Division: Theoretical and Behavioral Foundations  
Course Area: Evaluation & Research  
Course: EER 8700, Advanced Qualitative Evaluation: Theory and Practice  
Day: Wednesday, 347 EDUCATION, 4:30 pm.  
Term/Year: Winter, 2015  
Instructor: Shlomo Sawilowsky, Professor  
Office: #371 EDUC, College of Education, Wayne State University, Detroit, MI 48202  
Office Hours: Wednesday, 3:30 – 4:30 pm by appointment.  
Office Telephone: 313.577.5244 e-mail: shlomo@wayne.edu  
Secretary: Ms. Sheri Martini Telephone: 313.577.1614

Course Description: Major paradigms of qualitative evaluation, strategies of inquiry, methods of collecting and analyzing materials, the art of interpretation. Analysis of real data, including pattern coding, data displays, checklist matrices, transcription, explanation prediction within-case vs cross-case displays, ethical issues in evaluation. Computer use in qualitative evaluation.

Meeting Times: This is a seminar course. Initially we will be meeting in 347 EDUC at 4:30-7:15 pm on the first four or five Wednesdays of the semester. For the balance of the term there will be weekly one-on-one one hour (approximately) teleconference or Skype conversations on an arranged basis on a day and time mutually convenient for the professor and the student. NVivo 10 will be made available in 347 EDUC.

Topics:

I. Class 1: After a review of the qualitative research designs covered in EER 7870, students will document their personal research lens, learn when activism and advocacy is and is not appropriate, and be introduced to current ethical issues in qualitative evaluation. The current debate on keeping the qualitative tradition within the topology of science will be discussed.

II. Class 2: Students will be introduced to differing strategies and methods of inquiry, and their associated research or evaluation approaches. Topics include:

a. Research/Evaluation Design and Management  
b. Ethical Issues in Analysis  
c. Memoing  
d. Within-Case Displays, Between Case Displays  
e. Matrix Displays  
f. Network Displays  
g. Exploring fieldwork, variables, sequential analyses  
h. Methods of Describing  
i. Methods of Ordering  
j. Methods of Explaining  
k. Methods of Predicting  
l. Drawing and Verifying Conclusions
III. Class 3-4: Students will be introduced to coding methods:

1. a. Transcription
   i. Unit of Analysis
   ii. Pre-coding
   iii. First-cycle
   iv. Second-cycle
   1. Attribute coding
   2. Magnitude coding
   3. Subcoding
   4. Simultaneous coding
   5. Elemental methods
   6. Structural coding
   7. Descriptive coding
   8. In vivo coding
   9. Process coding
   10. Affective methods
   11. Values methods
   12. Versus methods
   13. Evaluation methods
   14. Literary methods
   15. Motif methods
   16. Narrative methods
   17. Verbal Exchange methods
   18. Explanatory methods
   19. Provisional methods
   20. Hypothesis methods
   21. Domain/Taxonomic methods
   22. Causation methods
   v. Post-coding
b. Pattern coding methods: Research Dependability
   i. Patterns
   ii. Filters
   iii. Heuristics
   iv. Categorizing
   v. CAQDAS
c. Peer-checking of coding
d. Node creation
e. Thematic data displays
f. Negative case analysis

2. a. Writing the evaluation and technical soundness portion of RFPs
b. Writing the methodology section of peer-reviewed manuscripts
c. EER majors: Expert witness in qualitative methodology.
d. Non-EER majors: Incorporate qualitative evaluation methods as a content expert witness.

IV. Class 4/5. Students will be given an overview of NVivo.

**Required Texts:**


**Evaluation & Grading:**

*non-EER students.* Students will be assigned real qualitative transcribed data, and will use NVivo to develop proper qualitative coding, NVivo, and displays/networking in order to develop themes. Six page minimum double spaced, not including copies of all NVivo files.

*EER students.* Students will be assigned a qualitative expert’s report from Federal District Court/ or similar report and will critique the report using the methods (qualitative coding, NVivo, and displays/networking) from this class. Six page minimum double spaced, not including copies of all NVivo files.

