NURS 6333: Qualitative Research Designs and Methods
Syllabus – Summer 2019

*I embrace honor and integrity. Therefore, I choose not to lie, cheat, or steal, nor to accept the actions of those who do.
(The UT Tyler Honor Code)

Welcome!

We are so excited that you will be exploring the wonders of qualitative research with us this semester! This course has been designed to provide you as a Ph.D. nursing candidate with the information and skills that are most often required for understanding and subsequently engaging in qualitative research. We have some exciting learning activities for you and hope that you enjoy this course!

This is a very interactive course with multiple and various types of activities to facilitate learning within a supportive and engaging environment. Our intent is for you to learn and have as much fun as possible!

As you will see, the course is organized into modules that comprise a small number of weeks. The first 4 modules/weeks provide an overview and foundational philosophies of qualitative research. We also review some broad concepts of sampling, data collection, ethics and data analysis. The next 3 modules/weeks that follow get into the “meat” of the matter with specific qualitative designs. We will cover six major designs this semester: phenomenology, ethnography, participatory action research, case studies, grounded theory and metasynthesis. The last 2 weeks “wrap up” the semester with your mini-proposal that we will work on throughout the semester, and The Great Debate!

Recorded Zoom sessions will also be used to discuss relevant content, e.g., course orientation, ethics, data analysis, etc. Again, because this is an asynchronous course, you are not required to participate, but you are required to view the recordings and be responsible for content discussed.
Group/team work will comprise a small part of this course, and in recognizing the challenges this type of work sometimes creates, we have some strategies that may help, and we’ll discuss these in the introductory Zoom sessions at the beginning of the semester.

We know how busy all of you are, and recognize how difficult it can be to balance this course with an already busy home and work life. Though a lot of time is required in this course, we hope you will find it fun and interesting! Because there is so much involved in this course, please never hesitate to contact us for any questions!

COURSE FACULTY

Gloria Duke, PhD, RN
Professor and Associate Dean, Office of Research
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gduke@uttyler.edu (preferred contact)
Phone: 903-566-7023 (office); 903-360-6412 (cell)
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COURSE TITLE  NURS 6333: Qualitative Research Designs and Methods

Advanced qualitative research that integrates classical and developing philosophical traditions, methodology, design, analysis, and interpretation is studied.

COURSE PREREQUISITES  NURS 6310 Philosophy of Science

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

- Distinguish the central philosophical and methodological tenets of qualitative research.
- Compare and contrast common methods of qualitative research and related key issues.
- Critically analyze qualitative research.
- Develop a qualitative proposal to study a substantive transcultural health problem.

COURSE OUTLINE

Overview and Philosophical Issues of Qualitative Research

1. Overview, philosophical and historical issues of qualitative research
2. Proposal development; sampling, ethics
3. Data collection
4. Data analysis

Qualitative Designs

5. Ethnography; participatory action research
6. Phenomenology and qualitative research rigor
7. Case studies, grounded theory and metasynthesis

Wrap-Up: The Mini-Proposal and The Great Debate

Course Calendar/Schedule

The course calendar and schedule may be viewed by accessing the documents located in the Getting Started module.

You most likely know by now that the key to successful completion of this online course, or any online course, is organization and time management.

Before you do anything, review carefully the Course Calendar, and then mark due dates for everything, and then mark out planning times in your calendar to work on those assignments and projects.
This is not a self-paced course. If you anticipate having difficulty submitting an assignment on time, contact your faculty member before the assignment or discussion is due. Late assignments will lose 5% of the grade for each day unless prior arrangements have been made with faculty before the assignment is due.

Textbook Information, Other Readings and Materials

Required:


   **NOTE:** This book is also available as an e-book to rent through Coursesmart.com


Grading Information

Reading Assignments

- You will find that modules have reading assignments that are required and some are recommended. It’s important to focus on the required readings. The recommended ones are only there as an additional reference if needed, or for your own specific interest.
- Each participant is responsible for completing the reading assignments in a timely manner.
- Discussion and written assignments are made with the assumption that required reading assignments are completed prior to live Zoom sessions and/or completing discussion and written assignments on Canvas.

