

ANTH/SOCL 208

Qualitative Research Methods

3 Credits

Community College of Baltimore County
Common Course Outline

Description

ANTH/SOCL 208 – Qualitative Research Methods: provides an introduction to the qualitative research methods used to collect, analyze, and interpret data in the social sciences. Course work examines the theory and practical techniques associated with research design, data collection and analysis, and report writing while preparing students to apply their knowledge by completing an original research project. ANTH 208 is the same as SOCL 208 - earn credit for one only.

Pre-requisites: ANTH 101, SOCL 101, or permission of program coordinator

Overall Course Objectives

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. describe the history and theoretical foundations of qualitative research in the social sciences;
2. identify the strengths and weaknesses of qualitative research methods;
3. explain the legal and ethical requirements associated with research involving human subjects;
4. assess the contributions of participatory action research and decolonizing methods as alternatives to standard research practices;
5. evaluate the characteristics of research questions that are appropriate for qualitative research methods;
6. formulate a qualitative research question that can be used as the basis for a research project;
7. prepare a literature review that includes academic materials from the disciplines of anthropology or sociology relevant to the research project;
8. design a research plan that addresses the legal, ethical, and methodological requirements for conducting social science research;
9. use qualitative methods to collect and analyze data;
10. develop a research report using the conventions of social science; and
11. present a summary of research in a multimedia format.

Major Topics

- I. History and theoretical foundations of social science research
- II. Legal and ethical requirements for human subjects research
- III. Qualitative research methods
- IV. Alternatives to standard research methods
- V. Qualitative research questions

The Common Course Outline (CCO) determines the essential nature of each course.
For more information, see your professor's syllabus.

- VI. Literature review
- VII. Research design
- VIII. Qualitative data collection and analysis
- IX. Summarizing research in writing and multimedia

Course Requirements

Grading will be determined by the individual faculty member, but shall include the following, at minimum:

- Successful completion of human subject research certification
- One exam with a writing component (short-answer or essay)
- Two assignments in which students formulate and subsequently refine the major elements of a research plan
- One literature review
- One assignment in which students collect and analyze original qualitative data
- One research report, minimum 5 pages in length
- One multimedia research presentation

Written assignments and research projects: Students are required to use appropriate academic resources in their research and cite sources according to the style selected by their professor.

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