

HRS 8972 - Qualitative Research Methods

Fall 2026 Syllabus, Section 01, CRN 43946,

Credit hours: 3

Instructor

Kenneth Learman

Email: klearman@ysu.edu

Public Instructor Information

Instructor Title: Professor

Instructor Professional Qualifications:

Ph. D., Rehabilitation Science, University of Pittsburgh

M.Ed., Health Education, The Pennsylvania State University

B.S., Physical Therapy, SUNY Buffalo

Instructor Office Location: Cushwa Hall B324

Instructor Office Phone: 330-941-7125

Course Description

8972. Qualitative Research Methods. This course is designed to provide students with the foundational knowledge about qualitative research methodology and how this method of research can be used in health and human service areas of research investigation. The course will focus on the theory and practice of conducting qualitative and mixed methods research. Learners will be introduced to each element of the design process from identifying research questions, theoretical frameworks, and various methods of data collection, data analysis and interpretation, and the ability to produce a qualitative research product. Data collection and analysis in qualitative research occur simultaneously, therefore, this course will examine data collection issues, ethics issues, bias, and beginning data analysis within the larger framework of qualitative research. 3 s.h.

Course Readings

Group	Title	Author	ISBN
Required	Qualitative Research 5th ed	Tisdell EJ, Merriam SB, & Stuckey-Peyrot HL	9781394266449
Required	Foundations of Clinical Research 4th ed	Portney LG	978-0-8036-6113-4

Additional required readings from peer reviewed journal articles:

1. Waggoner, J., Carline, J. D., & Durning, S. J. (2016). Is there a consensus on consensus methodology? Descriptions and recommendations for future consensus research. *Academic Medicine*, 91(5), 663-668.
2. Tong, A., Sainsbury, P., & Craig, J. (2007). Consolidated criteria for reporting qualitative research (COREQ): a 32-item checklist for interviews and focus groups. *International journal for quality in health care*, 19(6), 349-357.
3. Gattrell, W. T., Hungin, A. P., Price, A., Winchester, C. C., Tovey, D., Hughes, E. L., ... & Harrison, N. (2022). ACCORD guideline for reporting consensus-based methods in biomedical research and clinical practice: a study protocol. *Research Integrity and Peer Review*, 7(1), 3.
4. Creswell, J. W. (2009). Mapping the field of mixed methods research. *Journal of mixed methods research*, 3(2), 95-108.
5. Doyle, L., Brady, A. M., & Byrne, G. (2016). An overview of mixed methods research—revisited. *Journal of research in nursing*, 21(8), 623-635.

The course readings are subject to change in the event of extenuating circumstances, research developments, current events, and/or to ensure better learning.



Schedule of Topics and Assignments

Day	Date	Reading(s)	Proposed Topic	Due/To Prepare for Class
Tue	8/25	Qualitative Research Ch1	Introductions, Review Syllabus What is Qualitative Research How does it differ from Quantitative	Weekly Memo 1
Tue	9/1	Qualitative Research Ch2	Qualitative Research Designs	Weekly Memo 2
Tue	9/8	Qualitative Research Ch3	Qualitative research paradigms	Weekly Memo 3
Tue	9/15	Qualitative Research Ch4	How to design and sampling of subjects	Weekly Memo 4
Tue	9/22	Qualitative Research Ch5	Conducting interviews	Weekly Memo 5
Tue	9/29		Practice interviewing	Weekly Memo 6
Tue	10/6	Qualitative Research Ch6	How to perform an observational study	Weekly Memo 7
Tue	10/13		Observational study activities	Midterm Exam Due: Sunday at 11:59pm
Tue	10/20	Consensus Based Research articles in Blackboard	Consensus Based Research Nominal Group Technique versus Delphi	
Tue	10/27	Qualitative Research Ch7	Collecting and Analyzing Data from Documents and Artifacts	Weekly Memo 8
Tue	11/3	Qualitative Research Ch8	Qualitative data analysis	Interview project due: Sunday 11:59pm
Tue	11/10	Qualitative Research Ch9	Trustworthiness in qualitative research	Weekly Memo 9
Tue	11/17		Trustworthiness activity	Weekly Memo 10
Tue	11/24	Articles in Blackboard:	Mixed methods designs	Weekly Memo 11 Observation project due: Sunday 11:59pm
Tue	12/1		Mixed method designs	Weekly Memo 12

The course schedule, policies, procedures, and assignments in this course are subject to change in the event of extenuating circumstances, by mutual agreement, and/or to ensure better learning.