INTL 607: Graduate Seminar in Research Design and Qualitative Methods
Winter 2020
Mondays, 12-2:50 PM, PLC 348

Instructor: Dr. Lesley Jo Weaver
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office hours: Tu/Th 10:00-11:30AM

Course description: This Master’s-level course introduces students to the foundations of social
science research, research design, data collection, and data analysis. The overarching goal is to
provide a strong foundation for students to design and execute rigorous, ethically sound research
for their theses or similar projects. In this course students will design and carry out an
independent research project as a way to practice the methods being introduced each week. For
some this may be the beginning or end of their thesis project, while for others it might be a pilot
project. Regardless, students are encouraged to choose topics and methods that
support their
graduate studies as closely as possible.

Learning goals:
Students who complete all requirements of the course should be able to:
1. Formulate a research question and design an appropriate study to answer that question
2. Analyze how to address ethical quandaries in research
3. Understand the strengths, weaknesses, and best applications of various qualitative
   methods
4. Collect and analyze qualitative data

Readings and class preparation:
All readings are due before the class for which they are listed. The course will be taught under
the assumption that every student has read and taken notes on the readings for each week.
Evidence that a student comes to class not having prepared in this way will be grounds for
reducing participation points. The reading load for this course will vary substantially from week
to week; for this reason, it is imperative that students plan ahead to complete the readings.

This course has a single required textbook, available through the Duck Store or online:

We will also use readings from other sources, which will be available through our course Canvas
site.

Grading and assignments:
Students’ grades in this course will be assessed as follows:

Weekly participation in seminar
   (attendance, quality and quantity of in-class comments) 25%
Intermediate steps toward project completion (4) 40%
Final presentation: 12-15 min reflection and analysis  
Final research portfolio  
Grading scale: A+=98+; A=93-97; A-=90-92; B+=88-89; B=83-87; B-=80-82; C+=78-79; C=73-77; C-=70-72; D+=68-69; D=63-67; D-=60-62; F=59 or below.

**Accessible education statement**: The University of Oregon is working to create inclusive learning environments. Please notify me if there are aspects of the instruction or design of this course that result in disability-related barriers to your participation. You are also encouraged to contact the Accessible Education Center in 155 Oregon Hall at 541-346-1155 or uoaec@uoregon.edu.