

## Qualitative Methods POL 4931/6931

Professor Anderson  
Anderson 332  
Office hours: Tuesdays 10:30-12 Thursdays 8-9:30

Meeting time: Tues 2-3 or 8:30  
-10:25 and Thurs 3 or 9:30-10:25  
Location: Matherly 0004

### Purpose of the Course

This is an undergraduate seminar in qualitative research methods. We will learn to use three methods of collecting data: in-depth interviews, participant observation and focus groups. The reading (7 books in all) is a combination of works on the research methods themselves and other books that exemplify the use of these methods. For those interested in Latin America, the course will help prepare you for doing field research there. For those doing graduate work, you can register for the course as a graduate seminar and do additional work.

### Requirements

You are expected to do all of the required reading and attend class. You will also do two research assignments, one solo and one in a group. Your group research assignment will be a focus group.

### Grading:

60% of your grade is based upon your research assignments, upon class attendance, and upon participation. You will have only one exam, a final exam, which is worth 40% of your grade.

### books

These books are available for purchase at local book stores and are on reserve at the main library.

Flick, Uwe, *An Introduction to Qualitative Research*

Rubin, Herbert and Rubin, Irene, *Qualitative Interviewing: The Art of Hearing Data* 3rd edition

Gerring, John, *Case Study Research: Principles and Practices*

Monroe, Kristen, *The Hand of Compassion*

Anderson, Leslie, *The Political Ecology of the Modern Peasant*

Press, Andrea and Cole, Elizabeth, *Speaking of Abortion*

Tsing, Anna, *In the Realm of the Diamond Queen*

### Class date

January 10

### Reading

first class: pass out syllabus

### Part I: In-depth Interviews

January 12, 17

Flick, Chaps 1, 8, 9, 11

January 19, 24

Monroe, entire book

January 26, 31

Rubin and Rubin, Chaps 1, 2, 3

February 2

Rubin and Rubin, Chaps 4 and 5

February 7-9

Anderson, entire book

**Part II: Participant Observation**

February 14                      Rubin and Rubin, Chap 8; Flick, Chap 12, 13  
February 16, 22                Tsing, entire book

**Part III: Focus Groups**

February 23                      Flick, Chap 10  
February 28, March 1        Press and Cole, entire book  
March 6-8                        Spring Break  
March 13-15                      Focus group project  
March 20-22                      Focus group project  
March 27-29                      present focus group project

**Part IV: Individual Projects**

April 3-5                         Individual project discussion  
April 10-12                      Present individual projects

**Part II: Assessing Qualitative Research**

April 17-19                      Gerring, Chaps 1, 2, 7; Flick Chaps 20 and 22  
**April 24                         Final exam**