MMC6936 - ADVANCED QUALITATIVE METHODS: NARRATIVE METHOD & ANALYSIS

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Office Hours: By Appointment
Class Meets: Thurs 9:35-12:35p
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Traditional “definitions” of qualitative inquiry have a “strong orientation toward the impact of qualitative research and its ability to transform the world.”

Denzin & Lincoln, 2011; Creswell, 2012, p. 44

COURSE OVERVIEW & OBJECTIVES

In this course we will examine the value of qualitative research design in understanding social and behavioral phenomena, with a primary focus on narrative approaches to qualitative inquiry across the research process—from theory/guiding frameworks to method (data collection) to analyzing data to presenting/writing translatable results. We will spend the most time on learning how to analyze narrative data thematically using the constant comparative method including open coding, axial coding, creating codebooks, using computer programs to manage data analysis, and triangulating data. In addition, across this course you will be exposed to a variety of narrative frameworks (e.g., narrative medicine; narrative engagement framework), narrative methods (e.g., turning point / retrospective interviewing; critical incident technique; photovoice; diaries) as well as in complex research designs in qualitative inquiry like mixed-methods (combining quantitative and qualitative approaches), multiple-method designs (comparing data from multiple qualitative approaches), and crystallization (blending art with social scientific qualitative methods). You will become well versed in critical aspects of conducting rigorous qualitative inquiry including reflexivity, ethics, control, and trustworthiness. You will also learn how to bridge research with evidence-based practice or how to “translate” findings to real-world application (e.g., improving health practice; creating interventions or education; refining organizational procedures; creating art or performances for society).

This course is divided into 4 parts:

1) INTRODUCTION TO NARRATIVE METHODOLOGY: THEORY, METHOD & ANALYSIS (3 weeks)
2) METHODS OF COLLECTING RICH NARRATIVES (3 weeks)
3) ANALYZING NARRATIVE DATA (6 weeks)
4) TRANSLATING AND PRESENTING YOUR NARRATIVE RESEARCH (3 weeks)

Learning to see is the foundation for becoming an effective qualitative researcher. When we “see,” we make ourselves present and open fully our senses to the scene at hand. We see, we listen, we feel, and we seek to be attentive to the unfolding moment.

Daly, 2007, p. 3

MY ROLE

I believe my role is to help you understand what it means to “learn to see” as a qualitative researcher. My goal is that you will leave this class having an appreciation for qualitative inquiry as well as an understanding for why it is needed. I want this class to open a pathway for you to become a strong qualitative researcher. I will provide you with a broad overview of the entire research process from a narrative approach. You have choices in the type of qualitative inquiry you can engage in. Some approaches will “speak” to you or match your own assumptions and inclinations more so than others. I want you to make informed decisions throughout the research process and I will guide you in doing so. However, I will not make those decisions for you. You need to decide which approaches best fit your research problem, your worldview as a researcher, as well as your goals in terms of effecting change in society on some level.
YOU WILL LEARN BY DOING!
You will have the opportunity to gain qualitative research skills through guided research practicums (to be completed outside of class as well as in class) as well as by examining and critiquing real qualitative studies or exemplars of a broad range of qualitative scholarship. While an emphasis on course materials is placed on health-related examples, you will have the opportunity to explore social phenomena in your area of research interest. Thus, in this class you will have the opportunity to conduct your own research. Conducting field research will allow you to enhance your skills across the entire design process, from developing inquiries, to collecting data, to analyzing and evaluating data, and presenting useable findings to larger audiences. You will have the opportunity to work on your research study through research practicums and class time.

THIS IS A FAST-PACED CLASS!
This course is fast-paced with a lot of reading and practical activity. This is to allow you to not only be exposed to the entire research process but to have the opportunity to build your research aptitude by actually engaging in all aspects of qualitative field research. Unfortunately, it is not uncommon for graduate students (both MA and PhD) to have only ONE opportunity to take a qualitative methods course in their entire graduate training (if any at all). While this is in no way adequate training, it is the reality of graduate research training. As such, we cover a lot of ground as I want to ensure that you have the tools needed to begin your career as a rigorous qualitative researcher, but also have the understanding that you will need to continue building these skills once this class has concluded through future classes/workshops, mentoring with qualitative research experts, as well as reading on your own about specific methodologies and methods.

THIS IS A DISCUSSION-ORIENTED CLASS!
While I will sometimes lecture with PowerPoint slides, the bulk of the class is discussion-oriented to allow us plenty of time to work through complex issues in class. Thus, you are expected, at a minimum, to stay up to date on all readings and required assignments/practicums and to attend every class. I realize there are a lot of readings, particularly in the front-end of the class. I do this again to ensure you gain exposure to the entire research process but to also allow you extended time at the end of the semester to be working solely on your own research. Thus, we cover a lot of material before spring break to allow you ample time to complete a pilot qualitative study that is presentable and publishable.

