Sociology 538/638
INTEGRATING QUALITATIVE AND QUANTITATIVE METHODS
Winter 2017
Thursdays 2:00-4:50
Cramer 265

Dr. Maura Kelly
Email: maura.kelly@pdx.edu
Phone: 503-725-8302
Office: Cramer 217 R
Office hours: Wednesdays 12:00-2:00

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Research designs for combining qualitative and quantitative methods that have reasonably well-understood benefits, and can be implemented in a relatively straightforward fashion. The value of pragmatism as a philosophical paradigm for doing mixed methods research will also be considered.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Class preparation and participation (20 points): Students are responsible for coming to class prepared to discuss the assigned readings and course assignments. Students are expected to participate in the conversation with thoughtful comments and questions. Being absent from more than one class will negatively affect your course grade.

Discussion questions (16 points): Each student will write three discussion questions for eight of the ten class meetings. Each individual question may focus on one reading or may make comparisons across readings for that week. Discussion questions are due by 9:00am on the day of the class meeting via D2L. Discussion questions will be accepted between 9:00am and 2:00pm on the day they are due for half credit. Discussion questions will not be accepted after 2:00pm.

Research project methods section (10 points): Develop the research design for your mixed methods project. Write up the methods section for your project as you would for a peer-reviewed journal article. Guidelines for the methods section assignment are attached to the syllabus. Assignments may require revision before final approval to go forward with the project (no point penalty if a revision is needed). Methods section assignments are due Wednesday February 1 by 5pm via D2L.

Draft PowerPoint slides (30 points): Submit first drafts of (1) intro/lit review, research questions, and references; (2) methods; (3) qualitative findings; (4) quantitative findings; and (5) first full draft. Guidelines for the PowerPoint presentations are attached to the syllabus. Draft slides due dates are listed in the syllabus, due via D2L.

Abstract (4 points): Write a 150-200 word abstract for the research project including the objective, method, results, and conclusion (main argument). The abstract is due Wednesday March 15 by 5pm via D2L.

Final PowerPoint and presentation (20 points): Create and deliver a 12-15 minute PowerPoint presentation on the research project. Final PowerPoint presentations are due by Wednesday March 22 at 5pm via D2L. Final presentations will be delivered in class on Thursday March 23 from 2:00-4:00.
POLICIES

Required Readings: Links to the required readings available through the PSU library are included in the syllabus. If you cannot access a reading through the link, you are responsible for navigating to the reading from the PSU library homepage. There is also one required book for this course: Morgan, David L. 2014. *Integrating Qualitative and Quantitative Methods: A Pragmatic Approach*. Thousand Oaks, California: Sage.

D2L: The syllabus and other course materials will be posted on D2L. All assignments will be submitted via D2L (no hard copies). Points earned and written feedback for all assignments will be posted on D2L.

Email: I will regularly communicate with students individually and as a class via email. My emails will be sent to your PSU email. It is your responsibility to check your PSU email daily during the school week and respond in a timely manner. In emails to me, please put the title of the course in the subject line and sign your emails using your first and last name. Use the email address on the first page of the syllabus. I will generally respond to email within 24 hours. Emails sent after 5:00pm on Friday will generally be answered by 5:00pm on Monday.

Late Assignments: Assignments will be marked down 10% per weekday late and will not be accepted after 5 weekdays. Final presentations will not be accepted late.

Academic honesty: You are expected to demonstrate complete academic honesty. Please refer to the Student Conduct Code for more detailed information on PSU policies. Cheating or plagiarizing will result in failing the assignment and will be reported. If you use a direct quote (i.e. someone else’s written or spoken words), you must include it in quotation marks. Any time you take a direct quote, as well as when you summarize or paraphrase an idea from another person, you must cite the source and include a references section at the end of the paper. Failure to cite your sources, whether intentional or not, is plagiarism. Instances of plagiarism will result in failing the assignment, and possibly the course, and will be reported.

