

**INTL 8500**  
**Qualitative Research Methods**  
Tuesday 6:30pm-9:15pm  
117 Candler Hall

**Instructor: Lih Ben Shitrit**  
**Office: 304 Candler Hall**  
**Office Hours: Thursdays 3:30pm-5:30pm**  
**Phone: 709-542-6949**  
**lben@uga.edu**

**Course Description**

The focus of this graduate course is the theory and practice of qualitative field research. The aim is to provide students with the tools to design, implement, and critically evaluate research in political science that draws mainly on qualitative fieldwork. The first part of the course will address the ethics of fieldwork, and the negotiation of identity, relationships, and power that inevitably pervade such work. Next, we will examine key techniques for collecting and analyzing ethnographic data, focusing especially on participant-observation and interviewing. We will also read important works in political science, anthropology, and sociology that demonstrate excellent leveraging of qualitative fieldwork data in the study of political phenomena. The course will introduce students to some of the major debates in political science around the integration of quantitative and qualitative research methods, some of the epistemological differences between these two approaches, and the contribution of various qualitative methods to the discipline more broadly. In addition to the course's readings, students will also practice first hand qualitative field research techniques by designing and executing their own research project in the Athens or Atlanta area.

**Assignments**

**Field Research Project (50%)**

Identify a research site in the Athens or Atlanta area (preferably non-UGA) and spend at least two hours a week there (after receiving IRB approval if necessary). Write a one-paragraph update on your research progress each week, and post it on ELC by 5pm on Monday. Additional field research assignments: 1) Participant-observation exercise, 2) Writing field-notes exercise, 3) Interview protocol and informed consent statement, 4) Notes and transcripts from interviews.

**Classroom participation (20%)**

Come to class prepared to offer reflections on the readings, pose and answer discussion questions, and provide feedback to other students on their research projects. Once in the semester, you will be asked to lead a classroom discussion on one of the assigned readings. In the last two weeks of the course, students will also give a formal presentation about their research projects.

**Reading Responses (10%)**

We will read three notable books that apply qualitative fieldwork: *Weapons of the Weak*, *Politics of Piety* and *Insurgent Collective Action and Civil War in El Salvador*. Write a 1-2 page response to two of the books (due on the day in which we will discuss the book)

evaluating the work's research design, use of qualitative research methods and data, and substantive contribution.

### **Final Research Proposal (20%)**

Write a 10-12 research proposal, drawing on your research project's fieldwork. Outline a research question, research design, methods employed, and preliminary findings. This should be along the lines of a proposal for the Social Science Research Council IDRF program, or to NSF. Alternatively, students can focus their research proposal on their proposed dissertation topic.

### **Required Texts**

\*All required books will be available at UGA's bookstore, on Amazon, and on reserve in the library. Articles will be available on ELC.

- Emerson, Robert M., Rachel I. Fretz, and Linda L. Shaw. *Writing Ethnographic Fieldnotes*. University of Chicago Press, 2011.
- Goertz, Gary, and James Mahoney. *A Tale of Two Cultures: Qualitative and Quantitative Research in the Social Sciences*. Princeton University Press, 2012.
- Mahmood, Saba. *Politics of Piety: The Islamic Revival and the Feminist Subject*. Princeton University Press, 2011. **OR** Ben Shitrit, Lihi. *Righteous Transgressions: Women's Activism on the Israeli and Palestinian Religious Right*. Princeton University Press 2015.
- Schatz, Edward, ed. *Political Ethnography: What Immersion Contributes to the Study of Power*. University of Chicago Press, 2013.
- Schwartz-Shea, Peregrine, and Dvora Yanow. *Interpretive Research Design: Concepts and Processes*. Routledge, 2012.
- Scott, James C. *Weapons of the Weak: Everyday Forms of Peasant Resistance*. Yale University Press, 2008. **OR** Wood, Elisabeth Jean. *Insurgent Collective Action and Civil War in El Salvador*. Cambridge University Press, 2003.

