



## Qualitative Research Methods

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### Course Format

This course aims to equip the students with the basic knowledge and practical know-how to conduct qualitative research in social science. This course will support students in developing specialized capacities and will enable them to transform the qualitative data (interviews, focus group data, document analysis, newspapers etc.) into an overview of clear and definable outcomes. At the end of the course, you should be able to:

- understand the requirement for conducting qualitative analysis;
- have an insight into the nature and characteristics of qualitative data;
- have developed skills to write a qualitative study;
- be able to discuss some of the ethical issues associated with conducting qualitative research;
- have the knowledge and capacity of working through the various steps necessary to carry out qualitative analysis;
- have an understanding of different methodological approaches to qualitative research;
- have practical experience of conducting in-depth interviews, focus group and content analysis;
- develop a technical skill with qualitative research software and other research tools.

Each class session will be different, depending on the topic. A typical session will include presentation of key concepts or frameworks mixed with activities and small group discussion. After the first session, you will be required to complete some activities in preparation for the following sessions. Completion of this work will count toward your assessment in the course.

### Course evaluation

The evaluation will consist of:

- A final paper (70% of final grade). Please note that this final paper should be a full paper. Please Note: you can propose research on the same topic of your thesis or choose a different one.
- Participation in in-class activities, discussion, and presentation (30%). You are expected to come prepared to class, and to actively contribute to class discussion by asking and answering questions, bringing up issues, defending your arguments, and constructively criticizing the arguments your colleagues and professor make. Grade will recognize *quality* of contribution.

### Textbooks

General textbooks on social science research:

- Lune, H., & Berg, B. L. (2017). *Qualitative research methods for the social sciences*. Pearson. (<http://law.gtu.ge/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/Berg-B.-Lune-H.-2012.-Qualitative-Research-Methods-for-the-Social-Sciences.pdf>)
- Mason, J. (2017). *Qualitative researching*. Sage. ([http://www.sxf.uevora.pt/wp-content/uploads/2013/03/Mason\\_2002.pdf](http://www.sxf.uevora.pt/wp-content/uploads/2013/03/Mason_2002.pdf)).
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