REQUIRED MATERIALS
All materials are housed on Canvas with folders for each week. In these folders, you will find assigned readings, PowerPoint slides if available (please review these before class in case we do not get to them in class), and other lists of resources when appropriate. There is also a folder your assigned Research Practicums and Resources folder. I recommend that you also purchase the following book. It’s an excellent reference for you to utilize across your career. We will read 3 chapters from this book as well. If you do not purchase it, you will have the opportunity to make copies of the book ahead of time.


Materials:
1) Scholarly journal articles or book chapters posted on Canvas – see assigned readings on syllabus.
2) PowerPoint slides from lectures posted on Canvas and all class handouts.
I strongly advise you to begin investing in relevant qualitative research methods resources should your goal be to become skilled in qualitative research design or a particular methodology, method, or analytical tool. Listed below are some of the resources I have found to be most useful.

Books:

ListServ:


*Subscribe to this listserv – a Weekly journal dedicated to qualitative research since 1990. Also, on the web site you can find hundreds of resources, study pages, web sites, etc. on qualitative inquiry from across the globe (go to “resources” section of the web page)*

Mobile & Cloud Qualitative Research Apps:

Apps for Note-taking/Memos/Fieldnotes: [http://www.nova.edu/ssss/QR/apps.html](http://www.nova.edu/ssss/QR/apps.html)

Recording Equipment:
Digital Voice Recorder with USB or Video Recorder
Olympus ME-52W Noise Canceling Microphone (if using cell phone)

GRADE ASSIGNMENT

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COURSE ASSIGNMENTS

In-Class Participation 30
7 Memos / Discussion Board Posts (10 pts each) 70
7 Research Practicums (20 points each) 140
4 Quizzes (25 points each) 100
Theory Discussion Lead 30
Book / Design Presentation 30
Individual/Group Research Study Paper 100

Total Possible Points 500

It is your responsibility to refer to the syllabus for all class due dates for assignments. It is your responsibility to confer with your classmates/colleagues to be updated on what you missed if you miss class.

NO LATE WORK IS ACCEPTED – NO MAKE-UPS – NO EXCEPTIONS

PARTICIPATION
Punctuality and attendance are expected. This is a graduate-level course. As such, there will be minimal lecturing. The class format will primarily consist of student-led discussions and research practicums. It is essential that you prepare fully for these class discussions. To be fully prepared, complete all readings and do so with a critical, analytical lens. Prepare yourself adequately enough for active participation. Read the articles thoroughly and take notes. Come to class ready to discuss, challenge, and question. You should also come to class prepared to not only listen actively to me but to your colleagues – this means no surfing the internet or working on any electronic device at any time. You may only use electronic devices to access lecture notes, articles, to take notes, or (when I request it only) to complete an in-class activity. It is painfully obvious and extremely disrespectful when you are using your device to do anything but participate in this class. Abuse by one individual on one occasion will result in a penalty for the entire class in that all devices will be banned and we’ll go back to the “old school” way of learning.

MEMOS / DISCUSSION POSTS (7 @ 10 points each = 70 points)
You will learn the art and science of qualitative inquiry by engaging in weekly “memos” posted to the respective discussion board on Canvas by 12am the night before class (see Discussion section on Canvas). NO LATE POSTS ACCEPTED. For this requirement you will post your memos to the discussion board about the readings assigned that week. You must do this 7 times (see syllabus for due dates). These posts are both a way to practice writing “memos” (a research skill) as well as a means of sifting through difficult concepts. Writing memos are a means of reflectively learning how to conduct qualitative
research in a credible and trustworthy manner (one that is reliable and valid). During qualitative inquiry, memos are a way of maintaining reflexivity and enhancing rigor by documenting the research process. It is typically done in grounded theory studies to reflect on ideas emerging in the data but can be done in any study as a way of thinking about what you are learning. You will be expected to memo as you conduct your own research in this class but for this requirement memos are posted about the readings. There are no requirements for length or the number of readings you incorporate into your memo. Either you post to the discussion board on time to receive full credit or you do not (and receive a 0). There are different types of memos you might write as you conduct qualitative inquiry and, therefore, several ways in which you may memo about the readings each week:

**Textual Memos:**
Describing how we think about data or a finding (a theme perhaps) and how we have assigned labels or codes. These memos help us make sense of how and why we are naming codes or findings – a way to catch early interpretations.

