EPSY 6280 Qualitative Research in Education
Thursdays 5:30pm – 8:20pm
Wooten Hall Room 114

Instructor: Anondah R. Saide, PhD
Email: anondah.saide@unt.edu
Physical Office: Matthews Hall 321
Virtual Office: https://unt.zoom.us/j/6476596062
Office Hours: by appointment

REQUIRED READINGS


In addition to the textbook, you will have assigned readings that will be posted on Canvas. Students are responsible for accessing and reading all assigned material prior to class.

RECOMMENDED READING

Although not required, the books below are helpful resources for this course and your overall graduate study. I suggest you get them if you have not already.

1. Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association, (7th Ed.)

COURSE DESCRIPTION

EPSY 6280 – Qualitative Research in Education (3 hours): Focus on the knowledge and skill necessary for naturalistic research; observation, interviewing and other data collection procedures, as well as data retrieval, analysis techniques and reporting procedures.

**This course is a prerequisite for EPSY 6285 Qualitative Data Analysis in Education**

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

1. To develop an understanding of the history of qualitative approaches.
2. To develop an understanding of the different qualitative paradigms and methods—sufficient to design and critique qualitative research.
3. To reflect on the ethical considerations and controversies within qualitative research.
4. To create a research proposal using a qualitative design.
Attendance:

Students are expected to attend all classes regularly and punctually. If you no longer wish to be in the class, you have to drop the class via the UNT portal or by contacting the Registrar’s Office for guidance. The instructor does not drop or withdraw students from the course.

Make-up policy:

There are “acceptable” (i.e., unforeseeable, out-of-your-control) reasons for missing class or an assignment, including: (a) ill health, (b) jury duty or mandatory court appearances, or (c) religious holidays. For the absence to be excused so that you can make-up an assignment, you have to provide verifiable documentation.

Absences in observance of religious holidays are authorized only if you have notified your instructor in writing within the first 2 weeks of the semester per university policy. If the absence is due to a medical/health-related concern, you must provide a note from a doctor or medical institution confirming you were sick. The instructor does not need to know what your ailment is (that is your own private information), just confirmation that you were unable to attend class or do schoolwork.

If you miss an assignment for one of the reasons described above, you must contact the instructor within two (2) business days from the time the assignment was due. It is your responsibility to communicate with the instructor about make-up work.

Academic Accommodations:

The University of North Texas makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Access (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide you with an accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding your specific needs in a course. You may request accommodations at any time; however, ODA notices of accommodation should be provided as early as possible in the semester to avoid any delay in implementation. Students must obtain a new letter of accommodation for every semester and must meet with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class. For additional information go to the Office of Disability Access website (http://disability.unt.edu) or contact them by phone (940) 565-4323.

Course Technology Policy:

Please refrain from using cell phones during class. Staying focused will help you succeed! Except for students who require audio recordings of course lectures due to documented learning differences, students are not permitted to audio record class without prior instructor approval.

Quality of Work:

All of your work must be proofread, typed, and on-time. Students will lose one full letter grade per day that a paper is late. All submitted questions should be proofread for coherency and typographical errors. High-quality writing is expected, and students should
consult UNT writing center for additional support. https://writinglab.unt.edu/graduate-tutoring

Respect for Others:

The University of North Texas values diversity and individuality as part of advancing ideals of human worth, dignity and academic excellence. Diverse viewpoints enrich open discussion, foster the examination of values and exposure of biases, help educate people in rational conflict resolution, responsive leadership and prepare us for the complexities of a pluralistic society. As such, the University of North Texas is committed to maintaining an open, welcoming atmosphere that attracts qualified students, staff, and faculty from all groups to support their success. It is expected that students listen to and respect each other's insights during class.

Academic Dishonesty:

Students caught cheating or plagiarizing will receive a "0" for that particular assignment. It is the responsibility of each student to be familiar with UNT's Policy on Academic Integrity and to be familiar with the different types of plagiarism, including mosaic plagiarism. Plagiarism, copying, cheating, or giving assistance to other students during examinations is a violation of academic integrity. Cases of suspected cheating or plagiarism will be reported to the Dean of Students office. All work submitted to meet the requirements of this course must be originally created for this course. You may not turn in anything submitted for another course.

