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 occasionally 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 (TBD) 40%
Final project presentation 10%
Final project paper 25%

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.

Course schedule (subject to change at the instructor’s discretion)

Week 1: January 7: Basic research design and ethical considerations
  a. defining a research problem/question;
  b. hypothesis formation;
  c. sampling;
  d. choosing methods
Reading: Bernard and Gravlee, Chs 1-6

Week 2: January 14: How to do a literature review and use citation software
Meet in LIB 267B for workshop with research librarian Victoria Mitchell
  a. identifying gaps in the literature and shaping your research questions to fill them
Reading: Muller-Bloch and Kranz available at: https://pdfs.semanticscholar.org/89e6/a54cbe7240488d88ce49b51fc83c7186d564.pdf
also this guide: https://ncu.libguides.com/researchprocess/literaturegap

Week 3: MLK day, no class—Meet Dr. Weaver individually, and come prepared with your hypothesis or research question, a literature review, and a skeletal methods proposal for class next week!

Week 4: January 28: Participant-observation, taking fieldnotes
Reading: Bernard and Gravlee Ch.8; Emerson, Fretz and Shaw Chs. 2-4

Week 5: Feb 4: Unstructured and semi-structured interview techniques
Reading: Bernard and Gravlee Chs. 10

Week 6: Feb 11: Structured interview and questionnaire design
Reading: Bernard and Gravlee Ch 11, 15; Weaver and Kaiser 2015 (on Canvas)

Week 7: Feb 18: Mixed methods: visual anthropology, spatial analysis, online ethnography
Bernard and Gravlee Chs. 13, 14, 19
WATCH IN CLASS: Ethnographic film, *The Ax Fight* (1975)

**Week 8: Feb 25: Coding and analyzing qualitative data**
Guest: Zachary Dubois, Department of Anthropology
Reading: Bernard and Gravlee Ch. 17

**Week 9: Mar 4: Text analysis: interpretive, narrative, and discourse analysis**
Bernard Chs 18 and 19 [available on Canvas]

**Week 10: Mar 11: Final presentations**