Written Assignments

- Written assignments are expected to be written at the level of a scholarly doctoral student. If you know you have difficulty with writing professional papers that reflect logical flow, correct spelling, grammar and punctuation, and appropriate APA 6th Ed. formatting, you may want to solicit extra assistance with this prior to submitting written assignments.
- All written assignments and projects are to be completed in Microsoft Word and submitted on time. Deadlines are listed in the Course Calendar.
- All assignments must be submitted by 11:59pm Central Standard Time on the due date.
• All written assignments are to be submitted through the assignment links provided in the respective weeks. If your internet connection is down for some reason, assignments may be faxed to (903) 565-5533. Please note that if your assignment is faxed, turnaround time for grading may be slightly longer.

Plagiarism is a serious academic offense. Please avoid the consequences of academic dishonesty by citing all sources that you use in your work. We will cover this content in the Orientation Zoom session at some point the first two weeks.

Late assignments will receive 5% grade deduction for each day that the assignment is late. If unavoidable situations occur, e.g., work or family emergencies or illness that prevents timely submission of assignments, be sure to contact faculty before the assignment is due. It is an expectation that these types of occurrences will be very rare.

Completion Time/Expectations

You should expect to spend as much time on an online course as you do in a face-to-face course. As a rough guide, you should plan to spend about 8-10 hours per week on this course. The actual amount of time will vary from individual to individual. Some students have had more experience with qualitative research than others. This estimate includes the time you spend in reading, discussions, and assignments.

Grades and Grading

You will have access to all course materials from the start of the course to the end. You may look and study ahead, or go back and review, at any time during the course.

Due dates are as of 11:59 Central Standard Time on that date. Discussion boards will terminate on the week following the assignment due date as shown in the Modules area. Extensions to assignment deadlines can be negotiated with the group faculty member but need to be negotiated in advance; retrospective extensions will not be awarded.

There is a five percent deduction in your grade for each day of late submission.

The work you will perform for this course is weighted as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Discussion Board Postings/ Responses</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proposal Topic Research Question</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
1. Discussion board postings and/or Zoom live conferencing

These postings help to enrich your understanding of the topic being discussed, and also help you as peers to obtain opinions and perspectives from each other. Refer to Discussion Board Grading Criteria for a thorough discussion of how to successfully complete these assignments.

We will also have a variety of live Zoom sessions over the summer that will help you better understand course content, and offer opportunities for faculty-student and student-student interactions. These sessions are not required to attend but recordings are required to be viewed.

2. Proposal topic research question

This is done by the 2nd week of class and involves you selecting a topic of great importance to you, and developing a research question and proposed qualitative research design to use for answering that question. These will be approved as a basis for your mini-proposal.

3. Data collection and analysis

This activity introduces you to how important observation is and how important it is to truly “listen” in different ways during an interview while keeping your feelings and emotions in check.

The data analysis activity introduces you to coding and analysis of textual and field notes data. This project demonstrates the extensive time and complexities involved with qualitative data analysis.

4. Qualitative mini-proposal

This project helps to synthesize much of the material introduced to you this semester into a specific design that is best to answer the research question of your choice. This project may even get you started on your dissertation proposal.
5. Phenomenology: The Great Debate

This will be the only required live Zoom project this semester, and involves teams into which you can self-select to debate another team regarding descriptive vs interpretive phenomenology. Teams will establish their mutually agreed upon own date and time from a range of dates toward the end of the semester.

Specific guidelines and grading criteria are located in the respective modules and the Graded Assignments folder. Links to upload assignments to the Grade Center are located in the weekly assignment page the week the assignment is due. Final grades for the course will be determined based upon the following point assignments. No rounding of grades will be done. An end of the semester final grade must be 80% or above to pass the course.

A - 90-100
B - 80-89
C - 70-79
D - 60-69
F - Below 60

Reading Assignments

- Assigned readings in doctoral education are the beginning, not the endpoint. These readings will point you in the direction of continued reading and pondering of your scholarly thoughts. Each participant is responsible for completing the reading assignments in a timely manner. Deadlines are listed in the Course Schedule.
- Discussion and written assignments are made with the assumption that required reading assignments are completed prior to completion of discussion and written assignments.

