

**San José State University**  
**Department of Justice Studies**  
**JS 117, Qualitative Research Methods, Section 01, Spring 2021**

**Course and Contact Information**

<b>Instructor:</b>	Michael Vallerga, M.A.
<b>Office Location:</b>	Zoom
<b>Telephone:</b>	N/A
<b>Email:</b>	michael.vallerga@sjsu.edu
<b>Office Hours:</b>	Monday 2:00-3:00PM and Friday, 12:00-1:00PM
<b>Class Days/Time:</b>	Monday and Wednesday, 3:00-4:15PM
<b>Classroom:</b>	Zoom

**Faculty Web Page and MYSJSU Messaging**

Course materials such as syllabus, handouts, notes, assignment instructions, etc. can be found on the Canvas learning management system course website. Students are responsible for regularly checking the Canvas site for updates. Since JS 15 meets the mathematical concepts G.E. requirement (Area B4), students must have passed the E.L.M. placement test – or have been exempted from it -- before enrolling in the course. Instructor cannot waive this requirement. Failure to meet this prerequisite will result in University canceling your enrollment in the course and denying credit regardless of any grade earned.

**GE Category:** Core G.E. Area B4 Mathematical Concepts. Please note that only a C or better in the course satisfies the G.E. requirement. Grades of C-and below do not. Semester grades of C- to D- are passing and earn three units credit, but they do not satisfy the Area B4 Mathematical Concepts requirement.

## **Course Learning Objectives (CLO)**

CLO 1. Apply qualitative data gathering techniques.

CLO 2. Analyze the strengths and limitations of various data gathering techniques (e.g., interviews, observations, content analysis, focus groups, narrative analysis, and ethnography).

CLO 3. Identify and explain the range and significance of ethical issues in qualitative research.

CLO 4. Describe epistemologies behind qualitative research methods.

CLO 5. Apply reflexivity in qualitative research.

CLO 6. Apply literature to analyze qualitative data.

## **Texts/Readings**

### **Textbook (Required)**

Carol A. Bailey (2017). *A Guide to Qualitative Field Research*, 3rd Edition. SAGE Publications. ISBN:

### ***Mini-Papers (28 Points)***

This course requires you to complete a total of four mini-papers. Each mini-paper will have a specific prompt that you must follow. Each will be about 2-3 pages long. There will be a total of six possible mini-papers that you can choose from (please only complete four). Each Mini-Paper is worth 7 points. Here are the mini-papers and their due dates (again, only complete 4):

Qualitative Methods and Epistemology (2/22)

Research Design and Ethical Considerations (3/3)

Interviewing and Focus Groups (3/17)

Methods Paper - Grounded Theory and Ethnography (4/7)

Methods Paper – Content Analysis and Thematic Analysis (4/19)

Methods Paper – Narrative Analysis (4/26)

### ***Final Qualitative Research Paper (24 Points)***

The Final Paper will be a qualitative research paper. It will include an introduction, a literature review, a methods section, a results section, and a discussion section. It will be worth 20 Points.

### **Grading Policy**

The final course grade will be based on a 100-point scale. Since the grade is based on mastery of the material, it is theoretically possible for everyone to earn an A.

### **Late assignments will lose ~10% each day late**

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## Course Schedule: JS 117 / Intro Statistics in Justice, Spring 2020

(subject to change with fair notice via Class Announcement & CANVAS Note)

Week	Date	Topics	Readings / Assignments Due
1	1/27	Course Introduction	
2	2/1	What is Qualitative Research?	Chapter 1
	2/3	Epistemology 1 (How we know what we know)	
3	2/8	Epistemology 2 (Researcher as an Instrument)	<b>HW1</b>
	2/10	Ethics of Qualitative Research	

<b>Week</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Topics</b>	<b>Readings / Assignments Due</b>
13	4/26	Qualitative Data Collection and the Internet	<b>Mini-Paper 6 (Narrative Analysis)</b>
	4/28	Participatory Action Research	Par reading;
14	5/3	Mixed Methods Research	<b>Rough Draft Due 5/4</b>
	5/5	Consultations	
15	5/10	Consultations	<b>HW6</b>
	5/12	Consultations	
16	5/17	Consultations	
	Friday, May 21 12:15- 2:30	No Final Exam, 'Culminating Experience'	<b>FINAL PAPER DUE at midnight</b>