### **Recommended**

- Box-Steffensmeier, Janet M., Henry E. Brady, and David Collier, eds. *The Oxford Handbook of Political Methodology*. 2008.
- Brady, Henry E. and David Collier, Eds. *Rethinking Social Inquiry: Diverse Tools, Shared Standards*. Lanham, MD: Rowman and Littlefield Publishers, Inc. 2010.
- Della Porta, Donatella, and Michael Keating, eds. *Approaches and Methodologies in the Social Sciences: A Pluralist Perspective*. Cambridge University Press, 2008.
- Dunning, Thad. *Natural Experiments in the Social Sciences: A Design-Based Approach*. Cambridge University Press, 2012.
- George, Alexander L. and Andrew Bennett. *Case Studies and Theory Development in the Social Sciences*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press. 2005.
- Lareau, Annette and Jeffrey Shultz, Eds. *Journeys through Ethnography: Realistic Accounts of Fieldwork*. Boulder, CO: Westview Press. 1996.
- Lofland, John, David Snow, Leon Anderson, and Lyn H. Lofland. *Analyzing Social Settings: A Guide to Qualitative Observation and Analysis*. 4th Ed. Belmont, CA:

Thomson Wadsworth. 2006

Mahoney, James and Dietrich Rueschemeyer, Eds. *Comparative Historical Analysis in the Social Sciences*. New York: Cambridge University Press. 2003.

\*Please note that while the average assigned reading per week is about 200 pages, we will focus our attention on specific parts of the reading, while other parts will be optional/recommended. So do not be deterred! Also, remember that the syllabus is a tentative plan.

1.	Aug. 16	<p><b>Introduction</b></p> <p>Come with a few ideas about possible projects and field-sites in Athens or its surrounding areas. If you think our area is boring, check out these other authors who thought otherwise:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Hester, Albert L. <i>Enduring Legacy: Clarke County, Georgia's Ex-slave Legislators Madison Davis and Alfred Richardson</i>. Athens: Green Berry Press, 2010.</li><li>• Thurmond, Michael L., and Dorothy Sparer. <i>A Story Untold: Black Men and Women in Athens History</i>. Athens, Ga.: Clarke County School District, 1978.</li><li>• Lee, Don Chang. <i>Acculturation of Korean Residents in Georgia</i>. San Francisco: R and E Research Associates, 1975.</li><li>• Pratt, Robert A. <i>We Shall Not Be Moved: The Desegregation of the University of Georgia</i>. Athens, Ga.: University of Georgia Press, 2002.</li><li>• Miller, H. M., &amp; Lee, E. S. (1990). <i>Community to Metropolis: Athens-Clarke County community social analysis</i>. Athens, Ga.: Dept. of Sociology, The University of Georgia.</li></ul>
2.	Aug. 23	<p><b>Ethics and Human Subjects</b></p> <p>Guest lecture: Kim Fowler, Assistant Director of Human Subjects, UGA. After class: Complete UGA's Human Subject Training Course <a href="http://research.uga.edu/hso/citi-training/">http://research.uga.edu/hso/citi-training/</a></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The National Commission for the Protection of Human Subjects of Biomedical and Behavioral Research. 1979. The Belmont Report. <a href="http://www.hhs.gov/ohrp/humansubjects/guidance/belmont.html">http://www.hhs.gov/ohrp/humansubjects/guidance/belmont.html</a></li><li>• The National Science Foundation. "Frequently Asked Questions and Vignettes: Interpreting the Common Rule for the Protection of Human Subjects for Behavioral and Social Science Research." <a href="http://www.nsf.gov/bfa/dias/policy/hsfaqs.jsp">http://www.nsf.gov/bfa/dias/policy/hsfaqs.jsp</a></li><li>• Wood, Elisabeth Jean. "The ethical challenges of field research in conflict zones." <i>Qualitative Sociology</i> 29, no. 3 (2006): 373-386.</li><li>• Carapico, Sheila. "No easy answers: The ethics of field research in the Arab world." <i>PS: Political Science &amp; Politics</i> 39, no. 03 (2006): 429-431.</li></ul> <p>Case Study: Boston College Belfast Project</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Palys, Ted, and John Lowman. "Defending Research Confidentiality "To the Extent the Law Allows:" Lessons From the Boston College</li></ul>

