SC510 Approaches to Mixed Methods Research

Wednesdays 3:00PM-5:30 PM
McGuinn 415
Sharlene Hesse-Biber
hesse@bc.edu
Office:
McGuinn 419
Office Hours: Tuesday/Thursday 3:30 to 4:30 and by appointment

COURSE OVERVIEW

The goals of this course are multiple:
1. To introduce you to different mixed methods research approaches.
2. To analyze the underlying epistemological and paradigmatic implications of specific mixed method designs.
3. To assist you with designing your own mixed methods research project and/or reviewing and critiquing a specific research area that uses a mixed methods approach.
4. Peer reviewing of work. You will learn how to give constructive feedback to your peers in terms of constructively critiquing their work.

This is a graduate-level seminar and that means that on several given weeks, you will be asked to lead class discussion of the readings. You will be expected to present a critical overview of and provide commentary on the week’s readings and, with the class, examine and critique the readings.

Students enrolling in this course should have taken at least ONE undergraduate and/or graduate research methods course.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS & COURSE GRADING.

1. Attendance is REQUIRED. You will be deducted 2 points for each class missed.

2. Classroom Participation means engaging specifically with the week’s readings. Please bring articles/chapters to each class.

3. SIX (6) Reading Response Papers
   You are expected to hand in a written response (2 page maximum, typed, single-spaced) to the weekly readings for SIX out of the fourteen weeks in which readings are assigned. Your paper is due at the beginning of the class of your chosen week. You should provide a critical analysis of the week’s readings. I don’t expect summaries, but your reflections on a particular issue/point that is presented in the readings.

4. Final Paper: A final paper will be due at the end of the class. The length should be 15-20 pages (double–spaced, not including tables, figures and references). The paper should be one of the following:
   a. A research proposal that employs a mixed methods design. This may be a project you would like to work on or a future topic of interest to you.
   b. A review of the (emerging) use of mixed methods in a particular discipline or one that is inter-disciplinary.
   c. An alternative to options (a) and (b) that is selected in consultation with me.
   d. Select a “research buddy” to work with by the end of the Second Class meeting.

1 Part of this syllabus was adapted from Kai A. Schafft’s, Spring 2007 Mixed Methods course syllabus from Penn State University.
One-page paper proposals: Brief Introduction/Research Question clearly stated/ along with a short
literature review, will be due in class on **OCTOBER 10th**.

You will be asked to select a research buddy with whom you will discuss your proposal during the
course of the semester. Try to do this the second week of class if possible. If you would like me to
assign you a buddy, please let me know. I am also open to folks wanting to form larger research
buddy groups as well, depending on your particular interests.

You are expected to make a brief presentation your paper at the end of the semester.

**Final papers in their written form will be due and handed in at the beginning of class on
Wednesday December 5th. Papers should follow the APA template (I will give this handout in
class).**

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**GRADING**

My assumption is that EVERYONE will succeed in this class. However, I will use the following
breakdown to determine final grades.

Class Participation: 10% (10 POINTS) Class participation is based on your informed discussion of the
readings. That means that you must bring the readings to class and be prepared to engage in an
analytical discussion regarding the week’s readings.

Weekly Response Papers (6 total): 45% (45 POINTS)

Final Presentation 5% (5 POINTS)

Final Paper: 40% (40 POINTS)

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**REQUIRED READINGS**

There are two (2) required books
PLUS, WEEKLY journal Articles (listed for each week and are due that week and they are available
on Blackboard)

  Oaks, Sage Publications

  York: Guilford Publications.

Highly Recommended:
  Behavioral Research*. SAGE Publications.

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**ADDITIONAL RESOURCES**

- [http://www.npi.ucla.edu/qualquant/](http://www.npi.ucla.edu/qualquant/) This site provides an annotated bibliography of a variety of mixed methods research approaches as well as some applications of mixed methods designs.)

- [http://obssr.od.nih.gov/Documents/Publications/Qualitative.PDF](http://obssr.od.nih.gov/Documents/Publications/Qualitative.PDF) (Provides tips on writing your proposal with a special segment on mixed methods research)
PART I. Paradigm Wars and the Advent of Age of Mixed Methods Research

WEEK ONE: September 5th. Welcome and Course Introduction and Overview: What are Mixed Methods? Why is mixed methods important?

