INTL-300-01 – Comparative/Qualitative Methodology in Social Sciences

- **Term:** Fall 2016
- **Hours:** Monday, 12-12:50
- **Class held at:** BellSouth Building 414
- **Office:** Education Center, Room 206A
- **Office Hours:** Monday 1.30pm-2.30pm or by appointment via email.

**Contact:** demirdasa@cofc.edu (The best way to communicate with me is e-mail! Indicate your class (INT 100) in the subject line.)

**How to succeed in this course?**

- Consistently attend class.
- Keep up with the readings.
- **Engage actively in discussions** by sharing your doubts, questions, and comments in every meeting.
- If something is not clear, do not hesitate to ask a question.
- Clarify expectations with the instructor.

**Important points regarding the course:**

- Additional readings will be available on the class web page on OAKS. Other readings may be assigned, and handouts and supplements may be distributed later in the semester.
- This syllabus, including the lecture schedule, readings, and assigned work and exams, is subject to change as necessary. Changes will be announced by email and on the course website on OAKS. It is the responsibility of each student to keep up with all readings and assignments.
- Attendance is mandatory! Undocumented absences will result in 2 point deduction from your year-end grade.
Your grade will be based on the following criteria: (Please read carefully)

✓ **Participation (20%)**

Regular attendance and participation in class is very important and **required.** You will be graded according to your **participation** in class discussions. Therefore, it is strongly advised that you come to class well prepared and contribute to the discussion. **A sign-in sheet will be given to you at the beginning of every class to keep record of your attendance. Undocumented absences will result in deduction from your FINAL GRADE. (1 day = 2 points)**

✓ **Midterm Exam (30%)**

There will be a cumulative mid-term exam on.

✓ **Research Paper (50%)**

You will write 8-10 page long qualitative research paper in which you will demonstrate the knowledge you will have acquired in this course. You are to pick a research question and conduct research about it using such qualitative methods as interview, observation, survey, and document analysis.

The paper will contain the following section: 1-) One page abstract, where you clearly state the research question and briefly summarize your findings and overall paper. 2-) The literature review, where you go over the previously conducted related research and what the others (literature) say about your question. 3-) Your actual research. 4-) Finally you will have a conclusion section where you discuss about your findings and state YOUR OWN thoughts about it.

Proper citation is a must. You can cite in the text or using footnotes. Plagiarism is not accepted and may result in the complete rejection of your paper.

**Disability Services**

The College will make reasonable accommodations for persons with documented disabilities. Students should apply at the Center for Disability Services / SNAP, located on the first floor of the Lightsey Center, Suite 104. Students approved for accommodations are responsibility for notifying me as soon as possible and for contacting me one week before accommodation is needed.
Final grades will be calculated using the following table:

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Content of Class

- **Week-1**  The Goals of Social Research
- **Week-2**  What is qualitative research?
- **Week-3**  What is quantitative research?
- **Week-4**  Types of qualitative research.
- **Week-5**  Qualitative case study research.
- **Week-6**  Designing your study and selecting sample.
- **Week-7**  Conducting effective interviews.
- **Week-8**  Being a careful observer.
- **Week-9**  Document analysis.
- **Week-10** Qualitative data analysis
- **Week-11** Validity, Reliability and Ethics
- **Week-12** Writing qualitative research reports.
- **Week-13** Comparative study
- **Week-14** Comparative politics