		<p>Subpoenas." <i>Journal of Academic Ethics</i> 10, no. 4 (2012): 271-297.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Marcus, Joy. <a href="http://www.timeshighereducation.co.uk/features/oral-history-where-next-after-the-belfast-project/2013679.article">http://www.timeshighereducation.co.uk/features/oral-history-where-next-after-the-belfast-project/2013679.article</a></li> </ul>
3.	Aug. 30	<p><b>Identity, Relationship, Power</b></p> <p><u>Assignment:</u> Submit a draft IRB Application for your project (if required)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ortals, Candice D., and Meg E. Rincker. "Fieldwork, Identities, and Intersectionality: Negotiating Gender, Race, Class, Religion, Nationality, and Age in the Research Field Abroad: Editors' Introduction." <i>PS: Political Science &amp; Politics</i> 42, no. 02 (2009) Symposium (<a href="#">All Articles</a>)</li> <li>• Schwedler, Jillian. "The third gender: Western female researchers in the Middle East." <i>PS: Political Science &amp; Politics</i> 39, no. 03 (2006): 425-428.</li> <li>• Ben Shitrit, "Notes on Method and Speaking with 'Fundamentalists.'"</li> </ul>
4.	Sep. 6	<p><b>Interviews</b></p> <p>Guest Lecture: Sara Kutchesfahani</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kutchesfahani, Sara Z. <i>Politics and the Bomb: The Role of Experts in the Creation of Cooperative Nuclear Non-proliferation Agreements</i>. Routledge, 2013. <b>[Introduction]</b></li> <li>• Rathbun, Brian C. "Interviewing and qualitative field methods: pragmatism and practicalities." <i>Oxford Handbook of Political Methodology</i>, Oxford: OUP (2008).</li> <li>• Fujii, Lee Ann. "Shades of truth and lies: Interpreting testimonies of war and violence." <i>Journal of Peace Research</i> 47, no. 2 (2010): 231-241.</li> <li>• Joe Soss, "Talking Our Way to Meaningful Explanations: A Practice-Centered View of Interviewing for Interpretive Research." In Dvora Yanow and Peregrine Schwartz-Shea, eds., <i>Interpretation and Method: Empirical Research Methods and the Interpretive Turn</i> (M.E. Sharpe, 2006)</li> <li>• Leech, Beth L. "Asking questions: techniques for semistructured interviews." <i>Political Science &amp; Politics</i> 35, no. 04 (2002): 665-668.</li> <li>• Goldstein, Kenneth. "Getting in the door: Sampling and completing elite interviews." <i>Political Science &amp; Politics</i> 35, no. 04 (2002): 669-672.</li> <li>• Aberbach, Joel D., and Bert A. Rockman. "Conducting and coding elite interviews." <i>Political Science &amp; Politics</i> 35, no. 04 (2002): 673-676.</li> </ul>
5.	Sep. 13	<p><b>Interpretive Methods</b></p> <p><u>Assignment:</u> Submit interview protocol and informed consent statement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Geertz Clifford (1973) <i>The Interpretation of Cultures</i>. New York: Basic Books, chapter 1.</li> <li>• Hawkesworth, Mary. "Contending conceptions of science and politics: Methodology and the constitution of the political." <i>Interpretation and</i></li> </ul>

		<p><i>method: Empirical research methods and the interpretive turn</i> (2006): 27-49.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pachirat, Timothy. "We Call it Grain of Sand." <i>Interpretation and Method: Empirical Research Methods and the Interpretative Turn</i>. D. Yanow und P. Schwartz-Shea. New York, ME Sharpe (2006): 373-379.</li> <li>• Ben Shitrit, Lihi (draft, do not circulate) "Domesticating the Holy: Women for the Temple and the (In)Divisibility of Contested Sacred Space."</li> <li>• Schwartz-Shea, Peregrine, and Dvora Yanow. <i>Interpretive Research Design: Concepts and Processes</i>. Routledge, 2012. [selections]</li> </ul>
6.	Sep. 20	<p><b>Participant Observation and Ethnography</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Schatz, Edward, ed. <i>Political ethnography: What immersion contributes to the study of power</i>. University of Chicago Press, 2013. (chapters: Intro, 1, 6, 8, 10, 12, Conclusion).</li> <li>• Bernard, H. Russell. <i>Research methods in anthropology</i>. (Chapter 12)</li> </ul>
7.	Sep. 27	<p><b>Writing Field-Notes</b></p> <p><u>Assignment</u>: Submit participant-observation exercise</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Emerson, Robert M., Rachel I. Fretz, and Linda L. Shaw. <i>Writing Ethnographic Fieldnotes</i>. University of Chicago Press, 2011.</li> </ul>
8.	Oct. 4	<p><b>Ethnographic Classics I</b></p> <p><u>Assignment</u>: Submit Reading Response</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Scott, James C. <i>Weapons of the Weak: Everyday Forms of Peasant Resistance</i>. Yale University Press, 2008.</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>or</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wood, Elisabeth Jean. <i>Insurgent Collective Action and Civil War in El Salvador</i>. Cambridge University Press, 2003.</li> </ul>
9.	Oct. 11	<p><b>Analyzing Qualitative Data</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Goertz, Gary, and James Mahoney. <i>A tale of two cultures: Qualitative and quantitative research in the social sciences</i>. Princeton University Press, 2012. [Chap. 1-2, 7-11, 14-15]</li> <li>• Bennett, Andrew, and Colin Elman. "Qualitative research: Recent developments in case study methods." <i>Annu. Rev. Polit. Sci.</i> 9 (2006): 455-476.</li> <li>• "Case Selection for Case Study Analysis: Qualitative and Quantitative Techniques" <i>Oxford Handbook of Political Methodology</i>. 2008, pp.645-685</li> <li>• David Waldner, "Process Tracing and Causal Mechanisms." In Harold Kincaid, ed., <i>The Oxford Handbook of Philosophy of Social Science</i>. Oxford University Press, 2012, pp. 65-84</li> <li>• Andrew Bennet, "Process Tracing: A Bayesian Perspective." <i>Oxford</i></li> </ul>

