Course Plan

1. Decision
The course plan has been approved by the Board of the Department of Sociology, Stockholm University as of May 30, 2013.

2. General Information
The course consists of 7.5 ECTS credits and is at the Advanced Level.

3. Course Code
SO7040

4. Education requirements
Bachelor degree or 3 semesters of Sociology.

5. Course Description
This course aims to introduce advanced students to a range of qualitative methods and techniques for data processing and data analysis. We examine the underlying logic of different qualitative methods and how qualitative researchers approach questions of causality, inference, conceptualization, measurement and social meaning in social science research. Students will become familiar with a range of techniques for data collection and specific methods for interpreting and analyzing data. Students will conduct independent field research and apply a specific qualitative method and technique to data analysis on a selected topic.

6. Intended Learning Outcomes
Upon completion of this course, students should be able to:

- Identify and describe a range of qualitative methods for data processing
- Demonstrate knowledge of the underlying logic of different qualitative methods
- Evaluate different qualitative methods and techniques for data collection
- Evaluate different qualitative methods and techniques for data analysis
- Apply a specific type of qualitative method to data analysis

7. Teaching & Learning Activities
The course is provided at half time basis for 10 weeks. Teaching is conducted through lectures, seminars, and student-centered activities. Students are expected to do the following:

- Complete assigned reading before each class meeting;
- Participate actively in class discussion;
- Conduct independent Field Research;
- Complete written assignments

8. Assessment
Assessment is based on how well students accomplish the Intended Learning Outcomes (outlined above) as demonstrated in written work and participation. Each assignment is weighted and scaled as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Weight</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Final Research Paper</td>
<td>100</td>
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<tr>
<td>Presentation</td>
<td>Pass/Fail</td>
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<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>Pass/Fail</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Course Work is evaluated according to the following standard reference criteria:

A= This grade is earned when the student demonstrates his/her ability to apply a specific AQM to a particular research problem in a sophisticated, reflexive, coherent, consistent, and logical way. The student can analyze both advantages and limitations of the particular method selected. The student can accurately compare, contrast, and critically evaluate varying qualitative approaches to research design and carry out an independent research project using AQM. The student is engaged in class discussion and actively participates, demonstrating a high level of understanding of core principles of AQM.

B= This grade is earned when the student demonstrates his/her ability to apply a specific AQM to a particular research problem in a coherent and consistent way but may lack a reflexive or sophisticated understanding of the underlying principles. The student can analyze both advantages and limitations of the particular method selected but may place more emphasis on one or the other. The student can accurately compare, contrast, and critically evaluate varying qualitative approaches to research design and carry out an independent research project using AQM. The student is engaged in class discussion and participates, demonstrating a solid level of understanding of core principles of AQM.

C= This grade is earned when the student demonstrates his/her ability to apply a specific AQM to a particular research problem in a coherent way but lacks a reflexive or sophisticated understanding of the underlying principles. At a basic level, the student can explain the advantages and limitations of the particular method selected. The student can accurately compare and contrast varying qualitative approaches to research design but may show limits with critical evaluation. The student can carry out an independent research project using AQM but may need some guidance. The student is engaged in class discussion and participates, demonstrating a basic level of understanding of core principles of AQM.

D= This grade is earned when the student has some difficulty demonstrating his/her ability to apply a specific AQM to a particular research problem in a coherent way. The student can explain some of the advantages and limitations of the particular method selected but may also include inaccuracies and weak understanding. The student cannot accurately compare and contrast varying qualitative approaches to research design and cannot sufficiently critically evaluate them. The student has difficulty carrying out an independent research project using AQM without substantial guidance. The student is disengaged from class discussion and demonstrates a lower level of understanding of core principles of AQM.

E= This grade is earned when the student some difficulty demonstrating his/her ability to apply a specific AQM to a particular research problem in a coherent way. The student can explain some of the advantages and limitations of the particular method selected but may also include inaccuracies and weak understanding. The student cannot accurately compare and contrast
varying qualitative approaches to research design and cannot sufficiently critically evaluate
them. The student has difficulty carrying out an independent research project using AQM
without substantial guidance. The student is disengaged from class discussion and demonstrates
a very low level of understanding of core principles of AQM.

Fx= This grade is earned when the student cannot complete the work assigned for the course.
The student cannot apply a specific AQM to a particular research problem in a coherent way.
The student cannot explain the advantages and limitations of the particular method selected
without inaccuracies. The student cannot accurately compare and contrast varying qualitative
approaches to research design and cannot sufficiently critically evaluate them. The student
cannot carry out an independent research project using AQM without substantial guidance. The
student is disengaged from class discussion and demonstrates a very low level of understanding
of core principles of AQM.