Access and inclusion for students with disabilities: If any aspects of instruction or course design result in barriers to your inclusion or learning, please notify me. The Disability Resource Center (DRC) provides reasonable accommodations for students who encounter barriers in the learning environment. If you have, or think you may have, a disability that may affect your work in this class and feel you need accommodations, contact the DRC to schedule an appointment and initiate a conversation about reasonable accommodations. The DRC is located in 116 Smith Memorial Student Union, 503-725-4150, drc@pdx.edu, http://www.pdx.edu/drc. If you already have accommodations, please contact me to make sure that I have received a faculty notification letter and to discuss your accommodations.

Title IX reporting: As a member of the university community, I have the responsibility to report any instances of sexual harassment, sexual violence and/or other forms of prohibited discrimination. If you would rather share information about sexual harassment, sexual violence or discrimination to a confidential employee who does not have this reporting responsibility, you can find a list of those individuals at http://www.pdx.edu/sexual-assault/get-help or you may call a confidential IPV Advocate at 503-725-5672.
COURSE OUTLINE

Note: Discussion questions are due by 9:00am on the day of the class meeting. Three discussion questions must be submitted for eight of the ten class meetings.

Week 1: January 12

Reading due

Assignments due
• Discussion questions due Thursday by 9am via D2L

Week 2: January 19

Reading due

Assignments due
• Discussion questions due Thursday by 9am via D2L
• Initial research questions for both quantitative and qualitative data due in class
Week 3: January 26

Reading due
• Identify and skim 10-20 peer-reviewed articles for your lit review

Assignment due
• PP: First draft of introduction/lit review, research questions, and references slides due Wednesday by 5pm via D2L
• Discussion questions due Thursday by 9am via D2L

Week 4: February 2

Reading due

Assignment due
• Methods section assignment due Wednesday by 5pm via D2L
• Discussion questions due Thursday by 9am via D2L

Week 5: February 9

Reading due
• Read through all the news articles in your sample

Assignment due
• Methods section assignment revision (if required) due Wednesday by 5pm via D2L
• PP: Add first draft of methods slides due Wednesday by 5pm via D2L
• Watch the instructional videos available at http://www.dedoose.com/resources/# (watch the following videos: introduction, code setup, descriptors, documents, document excerpting, and analysis) by Thursday at 2pm (to be discussed in class).
• No discussion questions for this week
Week 6: February 16

Reading due

Assignment due
- Qualitative coding: begin coding your data for 5-10 codes/themes in Dedoose
- Discussion questions due Thursday by 9am via D2L

Week 7: February 23

Reading due

Assignment due
- Qualitative coding: complete coding your data for 5-10 codes/themes in Dedoose
- PP: Add first draft of qualitative findings slides due Wednesday by 5pm via D2L
- Discussion questions due Thursday by 9am via D2L

Week 8: March 2

Reading due

Assignments due
- Quantitative coding: develop a code book with 10-15 codes (with descriptions of each code and rules for inclusion/exclusion); develop a coding database using excel; begin coding your data
- Discussion questions due Thursday by 9am via D2L
Week 9: March 9

Reading due

Assignment due
• Quantitative coding: complete the quantitative coding
• Quantitative data analysis: frequencies (one table) plus cross-tabs, correlation and/or multivariate analysis (at least one table)
• PP: Add first draft of quantitative findings slides due Wednesday by 5pm via D2L
• Discussion questions due Thursday by 9am via D2L
• Bring hard copies of codebook, 4 coding sheets, and 4 articles from your sample for inter-coder reliability exercise due in class

Week 10: March 16

Reading due

Assignment due
• Abstract due Wednesday by 5pm via D2L
• PP: First full draft (title, intro/lit review, research questions, methods, qualitative and quantitative findings, discussion, title, references) due Wednesday by 5pm via D2L
• Discussion questions due Thursday by 9am via D2L

Finals week: Thursday March 23 2:00-4:00

Assignment due
• PP: Final draft (title, intro, lit review, methods, qualitative and quantitative findings, conclusion, title, references) due Wednesday by 5pm via D2L
• Final presentations in class Thursday 2:00-4:00
Guidelines for Methods Section Assignment

TASK

Develop the research design for your mixed methods project. Write up the methods section for your project as you would for a peer-reviewed journal article. The suggested project is a mixed methods analysis of 40-50 newspaper articles on the topic of your choice. We can discuss an alternate project if you already have access to both quantitative and qualitative data.