		<i>Handbook of Political Methodology</i> . 2008, pp.702-722
10.	Oct. 18	<p><b>Ethnographic Classics II</b></p> <p><u>Assignment</u>: Submit Reading Response</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mahmood, Saba. <i>Politics of Piety: The Islamic Revival and the Feminist Subject</i>. Princeton University Press, 2011.</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>or</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ben Shitrit, Lihi. <i>Righteous Transgressions: Women’s Activism on the Israeli and Palestinian Religious Right</i>. Princeton University Press 2015.</li> </ul>
11.	Oct. 25	<p><b>Guest Seminar: Prof. Cas Mudde</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Readings TBA</li> </ul>
12.	Nov. 1	<p><b>Multi-Methods and Qualitative Research</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Johnson, R. Burke, Anthony J. Onwuegbuzie, and Lisa A. Turner. "Toward a definition of mixed methods research." <i>Journal of mixed methods research</i> 1, no. 2 (2007): 112-133.</li> <li>• Evan Lieberman, "Nested Analysis as a Mixed-Method Strategy for Comparative Research," <i>American Political Science Review</i> 99 (August 2005): 435-452</li> <li>• Lawrence W. Sherman and Heather Strang, "Experimental Ethnography: The Marriage of Qualitative and Quantitative Research," <i>The Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science</i> 595(1) (September 2004): 204-222</li> <li>• Ahmed, Amel, and Rudra Sil. "When multi-method research subverts methodological pluralism—or, why we still need single-method research." <i>Perspectives on Politics</i> 10, no. 04 (2012): 935-953.</li> <li>• Mahoney, James. "After KKV: The new methodology of qualitative research." <i>World Politics</i> 62, no. 01 (2010): 120-147.</li> <li>• Tarrow, Sidney. 2010. "Bridging the Quantitative-Qualitative Divide." in <i>Rethinking Social Inquiry: Diverse Tools, Shared Standards</i>. Eds. Henry Brady and David Collier. Lanham, MD: Rowman and Littlefield Publishers, Inc. pp. 101-110.</li> <li>• Dunning, Thad, "The central role of qualitative evidence." <i>Natural Experiments in the Social Sciences</i>, pp. 208-230</li> </ul>
13.	Nov. 8	<p><b>Funding and Publishing</b></p> <p><u>Assignment</u>: Submit interview transcript/notes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adam Przeworski and Frank Salomon, "On the Art of Writing Proposals: Some Candid Suggestions for Applicants to Social Science Research Council Competitions," Social Science Research Council (1998)</li> <li>• Christopher B. Barrett and Jeffrey W. Cason, "Identifying a Site and Funding Source" in <i>Overseas Research II: A Practical Guide</i></li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Collier, David, and Colin Elman. "Qualitative and Multi-Method Research: Organizations, Publication, and Reflections on Integration." <i>Concepts and Methods in the Social Science: The Tradition of Giovanni Sartori</i> (2008): 269-288.</li> <li>• Parkinson, Sarah Elizabeth. "Organizing Rebellion: Rethinking High-Risk Mobilization and Social Networks in War." <i>American Political Science Review</i> 107, no. 03 (2013): 418-432.</li> <li>• Walsh, Katherine Cramer. "Putting Inequality in Its Place: Rural Consciousness and the Power of Perspective." <i>American Political Science Review</i> 106, no. 03 (2012): 517-532.</li> <li>• Kellen, David, Zvi Bekerman, and Ifat Maoz. "An Easy Coalition The Peacecamp Identity and Israeli–Palestinian Track Two Diplomacy." <i>Journal of Conflict Resolution</i> 57, no. 4 (2013): 543-569.</li> </ul>
14.	Nov. 15	<b>Students Research Presentations I</b>
15.	Nov. 29	<b>Students Research Presentations II</b>

Final Paper due: Dec. 10, by 5pm (submit via Dropbox on ELC)