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

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[It is imperative that you check your emails more often than usual to keep up with them.]

➢ How to succeed in this course:

• Keep up with the readings and watch assigned videos.

• Engage actively in discussions by sharing your questions and comments.

• If something is not clear, do not hesitate to ask a question.

• Clarify expectations with the instructor via email.

❖ Important points regarding the course:

• Readings and videos will be assigned, and additional supplements may be distributed throughout the semester.

• This syllabus, readings, and assigned work and exams are 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.

• All quizzes and exams will be administered online via Blackboard.


Your grade will be based on the following criteria: (Please read carefully)

✓ Participation (10%)  
You will be graded according to your participation in class discussions. Each week a discussion chain will be started to keep record of your participation. Therefore, it is strongly advised that you prepared well and contribute to the discussion. Absences from discussion will result in deduction from your FINAL GRADE. (1 discussion=2 points)

✓ Weekly Quizzes (10%)  
Each week you may be given a time sensitive quiz that covers the material and the chapter of that week.

✓ Midterm Exam (30 %)  
There will be a cumulative mid-term exam online in Blackboard. It will be a timed-test and will vary with each student.

✓ 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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Minimum</th>
<th>Maximum</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>93-100</td>
<td>A-: 90-92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>87-89</td>
<td>B: 83-86</td>
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<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>77-79</td>
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<td>D: 63-66</td>
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<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>&lt;60</td>
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</tbody>
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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