students develop their abilities to identify and understand the roles of relevant processes, structures, values and actors	High
Self Reliance	Students develop skills in independent research and analysis	Medium
Engaged Citizenship	Students engage with political values, ideas, concepts, debates and perspectives as influences upon relationships within society	High
Social Responsibility	Students develop their understanding of conducting ethical research	High

Learning Task and Assessment:

Learning Outcomes Assessed	Assessment Task	Assessment Type	Weighting
K1 K2 K3 S2 S3 A2 A3	Students are required to present a critical review of key concepts and ideas	Critical Review	20-30%
K2 K3 S1 S3 A1	Formulating a Research Question	Formulating a Research Question	20-30%
K1 K3 S1 S2 S3 A1 A2	Research and writing skills, construction of an informed, sustained and substantiated argument, using relevant evidence including primary sources. Application and synthesis of knowledge and critical analysis	Research Proposal/ Essay	35-45%
K2 K3 S2 S3 A3	Students are required to participate in online learning activities and tutorial exercises.	On-line tutorial exercises	5-15%

Adopted Reference Style:

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APA