

The Chinese University of Hong Kong
Department of Sociology
SOCI3231 Qualitative Research
Second Term, 2019-20
Tuesday 9:30-11:15am
LT3, Chen Kou Bun Building (CKB)

Instructor: Prof. Chris Chan (陳敬慈教授) Office : Room 425 Sino Building Email : kccchan@cuhk.edu.hk Tel : 3943-6607	Tutor: Mr. Charles Fung Office: Room 411A Sino Building Email: Charlesfung@cuhk.edu.hk
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Course Description:

This course introduces students to different types of qualitative research methods used in social science research. It begins with a discussion of the differences and similarities between quantitative and qualitative research methods, and the rationale behind each method. It then proceeds to introduce different types of qualitative methods, including participant observation, in-depth interviews, focus groups, oral history, and content analysis.

The grade descriptors for this course are as follows:

Grade A: Outstanding performance on all learning outcomes.

Grade A-: Generally outstanding performance on all (or almost all) learning outcomes.

Grade B: Substantial performance on all learning outcomes, OR high performance on some learning outcomes which compensates for less satisfactory performance on others, resulting in overall substantial performance.

Grade C: Satisfactory performance on the majority of learning outcomes, possibly with a few weaknesses.

Grade D: Barely satisfactory performance on a number of learning outcomes.

Grade F: Unsatisfactory performance on a number of learning outcomes, OR failure to meet specified assessment requirement.

Assessment:

Type of Assessment Tasks/Activities	Weighting	Remarks
1: Tutorial & Group Presentation	20%	<p>Students should form groups to do a presentation about the strengths and limitations of one or more qualitative research methods based on their review of a paper/book suggested by the tutor.</p> <p>Please sign up for the tutorial at the following link: https://forms.gle/NQU8hp4RRr3GgZvY8</p>
2: Interview Guide	10%	<p>This course will equip students with practical skills in conducting qualitative research methods. As the first step, each student should design an interview guide for a semi-structural interview.</p> <p>The interview guide should state clearly the student's intended research project title and research questions/objectives.</p> <p>Deadline of submission: 5pm, 31 January (Friday)</p>
3: Interview Transcript	15%	<p>Each student should submit at least two pages of interview transcript for the essential part of an interview that he/she conducted.</p> <p>This interview should base on the above interview guide.</p> <p>Deadline of submission: 5pm, 14 February (Friday)</p>
4: Field Note	15%	<p>Each student should submit at least two pages of fieldwork report to describe what he/she observes in the field visit.</p> <p>Deadline of submission: 5pm, 6 March (Friday)</p>
5: Research Report	40%	<p>Each student should analyse one or more sources of qualitative data (such as semi-structural interview, focus group, archival research, participant observation/ethnography) and submit a research report. The report should describe briefly research questions and methods before presenting research findings.</p> <p>The report should be not less than 2000 words.</p> <p>Deadline of submission: 5pm, 30 April (Thursday)</p>

Plagiarism is subject to penalties. Please pay attention to the guideline for academic honesty and citation by Sociology Department (www.cuhk.edu.hk/soc/citation.pdf) and the University (www.cuhk.edu.hk/policy/academichonesty/)

Please attach the signed receipt from Veri-Guide with your assignment.

Written assignments can be in English or Chinese. Please state clearly the course code, course name, teacher's name, student's full name in English and Chinese, student ID, major subject and date on the first page of your assignment.

Please submit the hardcopy of your group reports and assignments to the Collection Box at the General Office of Sociology Department (Room 431, Sino Building).

Late submission will result in the loss of one sub-grade per day (i.e. from B+ to B) .

Course Schedule : (* Essential reading)

Recommended Textbook:

* Bryman, Alan (2016) *Social Research Methods*, Oxford: Oxford University Press [online available: <https://www.managementboek.nl/code/inkijkexemplaar/9780199689453/social-research-methods-engels-alan-bryman.pdf>]

Week 1 Introduction to Qualitative Research Methods (7 January)

* Newman, W. Lawrence. 2000. *Social Research Methods: Qualitative and Quantitative Approaches*. Boston: Allyn and Bacon, Chapter 4.

Emerson, Robert (ed.). 2001. *Contemporary Field Research: Perspectives and Formulations*. Prospect Heights: Waveland Press, Introduction.

Hammersley, Martyn., and Paul Atkinson. 1995. "What is ethnography?" In *Ethnography: Principles in Practice*, 2nd ed. London: Routledge, Pp. 1-22.

Week 2 Reading Qualitative Research (14 January)

* Bourgois, Philippe. 1996. "In Search of Masculinity" *The British Journal of Criminology* 36(3): 412-427.

Chan, Chris King-chi. 2010. *The Challenge of Labour in China Strikes and the Changing Labour Regime in Global Factories*. New York: Routledge, Chapter 3.