University Policy 06.003 states, “UNT promotes the integrity of learning processed and embraces the core values of trust and honesty. Academic integrity is based on educational principles and procedures that protect the rights of all participants in the educational process and validate the legitimacy of degrees awarded by the university. In the investigation and resolution of allegations of student academic dishonesty, the university’s actions are intended to be corrective, educationally sound, fundamentally fair, and based on reliable evidence.” Here is the link to additional information on this policy: https://policy.unt.edu/sites/default/files/06.003.pdf

For more information on what constitutes plagiarism, as well as tips on citing your resources, visit www.plagiarism.org and check out this article: https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5122250/

**If you require clarification on what counts as academic dishonesty, it is your responsibility to ask the instructor of the course. Ignorance is not an excuse for academic dishonesty.

Acceptable Student Behavior:

Student behavior that interferes with an instructor’s ability to conduct a class or other students' opportunity to learn is unacceptable and disruptive and will not be tolerated in any instructional forum at UNT. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior will be directed to leave the in-person or virtual classroom and the instructor may refer the student to the Dean of Students to consider whether the student's conduct violated the Code of Student Conduct. The university's expectations for student conduct apply to all instructional forums, including university and electronic classroom, labs, discussion
groups, field trips, etc. The Code of Student Conduct can be found at deanofstudents.unt.edu/conduct

Emergency Notification and Procedures:

UNT uses a system called Eagle Alert to quickly notify you with critical information in the event of an emergency (i.e., severe weather, campus closing, and health and public safety emergencies like chemical spills, fires, or violence). The system sends voice messages (and text messages upon permission) to the phones of all active faculty staff, and students. Please make certain to update your phone numbers at http://www.my.unt.edu. Some helpful emergency preparedness actions include (1) knowing the evacuation routes and severe weather shelter areas in the buildings where your classes are held, (2) determining how you will contact family and friends if phones are temporarily unavailable, and (3) identifying where you will go if you need to evacuate the Denton area suddenly. In the event of a university closure, please refer to Canvas for contingency plans for course materials.

Retention of Student Records:

Student records pertaining to this course are maintained in a secure location by the instructor of record. All records such as exams, answer sheets (with keys), and written papers submitted during the duration of the course are kept for at least one calendar year after course completion. Course work completed via the Canvas online system, including grading information and comments, is also stored in a safe electronic environment for one year. You have a right to view your individual record; however, information about your records will not be divulged to other individuals without the proper written consent. You are encouraged to review the Public Information Policy and the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) laws and the university’s policy in accordance with those mandates at the following link: http://essc.unt.edu/registrar/ferpa.html

Grade Disputes:

If students are concerned about the grade they received on an assignment, they should feel comfortable talking to their instructor about it. Students must submit a typed request explaining the rationale for the grade change. Students must dispute their grade within five (5) business days of receiving it or the instructor will not consider the dispute. Decisions regarding grade disputes are made at the discretion of the instructor.

Additional Information on Meeting Basic Needs:

Any student who has difficulty affording groceries or accessing sufficient food to eat every day, or who lacks a safe and stable place to live and believes this may affect their performance in the course, is urged to contact the Dean of Students for support. Furthermore, please notify me if you are comfortable doing so. This will enable me to provide any resources that I may possess. Information on the UNT food pantry can be found at http://deanofstudents.unt.edu/resources/food-pantry

How to contact Dean of Students Office: (940) 565-2648 | deanofstudents@unt.edu
COVID Information:

COVID-19 Impact on Attendance:
While attendance is expected, it is important for all of us to be mindful of the health and safety of everyone in our community, especially given concerns about COVID-19. Please contact me if you are unable to attend class because you are ill, or unable to attend class due to a related issue regarding COVID-19. It is important that you communicate with me prior to being absent so I may make a decision about accommodating your request to be excused from class. If you are experiencing any symptoms of COVID-19 (https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html) please seek medical attention from the Student Health and Wellness Center (940-565-2333 or askSHWC@unt.edu) or your health care provider PRIOR to coming to campus. UNT also requires you to contact the UNT COVID Hotline at 844-366-5892 or COVID@unt.edu for guidance on actions to take due to symptoms, pending or positive test results, or potential exposure. While attendance is an important part of succeeding in this class, your own health, and those of others in the community, are more important.