Written Assignments

- All written assignments are to be completed in Microsoft Word and submitted in a timely manner. Deadlines are listed in the Course Calendar.
- All assignments should be submitted through the assignment links. If your internet connection is down for some reason, please contact your faculty member by phone to make arrangements to get the assignment submitted within the posted time constraints
- Plagiarism is a serious academic offense. Please avoid the consequences of academic dishonesty by properly citing all sources that you use in your work.

TurnItIn
TurnItIn is a feature provided by Canvas that is designed to detect plagiarism or non-original student work. Your instructor may set up this feature so that when you submit papers, they are automatically sent through TurnItIn. The program checks your work against a comprehensive database of source material including previous students’ work and other papers and materials found on the web. An originality report will be generated that indicates the percentage of non-original material (text that matches existing sources) found in your paper. The purpose of using TurnItIn in your course is to ensure you are writing original papers and to encourage you and all students to properly attribute all sources used.

**Assignment Turn-In Process**

All assignments and projects will be submitted through the assignments link of Canvas. Use the following process to prepare and submit assignments:

- prepare your assignment using Microsoft Word. Name your assignment with the following convention: last name first initial, assignment title (ex. DukeG Data Collection)
- follow link to the Grade Center found on the weekly assignment page the week the assignment is due
- within the Grade Center, click on "View/Complete Assignment" in the assignments overview area or project area
- Number 1-shows the assignment instructions
- Number 2-is where you add your comments and attach your completed assignment
- Number 3-when all attached files (your completed assignment files) are uploaded, click submit

Faculty will return your assignment through the Student Grade Center area. To see comments about your assignment, click on your grade. If you use an alternative to written assignments, the work will be viewed and graded using the Criteria sheet which will be returned through the Student Grade Center area of Canvas.

If you need more instructions on how to submit files through the assignment link, please read the Canvas Student Manual located in the Tools area.

**Email**

To communicate by email within the course with other participants or all participants, click the Tools link on the left side of the Canvas frame. Click Send E-mail to send a message. You are able to send messages to All Users or Select Users in the course, including the instructor. If you need more instructions on how to send email messages with Canvas please read the student manual located in the Resources area of the course.

The course email for Dr. Gloria Duke is gduke@uttyler.edu
The course email for Dr. Barbara McAlister is bmcalister@uttyler.edu.

Questions or problems other than technical problems (see Technical Requirements in this Syllabus) may be submitted to the email address above.

We will make every effort to respond quickly to your emails. Generally speaking, we check email twice a day during the workweek. Do not expect responses on the weekend. Occasionally, we will be traveling, and it might take up to 48 hours to respond. If our schedule makes us unavailable to answer emails for an extended period, we will post an announcement so that you can plan accordingly. One caveat: technical problems in email systems may slow down responses! We are committed to communicate with you in a timely manner, so if there are any problems, we will work to solve them.

It is essential that you check your Canvas emails and announcements daily. Having notifications turned on when you receive Canvas communications of any kind is very helpful.

Digital Library Resources

Students enrolled in this course have online access to the UT Tyler Robert R. Muntz Library. Follow this link, and then complete the instructions at those sites for accessing information from a distant site. Many of the database subscriptions funded by student fees give you access to full text journals that you will need for your review of the literature in each course. If a particular journal is not available, the library staff will procure the article for you using the Iliad feature. Please take the time to update your account and get familiar with the resources available.

Course Evaluation

UT Tyler may ask you to complete a voluntary evaluation to help make improvements and adjustments in their overall online learning forums. The university evaluation will include questions specific for this course and will be made available for you to complete in the last week of instruction. Your comments and recommendations will be considered seriously as the course is updated. Your input throughout the semester contributes to my commitment to improve continually the quality and relevance of this course.

Roles and Responsibilities

Students will read assigned materials, engage in online dialogue, and ponder the implications of the choices made by researchers as studies are designed. Products of this course will be
evidence of proficiency demonstrations (critiques, assignments, poster, presentation) and
documentation of dialogue.

**Navigation**

In order to effectively participate in online learning, it is imperative that you understand how
your course is arranged and how to access and contribute information. If you have a question
regarding the navigation within this course, please refer to the Canvas user manual available
under the Tools area.