**Observational Memos:**
Describing what we have seen in the field. These memos are helpful in preserving the context of our study and to focus in on what our senses are telling us.

**Conceptual/Theoretical Memos:**
Asking what is going on, perhaps the development of a theme/category or the significance of the finding. These memos are crucial in theory development and thinking about relationships between findings or pathways.

**Operational Memos:**
Remembering to ask questions in the field that arose in a previous interview or data collection. These memos help us build saturation of a category or enhance methodological procedures.

**Reflexive Memos:**
Observing ourselves (our voice, impact, role) across the research process and paying attention to our values, feelings, mistakes, etc. These memos work across the entire research process and help us make sense of the data.

NOTE: During two of the eight weeks your memo/post to the discussion board, you are required to instead critique 1 of the assigned exemplar studies (see syllabus).

**RESEARCH PRACTICUMS (7 @ 20 points each = 140 points)**
You will complete research practicums both inside and outside of class to practice and enhance your qualitative research skills. Due dates are noted in the syllabus. Each practicum addresses a qualitative research skill and meant to allow you time to practice conducting qualitative research. Thus, these are also an opportunity for you to work on your pilot study for the class, and the content of these practicums can be incorporated into your final paper / research study. These practicums are not graded. Either you complete the requirements in full and on time to receive full credit or you do not (and receive a 0).

You will complete the following practicums:
- Practicum 1: Narrative Goal Statement & Annotated Bibliography
- Practicum 2: Focus Group or Interview Script
- Practicum 3: PhotoVoice Data (submit before class) & Analysis (complete in class)
- Practicum 4: CCM - Data Analysis (complete in class)
- Practicum 5: Codebook
- Practicum 6: Managing Data (online training completed by 3-23 – you must provide proof of completion)
- Practicum 7: Table to Present Findings

**QUIZZES (4 @ 25 points each = 100 points)**
The course content is divided into four main sections. In the final class period of each of the four sections you will take a quiz that tests your qualitative research methods aptitude on the principles, concepts, and practices you learned about in that section. Each quiz has 13 questions, one short answer, 12 multiple choice, and worth 25 points each. Anything assigned to read, review, or complete for this class in that section can be on the quiz (this includes both outside and in-class discussion and practicums). NO MAKE-UPS FOR MISSED QUIZZES.

**THEORY DISCUSSION LEAD (30 points)**
During Week 3 we discuss various narrative frameworks (Narrative Medicine; Narrative Engagement Framework; Transportation Imagery Model; Narrative Performance Theory). In pairs you will be assigned to one of these frameworks.
Together you will present to the class that framework and lead a discussion about its utility in narratively driven qualitative scholarship. You have freedom as to how you approach this but think of it as an opportunity to have an in-depth examination on a theory/framework of interest to you and propose ways it may be useful and limiting in your field of interest. Consider phenomena in which that paradigm may be especially useful / insightful. Identify 1-2 examples of qualitative research utilizing that theoretical framework. Each group has 20 minutes total (10 min presentation/lecture, 10 min discussion facilitation).

**BOOK PRESENTATION: COMPLEX QUALITATIVE DESIGNS (30 points)**
You will choose a book that represents a qualitative study involving a complex research design. You must teach the class about the research design employed and provide an overview of the book as an exemplar of qualitative research. You can choose from the exemplars listed in the syllabus (and a list will be posted in the Resources folder on Canvas). If you have a book not listed you would like to present, you must provide me with a copy of the book within the first 2 weeks of class for approval. Your presentation is meant to be a formal lecture in which you teach the class about the methodological design employed in the book using it as a case study. Yin’s approach to case studies might be helpful in organizing your presentation. Creswell’s books on qualitative, mixed, and multi-method research might be helpful as well in identifying the design used. See also the additional resources listed in the syllabus. Presentations are 10 minutes with 5 minutes of questions/answers.