Class Materials for Remote Instruction:
Remote instruction may be necessary if community health conditions change or you need to self-isolate or quarantine due to COVID-19. Students will need access to a webcam and microphone to participate in fully remote portions of the class. Information on how to be successful in a remote learning environment can be found at https://online.unt.edu/learn

Statement on Face Covering:
UNT encourages everyone to wear a face-covering when indoors, regardless of vaccination status, to protect yourself and others from COVID infection, as recommended by current CDC guidelines. Face covering guidelines could change based on community health conditions.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Your course grade will be based on the following:

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<tr>
<th>Assignments</th>
<th>%</th>
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<tr>
<td>Critical Literature Review (Midterm) &amp; Peer Feedback</td>
<td>25</td>
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<tr>
<td>Class Preparation (discussion questions and reflections)</td>
<td>15</td>
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<tr>
<td>Human Subjects Assurance Training</td>
<td>15</td>
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<tr>
<td>Draft IRB Application &amp; Peer Feedback</td>
<td>20</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam: IRB Application (Final)</td>
<td>25</td>
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<td><strong>Total:</strong></td>
<td>100</td>
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Course Grades: A = 89% and above, B= 79-89%, C= 69-79%, D= 59-69%, F = below 59%. If at any time you have concerns about your grade, please schedule an appointment to talk with the instructor.

1. **Critical Literature Review**: Select a topic and collect a minimum of 20 research articles (from peer-reviewed journals) on the topic. No more than 5 of these articles may be theoretical papers. The rest must be original, peer-reviewed research reports. Published
literature reviews on the topic may be used but will not count toward the minimum number of research articles. After finding and reading the research/theory on your topic, conduct a literature review in which you provide an overall summary of findings in the body of literature, discuss the methodological strengths and weaknesses in the body of research, and discuss ideas for future research that are based on the “gaps” that exist within this body of literature.

Perhaps most importantly, this literature review should be a *critical* literature review. By that, I mean that the majority of your literature review should be an analysis of the literature’s contributions to theory, research, policy, and/or practice. It should not be an annotated bibliography or mere summary of the research articles. The total length should be between 10 and 15 pages (not including references or the title page). Your critical literature review must be written in APA (7th edition) format.

Bring 2 hardcopies of your critical literature review to class on the date indicated in the schedule for peer feedback (and upload to Canvas for grading).

2. **Class Preparation**: This class is designed around active learning. As a result, you are required to generate at least one discussion question/issue per reading assigned. These must be submitted to the instructor via the survey link no later than Tuesday at 11:59 pm: See Canvas copy for link

Be sure to note which reading inspired your question. Please feel free to enrich the discussion by bringing in additional readings and research to class—even better if you can link it to your own work. This way, the group discussion is enhanced, rather than repeated. These questions need to be on-time and thoughtful in order for you to receive the full credit. You also must be in class, in order for these discussion questions to “count” because you will be presenting them.

In addition to discussion questions, you will be asked to bring in other short reflections (noted on the calendar) meant to assist you with building your research study and IRB application. You will need to bring in two (2) hard copies of these short reflections to class.


4. **IRB Application**: Based on your literature review, develop (1) a research plan for a qualitative research study and (2) complete the IRB Application form. Additionally, you will need to complete (3) all supplemental materials relevant to your specific research plan (e.g., assent form, consent form, parental permission form, recruitment form, recruitment oral script, observation protocol, interview questions).

If you intend to use this research plan for your thesis or dissertation, please stay in constant communication with your primary advisor as you make decisions about your project. Your advisor has final approval on the contents of your thesis or dissertation. You will **NOT** submit the IRB application to UNT's Cayuse portal during this course. If you intend to pursue your research after this course, you will need to submit your IRB application with a faculty advisor after the conclusion of the course.
You are expected to bring 2 hardcopies of a complete draft of your IRB Application on the appropriate due date (see schedule below). Your draft will not be graded for content. Instead, your “Draft IRB Application” grade is based on the degree of completion of your IRB application and the quality of your critique of a peer’s IRB Application.

COURSE CALENDAR

See Canvas Page.

**WARNING:** This calendar (including the readings and assignments) is subject to change based on the pace of the course, student questions, and new scholarship. Make sure you check Canvas and with the professor regularly for updates.