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. You are responsible for leading a course seminar two times this semester. A sign up sheet will be available to record you specific weeks.

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.
**Note:** The written responses are due at the beginning of the class meeting in which the readings are discussed. I will give these back to you the following week with my comments.

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.
Final Paper Dates

February 23 One-page statement of your research problem for your proposal and/or a statement about what your paper will be about if not a proposal.

Working bibliography due as well.

In-class: Discuss proposals and receive reactions/feedback and suggestions.
Note: At that time I would also require for authors working collaboratively that they include a on how their individual efforts are to be evaluated.

April 30th - Paper Abstracts due

May 7th -- Student presentations of final papers.
Note: Student presentations will be modeled around the presentation format typically used at professional meetings. Student will be responsible for making a brief presentation of their papers. We will discuss these assignments in greater depth later in the semester.

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.

GRADING

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

Class Participation & TWO (2) Discussion Leading Sessions: 20% (20 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. You will be responsible for leading (2) class seminars. Discussion leaders must prepare a handout to give to the class that pertains to that weeks’ readings.

Weekly Response Papers (6 total): 40% (45 POINTS)
Final Presentation 5% (5 POINTS)
Final Paper: 35% (40 POINTS)

Required Texts/Readings


University Press (published end of February, 2015. I will provide these articles to the class for free.

4. **Note:** All other required course readings are available on Canvas.

**ADDITIONAL RESOURCES** (Let me know if these links don’t work)

- [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)


- [http://mmr.sagepub.com/](http://mmr.sagepub.com/) (The leading mixed methods journal. *Journal of Mixed Methods Research*. I am an associate editor for this journal and I am hoping you will submit your future mixed methods articles to this journal!

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**COURSE SCHEDULE and READINGS**

Note: I reserve the right to tweak the syllabus as per the interests of the class and the general direction things are going given all of your diverse interests.

**PART I. Paradigm Wars and the Advent of Age of Mixed Methods Research : The Link between Theory and Method/ Methodology versus Method.**

**WEEK ONE: January 15th. Welcome and Course Introduction and Overview: What is Mixed Methods Research? Why is mixed methods important?**

Guba and Lincoln, “Competing Paradigms in Qualitative Research: Theories and Issues.”

Noel Gough, “Blank spots, blind spots and methodological questions in graduate research”


*Seminar Focus: Discuss the specific paradigm/s that guide your research. How do you go about doing research? What are the types of methods you are drawn to in your own research endeavors? For this week, I would like you to think about how you do or do not resolve any perceived*
paradigmatic incompatibilities in methods use as you cross different methods divide (if at all). What methodological perspectives guide your current research endeavors?

WEEK TWO: January 22nd. Introduction to the Mixed Methods/Philosophical Issues in Mixing Methods: “The Paradigm Wars” / The End of the “Paradigm Wars?” What’s Next?


Empirical Article: Integrating data collection methods (qualitative and quantitative).

Rank, The blending of qualitative and quantitative methods in understanding childbearing among welfare recipients.

Focus: Think about your area of research. How might mixed methods be beneficial? Find one article relating to your area of research that uses mixed methods. Briefly summarize the article. What paradigmatic approach was used? What type of design? What did the researcher gain by using a mixed methods approach? Be prepared to discuss your article.

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

WEEK THREE: January 29th. The importance of centering the research question & Mixed Methods Sampling.


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


Focus: What is the link between theory and method? Why is mixed methods sometimes talked about as “methods-centric.” Why is it important to maintain the link between theory and methods especially within a mixed methods research design? Be specific. Some have suggested that pragmatism allows the researcher to forget about following a specific theory/methods link. Do you agree?
WEEK FOUR: February 5th. Literature Reviews; The Political & Ethical Implications of Mixed Method Inquiry


Focus: How does a mixed methods literature review differ from a qualitative or quantitative literature review? What are the specific issues you think you will face in writing up a mixed methods literature review for a mixed methods project?

PART II. Mixed Methods Research Approaches

WEEK FIVE: February 12th. Quantitatively-Driven Mixed Methods Research—Questions/Design Types and the continued prominence of Triangulation


Select two (2) of the Following Articles to read:


Everyone Please Read One of the Following Articles on Mixed Methods and Randomized Control Trials

Sarah J. Drabble and Alicia O’Cathain (2015). Moving from Randomised Controlled Trials
Focus: What is a quantitatively-driven mixed methods approach? What types of questions lend themselves to such an approach? What designs? What is triangulation and how is it used in Mixed Methods Research? Thinking about your own disciplinary standpoint, what types of contradictory findings emerge in your discipline. How do researchers handle/not handle these contradictions? How can triangulation deal with contradictory evidence?


Select 3 of the following Empirical Articles:


Focus: What is a qualitatively-driven mixed methods approach? What types of questions lend themselves to such an approach? What designs?

PART III. Analytical Considerations, Methodological Concerns, and Practical Applications in Mixed Methods Research


SPRING VACATION

WEEK EIGHT: February March 12th.  Data Analysis and Interpretation in Mixed Methods Part II.


Empirical Examples of Doing Integration


Focus: How can mixed methods analysis cross paradigmatic divides? Can this be done? Why or why not?

WEEK NINE: March 19th. Writing Up Mixed Methods Research


Focus: What are the unique issues researchers face when they begin to write up their mixed methods project?

PART IV. Specific Theoretical Approaches linked to Mixed Methods and the Disciplines

WEEK TEN: March 26th Mixed Methods Transformative- Emancipatory Perspectives


*Focus:* What is a transformative/emancipatory perspective? What types of questions arise from such a perspective. What type of mixed methods questions and designs emanate from this type of perspective?

**WEEK 11: APRIL 9th. Mixed Methods Interpretative Perspectives**


*Focus:* What is an interpretive perspective? What types of questions and designs lend themselves to a mixed methods interpretative perspective?

**WEEK TWELVE: April 16th. Mixed Methods Feminist Perspectives**

Hesse-Biber, Chapter 5. Entire Chapter


*Focus: What is a feminist perspective? What types of questions lend themselves to a Feminist Perspective? What types of designs?*

**WEEK 13 --April 23rd APPLICATIONS OF MIXED METHODS ACROSS THE DISCIPLINES: SOME EXAMPLES & FUTURE DIRECTIONS IN MIXED METHODS RESEARCH**

Select 3 mixed methods research articles to read from 3 different disciplines below:


*Bring a mixed methods article to share from you discipline with the class.*

**WEEK 14: APRIL 30TH. New directions in Mixed Methods Research**


*Focus: What is the distinction between methodology and method? Why is mixed methods sometimes mixed up methods? Should researchers aim to follow NIH Guidelines for Mixed Methods Research? What are the pros/cons of doing so?*

**Paper Abstracts are due today, April 30th.**

**WEEK FIFTEEN: May 7th. Final Paper Presentations Today! & Course Wrap-Up**

**FINAL PAPERS ARE DUE ON Thursday, May 7th, 2015**