F= This grade is earned when the student cannot complete the work assigned for the course.
The student cannot apply a specific AQM to a particular research problem in a coherent way.
The student cannot explain the advantages and limitations of the particular method selected
without inaccuracies. The student cannot accurately compare and contrast varying qualitative
approaches to research design and cannot sufficiently critically evaluate them. The student
cannot carry out an independent research project using AQM without substantial guidance. The
student has not attended at least half of the class meetings.

Note: E grade is needed to pass the course. Fx indicates that the student is offered the
opportunity to upgrade his/her course work as long as the course is provided in order to achieve
at least E grade. A student with E grade is not entitled to redo course work to raise his/her
grade. Students who receive Fx or F on course work twice from the same instructor can request
to be evaluated by another instructor. Such a request should be sent to the Director of Studies.
Students can request to have course work according to this syllabus up to three semesters after
it ceases to be valid. Such a request should be sent to the Director of Studies.
9. Schedule of class meetings

We will be following the course “live” following the times outlined in the Schema via Zoom.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>30 Aug</td>
<td>9-11</td>
<td>Principles, Research Design &amp; Ethics</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>1 Sept</td>
<td>9-11</td>
<td>Ethnography: Institutional approaches to race and racism</td>
<td>Andrea Voyer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>3 Sept</td>
<td>9-12</td>
<td>Interviews and What Can they tell us: Workshop</td>
<td>Mikaela Sundberg</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>6 Sept</td>
<td>9-11</td>
<td>Interviewing: Life Histories</td>
<td>Anna Lund</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>9 Sept</td>
<td>9-11</td>
<td>Digital methods</td>
<td>Serena Coppolino Perfumi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>14 Sept</td>
<td>9-11</td>
<td>Case Studies &amp; Social Autopsy: Heat Wave</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>16 Sept</td>
<td>9-11</td>
<td>Global methods</td>
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<td>Object biography</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>20 Sept</td>
<td>9-11</td>
<td>Comparative Historical:</td>
<td>Daniel Ritter</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>23 Sept</td>
<td>9-11</td>
<td>Data Analysis</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>12 Oct</td>
<td>KI 12</td>
<td>Drafts Due online</td>
<td>Athena</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>14 Oct</td>
<td>9-11</td>
<td>Peer Workshop</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>22 Oct</td>
<td>9-12</td>
<td>Presentations &amp; Final Papers Due</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Required Literature:**
SAGE.
Articles and Chapters listed on Course plan and posted on Athena
10. **Topics and Reading assignments**

**Principles of Qualitative Method**  
Creswell, J. Chapters 1-2 in *Qualitative Inquiry*  

**Research Design**  
Creswell, Chapters 3-5  

**Ethnography**  
Creswell pages 90-97;  
Creswell, Appendix E  

Ethnography: Institutional approaches to race and racism  

**Reading**  


Voyer, A. (2019) ‘If the students don’t come, or if they don’t finish, we don’t get the money.’ Principals, immigration, and the organisational logic of school choice in Sweden, *Ethnography and Education*, 14:4, 448-464, DOI: 10.1080/17457823.2018.1445540  

**Interviews and What Can they tell us Workshop**  


Creswell, pages 70-88  
Creswell, Appendices B, C, D  
Creswell, Chapter 6-7
Interviewing: Life Histories

Digital Methods


Resource on Doing Fieldwork during a Pandemic

Recommended:
Hine, Ethnography for the Internet

Case Studies & Social Autopsy
Flyvberg, B “Chapter 17: Case Study”

Gerring John. 2007. “What is a Case Study and What is it Good for?” Creswell, pp. 97-110
Barker, V (2018) Appendix, Nordic Nationalism and Penal Order: Walling the Welfare State (available as ebook at SU)

Recommended:
Gerring, John. 2007. Case Study Research
Goertz and Mahoney (2012) A Tale of Two Cultures: Qualitative and Quantitative Research in the Social Sciences

Global & decolonizing Methods
Darian-Smith and Smith (2017) Global methods. Selections
Indigenous Methodology, selections
On decolonizing digital methods
Selections from Algorithms of Oppression by Safiya Noble
Comparative & Historical Analysis


Recommended:


Data Analysis
Creswell, Chapters 8-10
Chapter 10 on Validation and Evaluation

Peer Workshop
Creswell, Chapter 11
Why do Peer Review (on Athena)