

## **Qualitative Methods: Overview and Semi Structured Interviewing (Summer Institute in Survey Research Techniques)**

Instructor: Nancy E. Riley

This course will begin with a brief overview of qualitative methodology and its assumptions, and discuss strategies for arriving at the appropriate mix of techniques in light of research goals. We will then focus on in-depth (semi-structured) interviewing. We will go over preparations for interviewing, the interview itself, and post-interview issues. We will use time at the end of the course discussing critiques of these types of methods, and ways to strengthen the weaknesses inherent in this methodology, including combining methods. There will be some work outside of class but we will be doing several hands-on exercises in class, to gain familiarity with some of the techniques. (Please see explanations of class/university rules at end of syllabus.)

### **Texts:**

Weiss, Robert. 1994. *Learning from Strangers: The Art and Method of Qualitative Interview Studies*. Free Press.

Articles will be available on canvas

I will distribute a longer set of readings on relevant topics that you can read during the week or afterward, when you have more time.

RECOMMENDED (we will *not* be using this in class, but it provides a good discussion of theoretical and practical issues involved in in-depth interviewing:

Kvale, Steinar and Svend Brinkmann. 2009. *InterViews: Learning the Craft of Qualitative Research Interviewing*. 2nd Edition. Sage. ISBN: 9780761925422.

### **Class Structure and Organization: Meetings, Asynchronous Lectures, and Assignments**

We will meet on zoom, M-Th both weeks (19 June- 29 July) from 1 to 3pm. During those two hours, we will have a short 10 min break. In addition, there will be additional asynchronous lectures between class sections and several exercises (some to be done individually, and some with other class participants). During our first class meeting, we will make plans for those exercises. Finally, there will be some reading assignments and short writing assignments.

#### ***19 June (Mon): Introduction, Overview; Decisions about Methodology and Method***

#### ***20 June (Tues): Designing, Interviewing, I***

Reading: Maxwell, Joseph. 1998. "Designing a qualitative study," in L. Bickman and D. Rogs, eds. *Handbook of Applied Social Research Methods*. Thousand Oaks: Sage, pp. 69-100.  
Weiss, Chapt 1

#### ***21 June (Wed): Observing and Interpreting; more on interviewing***

Reading: Weiss, Chapt 3

Mason, Jennifer. 2002. "Qualitative interviewing: asking, listening, and

interpreting." in Tim May, ed. *Qualitative Research in Action*. London: Sage Publications, pp. 224-241.

Recommended: Werner, Oswald. 1989. "Short takes: Keeping track of your interviews I, II" *CAM Newsletter*, p 6-8.

Werner, Oswald. 1991. "Short takes: Keeping track of your interviews (revisited)" *CAM Newsletter*, p 10-12.

### **22 June (Thurs): Interviewing, 2**

Reading: Weiss, chapt 4.

Hermanowicz, Joseph. 2002. "The great interview: 25 strategies for studying people in bed." *Qualitative Sociology* 25 (4): 479-499.

### **26 June (Mon): Interviewing, III**

Reading: Kuzel, Anton. 1999. "Sampling in qualitative inquiry," in B. Crabtree and W. Miller, eds. *Doing Qualitative Research*, 2nd Ed. Sage, pp. 33-45.

Luborsky, Mark and Robert Rubinstein. 1995. "Sampling in qualitative research: Rationale, issues, and methods." *Research on Aging*. 17 (1): 89-113 (March).

Weiss, Chapt 2

### **27 June (Tues): Post-Interview Issues, Analysis**

Reading: Miller, Jody and Barry Glassner. "The 'inside' and the 'outside': finding realities in interviews." in D. Silverman, ed. *Qualitative Research: Theory, Method, Practice*. Sage, pp. 125-139.

Weiss, Chapt 5

### **28 June (Wed): Analysis, Critiquing Interviews, Interview Methodology**

Reading: Kvale, Steinar. 2006. "Dominance through interviews and dialogues." *Qualitative Inquiry* 12 (3): 480-500.

Weiss, Chapt 6

### **29 July (Th): Assessing Interviewing**

Reading: Tracy, Sarah. 2010. "Qualitative quality: Eight "big-tent" criteria for excellent qualitative research." *Qualitative Inquiry* 16 (1): 837-851.

Seale, Clive. 1999. "Quality in qualitative research," *Qualitative Inquiry* 5 (4): 465-478.

## **Class and University Rules**

1. Class attendance: Participants are expected to attend all classes. If taking the class for a grade, a participant must complete all assignments. Others may choose to do the assignments as well.

2. Accommodations for Students with Disabilities at the University of Michigan: If you think you need an accommodation for a disability, please contact Services for Students with Disabilities

(SSD) office to help us determine appropriate academic accommodations. SSD (734-763-3000; <http://ssd.umich.edu>) typically recommends accommodations through a Verified Individualized Services and Accommodations (VISA) form. Any information you provide is private and confidential and will be treated as such.

3. Academic Conduct: Clear definitions of the forms of academic misconduct, including cheating and plagiarism, as well as information about disciplinary sanctions for academic misconduct may be found at the Rackham web site for the University of Michigan:  
[http://www.rackham.umich.edu/policies/academic\\_policies/section10/](http://www.rackham.umich.edu/policies/academic_policies/section10/)

Knowledge of these rules is the responsibility of the student and ignorance of them does not excuse misconduct. The student is expected to be familiar with these guidelines before submitting any written work in this course. Lack of familiarity with these rules in no way constitutes an excuse for acts of misconduct. Charges of plagiarism and other forms of academic misconduct will be dealt with very seriously and may result in oral or written reprimands, a lower or failing grade on the assignment, a lower or failing grade for the course, suspension, and/or, in some cases, expulsion from the university.