COMPONENTS

Introduction
- Give a very brief introduction to your topic (2-3 sentences)
- State your research questions in the form of questions.
- Be sure that questions intended to be answered with quantitative data can be; be sure that questions intended to be answered with qualitative data can be; be sure that all questions can be answered with content analysis.

Method
- State your research methods (quantitative and qualitative content analysis).

Data collection
- Source of the data (e.g. NewsBank database, individual newspaper websites)
- Criteria for inclusion of cases in population: date range, key terms or topic, other criteria for inclusion (e.g. specific newspapers)
- Sampling strategy (e.g. random, stratified, sample is entire population)
- Number of cases in population and number of cases in sample.

Qualitative and quantitative data analysis (include all components for each method)
- Approach to data analysis (e.g. inductive, drawing on previous research or theory)
- State name(s) and type(s) of data analysis software (e.g. Dedoose, Excel, STATA, SPSS)
- Approach to mixed-methods analysis
- Preliminary discussion of codes/themes to be explored in the qualitative and quantitative analysis (for this assignment, you don’t need to engage in a formal analysis of your data, but give some description of what you found and, more specifically, how you would use your data to answer your research question)

Appendix
- List the 40-50 newspaper article, formatted in the style of your choice

Note: The methods section should be written in the past tense. It is appropriate to use personal pronouns (as in, “I conducted a qualitative and quantitative content analysis.”)
Guidelines for the Mixed Methods Content Analysis PowerPoint Presentation

TASK

Create and deliver a 12-15 minute PowerPoint presentation on the research project.

COMPONENTS

Title slide (1 slide)
- Title of presentation
- Author and affiliation

Introduction and literature review (2-4 slides)
- Introduction to the topic and statement of the problem
- Key theoretical concepts and empirical findings from previous scholarship that set up research questions
- Identify what is already known and what gap your study is filling (may be verbal)

Research questions
- Research questions to be answered with quantitative and qualitative data

Methods (2-3 slides)
- Sample and sampling strategy
- Analysis of qualitative data
- Analysis of quantitative data
- Discussion of mixed methods approach

Results (6-10 slides)
- Qualitative data: 2-4 themes illustrated with quotes and descriptive examples (and counter-examples) from your data (discussion of overall themes and/or some examples may be verbal)
- Quantitative data: one frequency table; at least one crosstab, correlation, or regression table
- Overall cohesive argument that addresses the research question(s) (may be verbal)

Discussion (1-2 slides)
- Brief summary of findings and overall argument
- Implications of findings for theory, policy, and/or future research

Title slide (1 slide)
- Repeat title slide from start of presentation (end here for Q&A)

References (1 slide)
- List all sources cited in the presentation (not shown in presentation)

For the oral presentation, you will have 12-15 minutes to present, plus time for Q&A. We will keep time and you will be cut off at 15 minutes. Be sure to practice!
Guidelines for a Mixed Methods Social Science Manuscript (7000-9000 words)

Abstract: 150-200 words*
- Objective, methods, results, conclusion

Introduction: 900-1500 words (approximately 3-5 double spaced pages)
- Introduction of key theoretical concepts and empirical findings from previous scholarship
- Research questions
- Outline of argument

Literature review: 1200-1800 words (approximately 4-6 double spaced pages)
- Discussion of the literature related to your study
- Identify what is already known and what gap your study is filling

Methods: 600-900 words (approximately 2-3 double spaced pages)*
- Discussion of quantitative and qualitative data collection and/or source(s) of the data
- Discussion of mixed methods analytical approach

Results: 3000-3600 words (approximately 10-12 double spaced pages)
- Present quantitative data using appropriate tables and text
- Present qualitative data using themes illustrated with quotes and descriptive examples (and counter-examples) from your data
- Overall cohesive argument

Discussion: 600-900 words (approximately 2-3 double spaced pages)
- Brief summary of findings and overall argument
- Implications of findings for theory, policy, and/or future research

References: variable word count and page length*
- List all sources cited in the text

*Sections required for this course; this checklist is primarily for future reference