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**IMPORTANT NOTE: TURN YOUR CELL PHONE OFF PRIOR TO CLASS!**

**WSU & College of Education Syllabi Notices**

**Academic Dishonesty/ Plagiarism**

The College of Education has a “zero tolerance” approach to plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty. (See Student Code of Conduct [http://doso.wayne.edu/assets/student-code-of-conduct-brochure.pdf](http://doso.wayne.edu/assets/student-code-of-conduct-brochure.pdf). Plagiarism includes copying material (any more than 5 consecutive words) from outside texts or presenting outside information as if it were your own by not crediting authors through citations. It can be deliberate or unintended. Specific examples of academic dishonesty, including what constitutes plagiarism, can be found in the University’s Undergraduate Bulletin ([http://bulletins.wayne.edu/ubk-output/index.html](http://bulletins.wayne.edu/ubk-output/index.html)) and Graduate Catalog ([http://www.bulletins.wayne.edu/gbk-output/index.html](http://www.bulletins.wayne.edu/gbk-output/index.html)) under the heading “Student Ethics.” These university policies are also included as a link on
Blackboard within each course in which students are enrolled. It is every student’s responsibility to read these documents to be aware which actions are defined as plagiarism and academic dishonesty. Sanctions could include failure in the course involved, probation and expulsion, so students are advised to think carefully and thoroughly, ask for help from instructors if it is needed, and make smart decisions about their academic work.

**Enrollment/Withdrawal Policy**

Students must add classes no later than the end of the first week of classes. This includes online classes. Students may continue to drop classes (with full tuition cancellation) through the first two weeks of the term.

Students who withdraw from a course after the end of the 5th week of class will receive a grade of WP, WF, or WN.

- WP will be awarded if the student is passing the course (based on work due to date) at the time the withdrawal is requested
- WF will be awarded if the student is failing the course (based on work due to date) at the time the withdrawal is requested
- WN will be awarded if no materials have been submitted, and so there is no basis for a grade

Students must submit their withdrawal request on-line through Pipeline. The faculty member must approve the withdrawal request before it becomes final, and students should continue to attend class until they receive notification via email that the withdrawal has been approved.

Beginning the fifth week of class students are no longer allowed to drop but must withdraw from classes. The last day to withdraw will be at the end of the 10th full week of classes. The withdrawal date for courses longer or shorter than the full 15-week terms will be adjusted proportionately.

See the university webpage for full details: [http://reg.wayne.edu/students/information.php](http://reg.wayne.edu/students/information.php)

**Attention Students with Disabilities:**

If you have a documented disability that requires accommodations, you will need to register with Student Disability Services (SDS) for coordination of your academic accommodations. The Student Disability Services (SDS) office is located at 1600 David Adamany Undergraduate Library in the Student Academic Success Services department. SDS telephone number is 313-577-1851 or 313-202-4216 (video phone). Once you have your accommodations in place, I will be glad to meet with you privately during my office hours to discuss your special needs. Student Disability Services’ mission is to assist the university in creating an accessible community where students with
disabilities have an equal opportunity to fully participate in their educational experience at Wayne State University.

Please be aware that a delay in getting SDS accommodation letters for the current semester may hinder the availability or facilitation of those accommodations in a timely manner. Therefore, it is in your best interest to get your accommodation letters as early in the semester as possible.

**Religious Observance Policy:**

Because of the extraordinary variety of religious affiliations represented in the University student body and staff, the Wayne State University calendar makes no provision for religious holidays. It is University policy, however, to respect the faith and religious obligations of the individual. Students who find that their classes or examinations involve conflicts with their religious observances are expected to notify their instructors well in advance so that alternative arrangements as suitable as possible may be worked out.

**Wayne State University Writing Center**

The Writing Center (2nd floor, UGL) provides individual tutoring consultations free of charge for students at Wayne State University. While the center serves both graduate and undergraduate students, undergraduate students in General Education courses, including composition courses, receive priority for tutoring appointments. The Writing Center serves as a resource for writers, providing tutoring sessions on the range of activities in the writing process – considering the audience, analyzing the assignment or genre, brainstorming, researching, writing drafts, revising, editing, and preparing documentation. The Writing Center is not an editing or proofreading service; rather, students are guided as they engage collaboratively in the process of academic writing, from developing an idea to correctly citing sources. To make an appointment, consult the Writing Center website: http://www.clas.wayne.edu/writing/.

To submit material for online tutoring, consult the Writing Center HOOT website (Hypertext One-on-One Tutoring) http://www.clas.wayne.edu/unit-inner.asp?WebPageID=1330.