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**College of Nursing & Health Sciences Withdrawal Policy**

Given the rapid growth of our Graduate Nursing program in recent years, we have reviewed our
official withdrawal policy in relation to course offerings and seat availability. To better assist in
student advising, predict class enrollment numbers, and ensure that each of you graduate
within program year requirements, the long-standing policy related to course withdrawals will
be enforced. The policy states that “two or more semesters of at least one withdrawal per
semester will result in the student being required to submit a Petition for Progression within 10
business days after the official drop date”.

Please note that this policy only applies to official withdrawals that are reflected on your
transcript. Any drops made prior to the census date will not be taken into account and any
withdrawals prior to spring 2016 will not be taken into account. This policy is separate from our
2-C policy, which states that students are allowed one failing grade; a second failing grade will
result in program dismissal.

If you have any questions, please contact the Graduate Nursing Advisor at nursing-
graduate@uttyler.edu

**University Policies:**

**Students Rights and Responsibilities**

To know and understand the policies that affect your rights and responsibilities as a student at
UT Tyler, please follow this link: [http://www.uttyler.edu/wellness/rightsresponsibilities.php](http://www.uttyler.edu/wellness/rightsresponsibilities.php)

**Campus Carry:** We respect the right and privacy of students 21 and over who are duly licensed
to carry concealed weapons in this class. License holders are expected to behave responsibly
and keep a handgun secure and concealed. More information is available at
UT Tyler is a Tobacco-Free University: All forms of tobacco will not be permitted on the UT Tyler main campus, branch campuses, and any property owned by UT Tyler. This applies to all members of the University community, including students, faculty, staff, University affiliates, contractors, and visitors. Forms of tobacco not permitted include cigarettes, cigars, pipes, water pipes (hookah), bidis, kreteks, electronic cigarettes, smokeless tobacco, snuff, chewing tobacco, and all other tobacco products. There are several cessation programs available to students looking to quit smoking, including counseling, quitlines, and group support. For more information on cessation programs please visit www.utttyler.edu/tobacco-free.

Grade Replacement/Forgiveness and Census Date Policies

Students repeating a course for grade forgiveness (grade replacement) must file a Grade Replacement Contract with the Enrollment Services Center (ADM 230) on or before the Census Date of the semester in which the course will be repeated. Grade Replacement Contracts are available in the Enrollment Services Center or at http://www.utttyler.edu/registrar. Each semester’s Census Date can be found on the Contract itself, on the Academic Calendar, or in the information pamphlets published each semester by the Office of the Registrar.

Failure to file a Grade Replacement Contract will result in both the original and repeated grade being used to calculate your overall grade point average. Undergraduates are eligible to exercise grade replacement for only three course repeats during their career at UT Tyler; graduates are eligible for two grade replacements. Full policy details are printed on each Grade Replacement Contract.

The Census Date is the deadline for many forms and enrollment actions that students need to be aware of. These include:

- Submitting Grade Replacement Contracts, Transient Forms, requests to withhold directory information, approvals for taking courses as Audit, Pass/Fail or Credit/No Credit.
- Receiving 100% refunds for partial withdrawals. (There is no refund for these after the Census Date)
- Schedule adjustments (section changes, adding a new class, dropping without a “W” grade)
- Being reinstated or re-enrolled in classes after being dropped for non-payment
- Completing the process for tuition exemptions or waivers through Financial Aid

State-Mandated Course Drop Policy

Texas law prohibits a student who began college for the first time in Fall 2007 or thereafter from dropping more than six courses during their entire undergraduate career. This includes courses dropped at another 2-year or 4-year Texas public college or university. For purposes of this rule, a dropped course is any course that is dropped after the census date (See Academic Calendar for the specific date).
Exceptions to the 6-drop rule may be found in the catalog. Petitions for exemptions must be submitted to the Enrollment Services Center and must be accompanied by documentation of the extenuating circumstance. Please contact the Enrollment Services Center if you have any questions.