**INDIVIDUAL OR GROUP RESEARCH STUDY PAPER (100 points)**
You are required to conduct a pilot qualitative research study in this class. Qualitative research is extremely time-consuming and intensive. Given you only have one semester to learn how to conduct qualitative research you are allowed to conduct this research study as a pilot study (meaning you do not have to reach saturation in your sampling and will have a smaller sample size). You are also allowed to work in groups. Thus, this paper will either be an individual paper or a group paper. If you are working on a thesis or dissertation it might be optimal to do an individual project but it is not required. Groups can be no more than 4 people. If you work in groups, you will submit one final paper as a group and receive the same grade. You have the option of starting a new study for this class, but given time constraints in a semester it must be a research problem that you have built upon in a previous class (e.g., a research proposal done in another class; a qualitative study based on a quantitative study you already completed). You also have the option of using an existing data source. If you do not have access to data, I can provide you with data either from my own research or I can connect you with a faculty member or researcher within the college. If you work on a faculty member/researcher’s data set from within the college, you must work out authorship prior to beginning with regard to submitting this work to a journal/conference after the class has ended. If you work from my data, I will maintain first authorship (or last author should we submit to a medical journal) but will pursue publication options with you so that you can receive a publication and/or presentation to add to your vitae. Your final paper due for this class is a conference / journal ready manuscript meaning a full research paper (literature review; inquiries; methods; results/findings; discussion; references). You must also present your study during the last week of class. This is meant to be a formal presentation and include all group members if you are working on a team. The presentation should be 15 minutes in length (plus 5 minutes for Q/A) and is not graded but required. Your presentation should be like a mock conference presentation. All papers are due as a hard copy at the start of the last class and must adhere to APA style.

**PUBLISHING YOUR RESEARCH**
I strongly encourage you to work on a pilot study you intend to submit to a research convention for presentation and/or publish in a journal or scholarly book. Should you like my continued guidance on your manuscript in pursuit of publication once the class has ended, I would be pleased to continue mentoring you. However, I do require authorship (last author or the order designating the most minimal role) given the extensive amount of direction, insight, feedback, and revision I will provide both inside and outside of class. This can be an optimal way for you to continue refining your research skills through ongoing mentorship.

**ADDITIONAL UNIVERSITY RESOURCES**

**Health & Safety**
*Health and Wellness U Matter, We Care:* If you or a friend is in distress, please contact umatter@ufl.edu or 352 3921575 so that a team member can reach out to the student.
*Counseling and Wellness Center:* http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/Default.aspx, 392-1575; and the University Police Department: 392-1111 or 9-1-1 for emergencies.
Syllabus Spring 2017

Sexual Assault Recovery Services (SARS) Student Health Care Center, 392-1161.
University Police Department, 392-1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies). http://www.police.ufl.edu/

Academic
E-learning tech support: 352-392-4357; Learningsupport@ufl.edu. https://lss.at.ufl.edu/help.shtml
Career Resource Center, Reitz Union: 392-1601.
Career assistance & counseling: http://www.crc.ufl.edu/
Teaching Center, Broward Hall: 392-2010 or 392-6420.
General study skills and tutoring. http://teachingcenter.ufl.edu/
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<td>PART I</td>
<td>INTRODUCTION TO NARRATIVE METHODOLOGY: THEORY, METHOD &amp; ANALYSIS</td>
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<td>1-5</td>
<td>Learning to See: The Art &amp; Science of Qualitative Research</td>
<td>Daly (2007) Ch 8</td>
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<td>*Reflexivity</td>
<td>Padgett (2012) Ch 5</td>
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<td>*Ethics</td>
<td>Watt (2007)</td>
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<td><strong>Eye of the Storm</strong></td>
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<td>Theory, Method, Analysis, &amp; Presentation/Translation</td>
<td>Harter, Japp, &amp; Beck (2005)</td>
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<td><strong>Memo 1 Due</strong></td>
<td>Green &amp; Thorogood (2004) pp 241-246</td>
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<td><strong>Documentary:</strong></td>
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<td><strong>The Art of the Possible</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Memo 1 Due</strong></td>
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<td>1-19</td>
<td>Choosing a Guide or Lens: Narrative Frameworks</td>
<td>Charon (2001)</td>
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<td>*Narrative Medicine</td>
<td>Miller-Day &amp; Hecht (2013)</td>
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<td>*Narrative Engagement Theory</td>
<td>Green &amp; Donahue (2009)</td>
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<td>*Transportation Imagery Model</td>
<td>Langellier &amp; Peterson (2006)</td>
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<td>*Narrative Performance Theory</td>
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<td><strong>Theory Presentations</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Memo 2 Due</strong></td>
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<td><strong>In Class: NIH Webinar:</strong></td>
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### Engaging in Qualitative Research Methods: Opportunities for Prevention & Health Promotion

**In Class:**
- Quiz 1

**Recommended:**
- Tim Sorel’s Film Screening
  6p in Gannett Auditorium: My Kid is Not Crazy

## PART II  METHODS OF COLLECTING RICH NARRATIVES

| 1-26 | Narrative Interviewing Techniques  
*Turning Point Graphs & Retros. Interv. Technique (RIT)*  
*Lifeline Interview Method (LIM)*  
*Critical Incident Technique (CIT)*  
*Q Sort Methodology* | Baxter & Bullis (1986) or refer to Golish Schroots & Birren (2002)  
Flanagan (1954); Butterfield et al. (2005)  
Brown (1996)  

