INTL-300-00 – Comparative/Qualitative Methodology in Social Sciences

Professor Ali Demirdas

Office Hours: Tu-Thr 11:00m-12:00am (or by appointment)

Class: T-12:15 pm - 1:00pm

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➢ 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!
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.
Final grades will be calculated using the following table:

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(The content may be subject to modification!)

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