**Disability Services**

In accordance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the ADA Amendments Act (ADAAA) the University of Texas at Tyler offers accommodations to students with learning, physical and/or psychological disabilities. If you have a disability, including a non-visible diagnosis such as a learning disorder, chronic illness, TBI, PTSD, ADHD, or you have a history of modifications or accommodations in a previous educational environment, you are encouraged to visit https://hood.accessiblelearning.com/UTTyler and fill out the New Student application. The Student Accessibility and Resources (SAR) office will contact you when your application has been submitted and an appointment with Cynthia Lowery, Assistant Director of Student Services/ADA Coordinator. For more information, including filling out an application for services, please visit the SAR webpage at http://www.uttyler.edu/disabilityservices, the SAR office located in the University Center, # 3150 or call 903.566.7079.

**Student Absence due to Religious Observance**

Students who anticipate being absent from class due to a religious observance are requested to inform the instructor of such absences by the second class meeting of the semester.

**Student Absence for University-Sponsored Events and Activities**

If you intend to be absent for a university-sponsored event or activity, you (or the event sponsor) must notify the instructor at least two weeks prior to the date of the planned absence. At that time the instructor will set a date and time when make-up assignments will be completed.

**Social Security and FERPA Statement**

It is the policy of The University of Texas at Tyler to protect the confidential nature of social security numbers. The University has changed its computer programming so that all students have an identification number. The electronic transmission of grades (e.g., via e-mail) risks violation of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act; grades will not be transmitted electronically.

**Emergency Exits and Evacuation**

Everyone is required to exit the building when a fire alarm goes off. Follow your instructor's directions regarding the appropriate exit. If you require assistance during an evacuation,
inform your instructor in the first week of class. Do not re-enter the building unless given permission by University Police, Fire department, or Fire Prevention Services

Student Standards of Academic Conduct:
Disciplinary proceedings may be initiated against any student who engages in scholastic dishonesty, including, but not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, collusion, the submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an examination for another person, any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such acts.

“Cheating” includes, but is not limited to:

• copying from another student’s test paper;
• using, during a test, materials not authorized by the person giving the test;
• failure to comply with instructions given by the person administering the test;
• possession during a test of materials which are not authorized by the person giving the test, such as class notes or specifically designed “crib notes”. The presence of textbooks constitutes a violation if they have been specifically prohibited by the person administering the test;
• using, buying, stealing, transporting, or soliciting in whole or part the contents of an unadministered test, test key, homework solution, or computer program;
• collaborating with or seeking aid from another student during a test or other assignment without authority;
• discussing the contents of an examination with another student who will take the examination;
• divulging the contents of an examination, for the purpose of preserving questions for use by another, when the instructors has designated that the examination is not to be removed from the examination room or not to be returned or to be kept by the student;
• substituting for another person, or permitting another person to substitute for oneself to take a course, a test, or any course-related assignment;
• paying or offering money or other valuable thing to, or coercing another person to obtain an unadministered test, test key, homework solution, or computer program or information about an unadministered test, test key, home solution or computer program;
• falsifying research data, laboratory reports, and/or other academic work offered for credit;
• taking, keeping, misplacing, or damaging the property of The University of Texas at Tyler, or of another, if the student knows or reasonably should know that an unfair academic advantage would be gained by such conduct; and
• misrepresenting facts, including providing false grades or resumes, for the purpose of obtaining an academic or financial benefit or injuring another student academically or financially.
“Plagiarism” includes, but is not limited to: the appropriation, buying, receiving as a gift, or obtaining by any means another’s work and the submission of it as one’s own academic work offered for credit.

“Collusion” includes, but is not limited to: the unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing academic assignments offered for credit or collaboration with another person to commit a violation of any section of the rules on scholastic dishonesty.

All written work that is submitted will be subject to review by plagiarism software.

Other Student Resources

- UT Tyler Writing Center (903.565.5995), writingcenter@uttyler.edu
- UT Tyler Tutoring Center (903.565.5964), tutoring@uttyler.edu
- UT Tyler Counseling Center (903.566.7254)

Getting Started

Please refer to the information contained in this Syllabus anytime you have a question regarding the basic course information. Please begin this course by clicking on the Modules button in the left-hand navigation bar, and then choose Module 1.