**Exemplar Studies to Review:**  
Golish (2000) (TPA)  
Khandelwal (2009) (CIT)  
Stenner et al. (2003) (Q-sort)  

**Practicum 1 Due:**  
Narrative Goal Statement  
Memo 3 Due: Exemplar Study Critique |

| 2-2 | Unobtrusive or Less Conventional Methods  
*PhotoVoice*  
*Diary-Interview Method*  
*Online or Archival Texts (Documentary Method)*  
*Film, video, documentary* | Wang & Burris (1997)  
Zimmerman & Weider (1977)  

**Exemplar Studies to Review:**  
Zenkov & Harmon (2014) *photovoice*  
Stopka et al. (2004) *diary*  
Alpert & Wombell (2014) *online forum texts*  
Gibson (2004) *archival text/media/ semiotics*  
Kosovski & Smith (2011) *visual / film*  

**Practicum 2 Due:**  
Interview / FG Script  

**Practicum 3 (in class):**  
PhotoVoice Study  
*Send me your two pictures via email by Tuesday 6pm*  
*Analysis done in class* |
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| 2-9 | Complex Designs  
*Mixed- Method (quant + qual)  
*Multiple-Method (qual + qual)  
*Crystallization (creative arts + social scientific qual) | Creswell & Plano Clark (2007) Chapters 1 & 4  
Ellingson (2014) (if interested in education, see also link for Shagoury, 2011, pp 297-306)  
Exemplar Studies to Review:  
Van Staa (2011) *mixed method  
Tallberg et al. (2014) *crystallization  
See Resources Folder for Book List to Choose from for Presentation:  
Fisher (2014) *mixed and multi-methods  
Snowdon (2002) *mixed methods  
Fadiman (1997) *ethnography, anthropology  
Miller-Day (2004) *ethnography, grounded theory  
Adelman & Frey (1997) *mixed methods, action  
Wittenberg-Lyles et al. (2010) *multi-method  
Ellis (1995) *autoethnography  
Foster (2004) *autoethnography  
Lareau (2011) *longitudinal qual study  
Memo 4 Due  
Quiz 2 |
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<tr>
<td>2-16</td>
<td>Types of Analysis</td>
<td>Creswell (2012) Chapter 8 &amp; 10</td>
<td>Practicum 4 (in class): Thematic Analysis</td>
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<td>*Thematic Analysis (constant comparative method, CCM)</td>
<td>Glaser &amp; Strauss (1967) Chapter 5</td>
<td>Memo 5 Due: Exemplar Study Critique</td>
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<td>*Conversational Analysis (CA)</td>
<td>Exemplar Studies to Review: Fisher (2010) - CCM</td>
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<td>*Discourse Analysis (DA)</td>
<td>Opel et al. (2012) - CA</td>
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<td>CCM Analysis Part I: Open Coding</td>
<td>McBride &amp; Bergen (2014) - DA</td>
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<td>2-23</td>
<td>CCM Analysis Part II: Axial Coding</td>
<td>Recommend Reviewing Saldana (2016) (see Syllabus resource list)</td>
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<td>Creating Codebooks</td>
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<td>3-2</td>
<td>Rigor: Trustworthiness &amp; Credibility</td>
<td>Morse (1999)</td>
<td>Practicum 5 Due: Codebook</td>
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<td>*Reliability/Validity - Verification Techniques</td>
<td>Morse et al. (2002)</td>
<td>Memo 6 Due</td>
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<td>3-9</td>
<td>SPRING BREAK</td>
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<td>3-16</td>
<td>Triangulation</td>
<td>Thurmond (2001)</td>
<td>Quiz 3</td>
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<td>Breitmayer, Ayres, &amp; Knafl (1993)</td>
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<td>Morse (1991)</td>
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<td>3-23</td>
<td>Managing Large Data Sets</td>
<td>Complete Webinar Training (Choose 1): Nvivo:</td>
<td>Practicum 6 Due: Data Management</td>
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<td>*Computer Programs (e.g., Atlas.ti, NVivo)</td>
<td><a href="http://www.qsrinternational.com/nvivo-training">http://www.qsrinternational.com/nvivo-training</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>4-6</td>
<td>Research Work Week</td>
<td>No in class meeting</td>
<td>Practicum 7 Due: Translational Table (submit via email)</td>
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<td>4-13</td>
<td>Final Project Presentations</td>
<td>15 minutes each, 5 min Q/A</td>
<td>Hard copies of papers due at beginning of class</td>
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