Choi, Susanne Yuk-Ping, and Peng Yinni. 2016. *Masculine Compromise: Migration, Family and Gender in China*. Berkeley: University of California Press, Chapter 4.

Week 3 Semi-Structural Interview, Focus Group and Oral History (21 January)

* Ostrander, Susan A. 1993. "Surely you're not in this just to be helpful": Access, Rapport, and Interviews in Three Studies of Elites" *Journal of Contemporary Ethnography* 22(1): 7-27.

* Elliot, Mishler G. 1986. *Research Interviewing: Context and Narrative*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, Chapter 3.

Morrissey, Charles T. 1987. "The Two-Sentence Format as an Interviewing Technique in Oral History Fieldwork" *Oral History Review* 15(1): 43-53.

Morgan, David L. 1988. *Focus Group as Qualitative Research*. London: Sage.

(Chinese New Year break from 24 to 30 January)

(Students should submit an interview guide on 31 January)

Week 4 Workshop on Interviewing Techniques (4 February)

*Weiss, Robert S. 1995. *Learning from Strangers: The Art and Method of Qualitative Interview Studies*. New York: The Free Press, Chapters 3-5.

(Students will have opportunities to interview each other in this workshop. The venue of this workshop tbc)

Week 5 Ethnography and Participant Observation (11 February)

*Burawoy, Michael. et. al., 2000. *Global Ethnography: Forces, Connections and Imaginations in a Postmodern World*. Berkeley: University of California Press, Chapter 1.

Whyte, William F. 1993. "On the evolution of Street Corner Society." In *Journeys through Ethnography*. Boulder CO: Westview Press, pp. 11-72.

(Students should submit an interview transcript by 14 February)

Week 6 Case Studies and Grounded Theory (18 February)

*Ragin, Charles C. 2000. "'Casing' and the Process of Social Inquiry." In Charles C. Ragin Howard S. Becker. (eds.) *What is a Case: Exploring the Foundations of Social Inquiry*. London: Cambridge University Press, Pp, 217-226.

*Charmaz, Kathy. 2001. "Grounded Theory." In Emerson, Robert (ed.). *Contemporary Field Research: Perspectives and Formulations*. Prospect Heights: Waveland Press, Pp.335-352.

Burawoy, Michael. 2002. "The Extended Case Method" *Sociological Theory*, 16(1). 4-33.

Week 7 Field Visit (25 February)

*Robert Emerson, Rachel Fretz, and Linda Shaw. 1995. *Writing Ethnographic Fieldnotes*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, Chapters 2-4.

(Students will conduct participant observation in an event or field site. Details tbc)

Week 8 Documentary Research, Archival Research and Content Analysis (3 March)

* McCulloch, Gary. 2004. *Documentary Research in Education, History and the Social Science*. London; New York: RoutledgeFalmer, Chapter 3-6.

(Students should submit a field note based on the field visit in Week 7 at the end of this week)

Scott, John. 1990. *A Matter of Record: Documentary Sources in Social Research*. Cambridge: B. Blackwell.

Carlson, Allen, et. al., 2010. *Contemporary Chinese Politics New Sources, Methods, and Field Strategies*. New York: Cambridge University Press, Chapter 1-2.

Leavy, Patricia. (eds). 2014. *The Oxford Handbook of Qualitative Research*. New York: Oxford University Press, Chapter 18.

(Students should submit a field note by 6 March)

Week 9 Visit to University Service Center, CUHK (10 March)

* Please go through the website of USC before the visit:

<http://ww2.usc.cuhk.edu.hk/Eng/Default.aspx>

(USC hosts one of the world's best collection of materials on contemporary China. The visit will demonstrate how to conduct archival/documentary research.)

Week 10 Consultation I (17 March)

(The lecturer will give oral feedback for student assignments: interview guide, interview transcript and field note. Time and venue tbc).

Week 11 Analyzing Qualitative Data (24 March)

* Strauss, Anselm L. 2010. *Qualitative Analysis For Social Scientists*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, Chapters 3-4.

Corbin, Juliet., and Strauss Anselm. 1990. "Grounded Theory Research: Procedures, Cannons, and Evaluative Criteria" *Qualitative Sociology* 13(1): 3-21.

(Reading week from 30 March – 3 April 2020)

Week 12 Qualitative Research Writing Skills (7 April)

* Atkinson, Paul. 1990. *The Ethnographic Imagination: Textual Construction of Reality*. New York: Routledge, Chapter 5.

Wolcott, Harry F. 2009. *Writing up Qualitative Research*. Los Angeles: Sage.

Week 13 Report Writing (14 April)

(This week is for students to write up their research report)

Week 14 Consultation II (21 April)

(The lecturer will give oral feedback to students' draft research reports. The report will be submitted by 30 April.)