

San José State University  
Department of Justice Studies  
JS 207, Seminar in Qualitative Research Methods, Fall 2019

Course and Contact Information

Instructor : John Halushka, Ph.D.

Office

- I. Understand and intelligently discuss the purpose and strengths of qualitative research, at an advanced level.
- II. Critically assess qualitative research in justice studies at an advanced level.
- III. Collect, analyze, and disseminate qualitative research in justice studies at a graduate level.

## Required Texts/Readings

### Textbook

K. Luker (2008) *Salsa Dancing into the Social Sciences: Research in an Age of Grit*.  
Harvard University Press. ISBN: 978-0-674048218

M. Duneier, P. Kasinitz, and A.K. Murphy (2014) 34.85 ( )Tj]Í Td(6 (ev)- 5 Td -0.003 ink4.06 -1.609813

Students will complete a semester-long qualitative research project. Before collecting data, students must submit a short research memo (1,000 words max) outlining their research question(s), research methods, data sources (i.e. field site, interview sample, or archive), potential ethical issues, and plans for IRB. Students will present their research memos to the class for constructive feedback.

NOTE: If the data collected from human subjects will not be used in publication or dissemination beyond this class, then it is NOT considered research and IRB approval is not needed. If the work will be disseminated, such as in a master's thesis, then the student will need to submit an IRB protocol under the instructor's supervision. The info about what is needed in that case is on this website:

<http://www.sjsu.edu/gradstudies/irb/index.html>. Students need to inform me, the instructor, ASAP if you plan to use the research collected in this class for dissemination purposes outside this class since your IRB will need to be submitted under my supervision

x Data Collection and Workshop

During the second half of the semester students will collect data for their research projects. Students will present excerpts of their raw data artifacts (e.g. field notes, interview transcripts, archival material) for constructive feedback

x Final Paper and Presentation

At the end of the semester students will submit an original, qualitative research paper based on data gathered during the semester. The length of the paper is 25 pages,

Final grades will be evaluated as follows:

Weekly Assignments and Responses 40%

Research Exercises 10%

Research Memo and Presentation 10%

Data Collection and Presentation 10%

Final Presentation 20%

Final Paper 10%

## Grading Scale

+/-

If you use a laptop, you may only use it for ~~note~~ taking purposes. If I find that students are using their laptops for any other purposes besides note taking (e.g. checking email, chatting with friends, using social media) I will ban the use of laptops in class.

Routine phone calls, texting or other online activity during class will be noted and may result with up to 10% (one letter grade) deducted from the final grade.

### Campus Policy in Compliance with the American Disabilities Act

If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, or if you need to make special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please make an appointment with me as soon as possible, or see me during office hours. Presidential Directive 9703 at [http://www.sjsu.edu/president/docs/directives/PD\\_1997.pdf](http://www.sjsu.edu/president/docs/directives/PD_1997.pdf) requires that students with disabilities requesting accommodations must register with the Accessible Education Center (AEC) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/aec> to establish a record of their disability.

### Accommodation to Students' Religious Holidays

San José State University shall provide accommodation on any graded class work or activities for students wishing to observe religious holidays when such observances require students to be absent from class. It is the responsibility of the student to inform the instructor, in writing, about such holidays before the add deadline at the start of each semester. If such holidays occur before the add deadline, the student must notify the instructor, in writing, at least three days before the date that he/she will be absent. It is the responsibility of the instructor to make every reasonable effort to honor the student request without penalty, and of the student to make up the work missed. See University Policy S74 at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S74.pdf>.

### Student Technology Resources

Computer labs for student use are available in the Academic Success Center at <http://www.sjsu.edu/at/asc/> located on the 1st floor of Clark Hall and in the Associated Students Lab on the 2nd floor of the Student Union. Additional computer labs may be available in your department/college. Computers are also available in the Martin Luther King Library. A wide variety of audiovisual equipment is available for student use from Media Services located in IRC 112. These items include DV and HD digital camcorders; digital still cameras; video, slide and overhead projectors; DVD, CD, and audiotape players; sound systems, wireless microphones, projection screens and monitors

### SJSU Peer Connections

Peer Connections, a campus-wide resource for mentoring and tutoring, strives to inspire students to develop their potential as independent learners while they learn to successfully navigate through their university experience. You are encouraged to take advantage of their services which include course content based tutoring, enhanced study and time management skills, more effective critical thinking strategies, decision making and problem-solving abilities, and campus resource referrals.

