Mixed Method Research Design and Data Collection
SurvMeth 653 (1.5 credits)
July 25-29, 2016
Monday-Friday 9:00 am-1:00 pm

INSTRUCTORS
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COURSE DESCRIPTION
This course reviews multiple methods of data collection and presents study designs for combining multiple methods within a single research project. The course focuses on the integration of survey methods with multiple alternative methods to achieve a single data collection approach using the strengths of some methods to compensate for weaknesses in other methods. The methods examined include unstructured or in-depth interviews, semi-structured interviews, focus groups, survey interviews, observation, geographic information systems, archival research, social media analysis and hybrid methods. Emphasis will be placed on the specific contribution of each method, as well as the use of combined methods to advance specific research questions. This course is designed for those with a specific research question in mind. Throughout the course, participants will be asked to design multi-method approaches to a research question of their choice. By the end of this course, participants will have an overview of multi-method research that will enable them to design, understand, and evaluate multi-method approaches within a single project.

This interactive course uses a combination of lecture, in-class exercises, group exercises and individual participation. Individual consultation will be provided to assist participants with the assignments.

Assignments should be emailed or handed in as hard copy by 4 pm the day they are due. Feedback will be provided in a timely manner to aid in future assignments.

COURSE MATERIALS
• Readings as listed below

OFFICE HOURS
Both instructors are available to meet and further discuss class topics and assignments. Please make an appointment.

ASSIGNMENTS
In addition to completing assigned reading for each class, there are five written assignments required during the course.

• RESEARCH QUESTION (up to ½ page, double-spaced): Give a brief statement of your research question. Be clear that the relationship you are trying to explain is between two factors, experiences, or issues.

Due Monday, July 25
• RESEARCH DESIGN (1-2 pages): Describe your analytic approach to answering your research question: 1) include one main hypothesis that motivates your project and how it will involve appropriate dependent and independent variables; 2) address issues of operationalization, units of analysis, selection of cases to study, and comparisons groups for answering your question; and 3) make clear the pattern of results that would tend to confirm or refute your hypothesis.

Due Tuesday, July 26

• STRUCTURED/UNSTRUCTURED INTERVIEW DATA COLLECTION PLAN (1-2 pages, double-spaced): Describe how it would be possible to use both structured and unstructured interviews in a study related to your research question. First tell us a little about how you would carry out the interviews (e.g., how respondents would be selected, topic/s about which to ask questions, etc.). Second, describe how you would use highly structured and unstructured interviews or questions in your study. Third, describe how using structured and unstructured interviews would enhance the overall multi-method project. Integrate observational measurement if appropriate.

Due Wednesday, July 27

• HYBRID METHOD DATA COLLECTION PLAN (1-2 pages, double-spaced): Describe how you might incorporate hybrid methods to collect data related to your research question. First describe how you would collect the data (e.g., sample, location, topics, etc.). Second, describe how the resulting data would help answer your research question.

Due Thursday, July 28

• COMBINED METHOD DATA COLLECTION PLAN (3-5 pages, double-spaced): Throughout this class we discussed a variety of different ways to combine methods simultaneously, in sequence or within one hybrid method. Focusing on the research question you have been working with throughout this course, write a data collection plan describing how you could use at least two of the research methods we’ve discussed, in tandem. You may use pieces of your other work completed in this course to help you, but make sure your plan flows well. You do NOT have to incorporate every method we discussed—please only select the methods that seem best suited to answering your research question. You should include a succinct description of your research question, the methods you intend to use, the order in which the methods will be used, and how each method will inform the other(s). If you would like feedback on this assignment, please specify whether you would like me to 1) e-mail (please specify an e-mail address); 2) return your assignment (please specify a mailing address); or 3) something else.

Due Friday, July 29

GRADING
Grades are assigned as follows:

25% Class Participation
10% Assignment 1: Research Question
15% Assignment 2: Research Design
10% Assignment 3: Structured and Unstructured Interview
15% Assignment 4: Hybrid Method Data Collection
25% Assignment 5: Combined Method Data Collection Plan

Grading Scale:

90-100% = A
80-89% = B
70-79% = C
60-69% = D
<60% = F
## SCHEDULE

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Required Readings</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>July 25  (M)</strong></td>
<td>Overview &amp; Mixed Methods Principles</td>
<td>• Mixed Method Data Collection Strategies (MM) Chapter 1: Mixing Methods as a Data Collection Strategy</td>
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<tr>
<td>Assignment 1 Due</td>
<td>RESEARCH QUESTION</td>
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<td><strong>July 26  (Tu)</strong></td>
<td>Research Design</td>
<td>• MM Chapter 2: Fitting Data Collection Methods to Research Aims</td>
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<td>• Almirall 2015 Dynamic Treatment Regimes</td>
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<td>Assignment 2 Due</td>
<td>RESEARCH DESIGN</td>
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<td><strong>July 27  (W)</strong></td>
<td>Mixed Methods: Simultaneous and Sequential</td>
<td>• MM Chapter 3: The Micro-Demographic Community Study Approach</td>
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<td>• MM Chapter 4: Systematic Anomalous Case Analysis</td>
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Assignment 3 Due  STRUCTURED/UNSTRUCTURED INTERVIEW DATA COLLECTION PLAN

July 28 (Th) Hybrid Methods:
• MM Chapter 6: Life History Calendars
  ➢ LHC Exercise
• MM Chapter 7: Neighborhood History Calendar

Analyzing Hybrid Data

Assignment 4 Due  HYBRID METHOD DATA COLLECTION

July 29 (F) Longitudinal Approaches
• MM Chapter 7: Longitudinal Data Collection
• Global Girls Research Initiative, Technical Proposal

Future Directions
• MM Chapter 8: Conclusion

Assignment 5 Due  COMBINED METHOD DATA COLLECTION PLAN
Additional Reading