This doctoral course will concentrate on research design and methodologies of focus group, grounded theory, and discourse analysis and the use of electronic technologies in qualitative research. Through the course readings, assignments, and discussions, students will develop further their abilities to use new technologies to capture and analyze qualitative data and to report findings of qualitative studies. Students will design a qualitative research study—their own dissertation study or a hypothetical one.

Objectives: Students will

1) design, implement, and analyze a focus group interview;
2) understand and be able to develop theory from qualitative data;
3) understand discourse analysis and be able to apply it to qualitative data;
4) use a computer-based, qualitative analytic tool;
5) understand and critique qualitative studies;
6) develop an original qualitative research proposal; and
7) complete IRB and ORSP Human Subjects Certification Program

**Required Software:**


**Required Texts and Readings:**


**Recommended Readings** (You may have read some texts in Qualitative Method I.):


**Assignments:**

1. Design and conduct a focus group interview, capturing the data with a video camera. (5%)
2. Import data into Transana (5%)
3. Analyze focus group data, transcribing critical events. (5%)
4. Conduct second focus group or individual interview based on results of analysis of first focus group interview, capturing the data with a video camera. (10%)
5. Import data into Transana (5%)
6. Critical reading of a qualitative or mixed-method dissertation:
   a. A written critical evaluation of the study’s methodology (15%)
   b. An oral presentation of your evaluation (15%)
7. Fully developed research proposal (15%)
8. Discourse analytic research report (15%)
9. Participation (5%)
**Week-by-Week Reading and Discussion Outline**

Apart from chapters in Charmaz (2006), Creswell (2009), and Gee (2005), you may electronically access all required readings and some recommended ones from the course’s Blackboard site.

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Discussion Topics</th>
<th>Readings and Assignments</th>
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| Week 1: 9/3 | • Introduction
• What is and why theory?
• A FGI experience
• Discuss focus group interview assignment | ✓ Thomas (1997)                                                                                  |
| Week 2: 9/10 | • Focus Group Interviewing
• Selecting a research design
• Focus group methodology | ✓ Berg (2007), Chapter 5: “Focus group interviewing”
✓ Creswell (2009), Chapter 1, Writing Exercise (WE) #2
✓ First draft of protocol for your focus group interview |
| Week 3: 9/17 | • Literature review
• Further review of FGI assignment
• Discuss of dissertation reading assignment | ✓ Creswell (2009), Chapter 2, WE #3
✓ Lambert & Loiselle (2008)
✓ Krueger (2008)
✓ Second draft of protocol for your focus group interview |
| Week 4: 9/24 | • Student lead class
• Using theory;
• Engaging focus group interviews | ✓ Creswell (2009), Chapter 3, WE #3: Email citation information of at least two of the three types of articles.
✓ Mousley, Sullivan, & Waywood (1998)
✓ Select and begin reading a qualitative or mixed-method dissertation.
✓ Conduct videotaped, focus group interview |
| Week 5: 10/1 | • Proposal writing and considering ethical issues
• Epistemology
• Grounded theory | ✓ Creswell (2009), Chapter 4, WE #1, 2 & 3
✓ Ernest (1998)
✓ Strauss & Corbin (1994)
✓ Citation information of qualitative or mixed-method dissertation. |
| Week 6: 10/8 | • Introducing your dissertation study
• Computer Assisted Qualitative Data Analysis: | ✓ Creswell (2009), Chapter 5, WE #1 & 2
✓ Transana guided tour: [http://www.transana.org/about/Tour/index.htm](http://www.transana.org/about/Tour/index.htm)
✓ Charmaz (2006), Chapters 1 and 2 |
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<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Transana</th>
<th>Relevant Text</th>
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| 7: 10/15 | Reasons for your dissertation study  
Presenting your intended study | ✓ Creswell (2009), Chapter 6, WE #2  
✓ Charmaz (2006), Chapters 3 and 4  
✓ Present PowerPoint on Research Study  
Read a qualitative or mixed method dissertation  
Focus Group Interviewing |
| 8: 10/22 | Your research questions  
Transana: importing and creating transcription | ✓ Creswell (2009), Chapter 7, WE #1  
✓ Charmaz (2006), Chapters 5 and 6  
Read a qualitative or mixed method dissertation  
Focus Group Interviewing |
| 9: 10/29 | Your methods;  
Grounded theory  
Transana: importing and creating transcription | ✓ Creswell (2009), Chapter 9, WE #1 & 2  
✓ Charmaz (2006), Chapters 7 and 8  
Group oral reports on a qualitative or mixed method dissertation |
| 10: 11/6 | Discourse analysis  
✓ Gee (2005), Chapters 1-3  
Group reports on a qualitative or mixed method dissertation and individual presentation of research proposal. |
| 11: 11/13 | Discourse analysis  
Transana: analyzing | ✓ Gee (2005), Chapters 4 and 5  
**Due:** Your research proposal  
Group reports on a qualitative or mixed method dissertation and individual presentation of research proposal. |
| 12: 11/20 | Writing Qualitative Research Proposals and Papers | ✓ Gee (2005), Chapters 6 and 7  
Group oral reports on a qualitative or mixed method dissertation and individual presentation of research proposal. |
| 13: 12/3 | Qualitative Analysis Report | ✓ Gee (2005), Chapters 8 and 9  
Group oral reports on a qualitative or mixed method dissertation and individual presentation of research proposal. |
| 14: 12/10 | Qualitative Analysis Report | ✓ Lewins & Silver (2009)  
Individual presentation of research proposal.  
**Due:** Written qualitative analysis report on focus group and related individual interviews  
**Due:** Proof of Human Subject Certification |