Learning Center (LLC) in Campus Life Housing Building B. Visit Peer Connections website at <http://peerconnections.sjsu.edu> for more information.

### SJSU Writing Center

The SJSU Writing Center is located in Clark Hall, Suite 126. All Writing Specialists have gone through a rigorous hiring process, and they are well trained to assist all students at all levels within all disciplines to become better writers. In addition to one-on-one tutoring services, the Writing Center also offers workshops every semester on a variety of writing topics. To make an appointment or to refer to the numerous online resources offered through the Writing Center, visit the Writing Center website at <http://www.sjsu.edu/writingcenter>

### SJSU Counseling Services

The SJSU Counseling Services is located on the corner of 7th Street and San Fernando Street, in Room 201, Administration Building. Professional psychologists, social workers, and counselors are available to provide consultations on issues of student mental health, campus climate or psychological and academic issues on an individual, couple, or group basis. To schedule an appointment or learn more information, visit Counseling Services website at <http://www.sjsu.edu/counseling>.

### CASA Student Success Center

The Student Success Center in the College of Applied Sciences and Arts (CASA) provides advising for undergraduate students majoring or wanting to major in programs offered in CASA Departments and Schools. All CASA students and students who would like to be in CASA are invited to stop by the Center for general education advising, help with changing majors, academic policy related questions, meeting with peer advisors, and/or attending various regularly scheduled presentations and workshops. If you are looking for academic advice or even tips about how to navigate your way around SJSU, check out the CASA Student Success Center. Location: MacQuarrie Hall (MQH) 533rd floor of MacQuarrie Hall. Contact information: 408.924.2910. Website: <http://www.sjsu.edu/casa/ssc/> The CASA Student Success Center also provides study space and laptops for checkout.

## Department of Justice Studies JS 207, Seminar in Qualitative Research Methods, Fall 2017

### Course Schedule

#### Part I: Conceptualizing Qualitative Methods – Research Design

#### Week 1 (8/22): Introduction

- x Syllabus

#### Week 2 (8/29): From Research Topic to Research Question

- x Kristen Luker– Salsa Dancing into the Social Sciences
  - o Chapters 4, 8
  - o Complete Exercises 4, 8

### Week 3 (9/5): Reviewing the Literature

- x Stefan Timmermans and Iddo Tavory – “Theory Construction in Qualitative Research: From Grounded Theory to Abductive Analysis”
  - o Canvas
- x Kristen Luker – Salsa Dancing into the Social Sciences
  - o Chapters 5
  - o Complete Exercise 5

### Week 4 (9/12): Sampling, Operationalization, and Generalization

- x Kristen Luker – Salsa Dancing into the Social Sciences
  - o Chapters 6
  - o Complete Exercise 6
- x Mario Small – “How Many Cases Do I Need?”
  - o Canvas

### Week 5 (9/19): Ethics and IRB

- x Angelical Orb, et al. – “Ethics in Qualitative Research”
  - o CANVAS
- x Alice Goffman – “On the Run: Wanted Men in a Philadelphia Ghetto”
  - o Urban Ethnography Reader, pp. 74-86
- x Alice Goffman – Methodological Appendix
  - o CANVAS
- x Steven Lubet – “Ethics on the Run”
  - o CANVAS
- x Alice Goffman – “A Reply to Professor Lubet’s Critique”
  - o CANVAS

## **RESEARCH MEMO DUE**

### Week 6 (9/26): Research Memo Presentations #1

- x Readings TBD based on students’ research topics

### Week 7 (10/3): Research Memo Presentations #2

- x Readings TBD based on students’ research topics

## Part II: Data Collection

### Week 8 (10/10): Gaining Access and Recruiting Subjects

- x Robert S. Weiss – Learning from Strangers, Ch. 2
  - o CANVAS
- x Phillippe Bourgois – “Violating Apartheid in the United States”
  - o Urban Ethnography Reader, pp. 80-122



Week 9 (10/17): Collecting Data –