Noel Gough “Blank spots, blind spots and methodological questions in graduate research”
Guba and Lincoln, “Competing Paradigms in Qualitative Research: Theories and Issues.” (available on Blackboard).

WEEK TWO: September 12th. Philosophical Issues in Mixing Methods: “The Paradigm Wars” / The End of the “Paradigm Wars?” What’s Next?


Creswell, J.W., & Plano Clark, V.L. (2007). Designing and conducting mixed methods research. Thousand Oaks: Sage. [Chapter 1: Understanding mixed methods research (pp. 1-19); Chapter 2, Examining preliminary considerations (pp. 20-37)]


SELECT A “ RESEARCH BUDDY”( WHO WILL WORK WITH YOU AS YOU BOTH DEVELOP YOUR RESEARCH IDEAS, ETC.)

WEEK THREE: September 19th The importance of centering the research question. Mixed Methods sampling. The Political & Ethical Implications of Mixed Method Inquiry

PART II. Mixed Methods Research Designs

WEEK FOUR: September 26th. Classifying Mixed Method Design Types and the continued prominence of Triangulation Designs


READ: Examples of Triangulation Mixed Methods Designs: (Select TWO of the following:)


WEEK FIVE: October 3rd. General Qualitative Approaches to Mixed Methods Design and the Embedded Mixed Methods Design

General Qualitative Approaches and mixed Methods Designs : Hesse-Biber, Chapter 3. A Qualitative Approach to Mixed Methods Design, Analysis, Interpretation, Writing Up, and Validity


Example of Embedded Mixed Methods Design:


REMEMBER YOUR RESEARCH SHORT PROPOSAL-INTRO/RESEARCH QUESTION/SHORT LITERATURE REVIEW DRAFT IS DUE NEXT WEEK, OCTOBER 10th.

WEEK SIX: October 10th. The Explanatory and Exploratory Mixed Methods Designs


Examples of Explanatory Designs:


Example of an Exploratory Design

Karen Kroman Myers and John G. Oetzel “Exploring the Dimensions of Organizational Assimilation.” [Note: This section appears in Creswell & Plano Clark (2007), pp 239-256]

PART IV. Collecting, Analyzing, Interpreting and Writing up Mixed Methods Research.

WEEK SEVEN: October 17th. Data Collection, Sampling, and validity in Mixed Methods

Hesse-Biber, Chapter 3 (concentrate on data collection, sampling, literature and validity sections)

Edith de Leeuw and Joop Hox 2007. “Mixing Data Collection Methods: Lessons form social Survey Research in Max Bergmann Book


**WEEK EIGHT: October 24th. Analysis and Interpretation of Mixed Methods Data**


**WEEK NINE: October 31st. Writing Up Mixed Methods Research**

Hesse-Biber, Chapter 3 (concentrate on writing up section).


Suggested for further reading:

WEEK TEN: November 7th. Putting it all together: Designing your Research Proposal

Hesse-Biber, S. Chapter 7. Entire chapter.


Skim ONE of the following Resources:

PART IV. Specific Mixed Methods Approaches

WEEK ELEVEN: November 14th. Mixed Methods Transformative- Emancipatory Perspectives


WEEK TWELVE: November 21st. Thanksgiving Day Week. NO CLASS

NEED TO WORK ON YOUR PROPOSAL OVER THE BREAK

WEEK THIRTEEN: November 28th. Mixed Methods Interpretative Perspectives

Hesse-Biber, Biber, Chapter 4 Entire Chapter


WEEK FOURTEEN: December 5th. Mixed Methods Feminist Perspectives

Hesse-Biber, Chapter 5. Entire Chapter


WEEK FIFTEEN: December 12th. Final Paper Presentations & Course Wrap-Up

ABSTRACTS ARE DUE ON MONDAY DECEMBER 10TH. EMAIL ABSTRACT (NO MORE THAN 250 WORDS ALONG WITH TITLE AND YOUR NAME AND SEND FILE TO ME (INCLUDE LAST NAME ON FILE)

FINAL PAPERS ARE DUE ON WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 12TH.