

**Special Topics in Research Methods:
Methods of Inquiry using Online Interview Research**

Syllabus template for use with
Online Interviews in Real Time and Cases in Online Interview Research

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College or University
Term

Faculty Contact Information

Course Description

This course will explore ways to critically analyze

Course Goals

Knowledge

By the end of this course, you should be able to:

- Explain how theories, epistemologies, methodologies relate to data collection methods in a research design
- Assess the appropriateness of online interviews as related to the research design
- Differentiate between styles and purposes of research interviews
- Describe approaches for sampling and recruiting for online interview research
- Assess the position and role of the researcher in the context of a study
- Evaluate Information and Communications Technologies for online interviews and evaluate rationales for choices made for a research design.
- Explain how visual images or modes of visual exchange used in an online interview and evaluate how visual methods align with a research design.
- Evaluate ethical dilemmas in online interview data collection.
- Describe the E-Interview Framework and demonstrate how to use it to assess my own and others' research designs.

Competencies

By the end of this course, you should be able to:

- Identify, analyze and address ethical issues associated with conducting online interview research.
- Demonstrate the ability to use online communications tools.
- Work collaboratively with peer learners.
- Demonstrate the ability to locate and critically analyze published scholarly research.
- Understand how to assess ethical dilemmas and develop appropriate research designs and approaches.
- Synthesize all aspects of online interview research practice into a defensible research design.

Academic Honesty and Plagiarism

Note to instructor: Post your institution's policy statement here.

Requirements and Grading

Note to instructor: Select and weight grades for discussions for online or face-to-face class participation, short papers and projects or final paper based on the level and focus of your course.

Graduate writing mechanics and appropriate academic style (APA, MLA, Chicago) are expected.

Discussion participation (x%)

Short Papers and Projects (x%)

Final Paper or Project (x%)

Options:

A. Online interview research proposal

The course will culminate in a formal proposal or plan for future research using synchronous online interviews. The proposed study can be conducted entirely with qualitative methods or with mixed methods. The proposal could be an early version of the methodology chapter of your dissertation or thesis proposal. It could also be a plan for an article or action research in a professional setting.

The proposal should entail a discussion of your research questions and brief background of the inquiry, supported by the scholarly literature. You should offer a detailed explanation and your rationale of the research methodology including sampling approach, interview type, ICT tool(s) and use of visual or other methods.

You will need to justify your methods using the readings from the course and your own research.

Be prepared to give a brief “defense” of your proposal (10-15 minutes), and be prepared to make revisions based on the feedback of your peers. You will be expected to offer feedback on the proposals of your peers.

Length: 15-20 pages

B. Literature review of studies conducted using online interviews

C. Comparative analysis of communication features of a group of ICTs

D. Research practicum: Conduct practice interviews with other students, record, transcribe and analyze the data.

Course Materials

Salmons, J. (2010). *Online Interviews in Real Time*. Thousand Oaks: Sage Publications.

Salmons, J. (2012). *Cases in online interview research*. Thousand Oaks: Sage Publications.



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Unit Topics and Readings

Unit	Topic	Readings
1	Research Purpose and Motivation for Choosing to Conduct Interviews Online	<i>Online Interviews in Real Time</i> , Chapter 1 <i>Cases in Online Interview Research</i> , Chapter 1
2	Research Design and The E-Interview Research Framework	<i>Cases in Online Interview Research</i> , Chapter 1 <i>Online Interviews in Real Time</i> , Chapter 4
3	Interview Research: Epistemologies And Theories	<i>Online Interviews in Real Time</i> , Chapter 3, Sections: Research: New Knowledge and Understandings, Defining “Research Interview” and Research Epistemologies, Methodologies, and Methods Additional readings on research methodologies as assigned.
4	Interview Research with Social Media	<i>Cases in Online Interview Research</i> Part I Interview Research with Social Media Tools Chapter 2 Case: Blog Like an Egyptian Critique and Analysis by Allison Deegan Framework Commentary by Janet Salmons Chapter 3 Case: Stranger in a Strange Land: The Challenges and Benefits of Online Interviews in the Social Networking Space Critique and analysis by Sally Bishai Framework commentary by Janet Salmons
5	Analyzing Interviews Conducted in Second Life	<i>Cases in Online Interview Research</i> Part II: Interview Research in Virtual Worlds Chapter 4 Case: Interviewing in Virtual Worlds: An Application of Best Practices <i>Jonathan Cabiria</i> Critique and Analysis by Ann Randall Framework Commentary by Janet Salmons Chapter 5 Case: Beneficial Interview Effects in Virtual Worlds <i>Ann Randall</i> Critique and Analysis by Patricia Wall et al. Framework Commentary by Janet Salmons



6	Analyzing Second Life Using Interview Research	<p><i>Cases in Online Interview Research</i></p> <p>Chapter 6 Case: Learning to Work In-World: Conducting Qualitative Research in Virtual Worlds Using In-Depth Interviews</p> <p><i>Taryn Stanko</i> <i>Jonathon Richter</i></p> <p><i>Critique and Analysis by Jonathan Cabiria</i></p> <p>Framework Commentary by Janet Salmons</p> <p>Chapter 7 Case: Guides and Visitors: Capturing Stories in Virtual-World and Interactive Web Experiences</p> <p><i>Patricia Wall, Jonas Karlsson, Zahra Langford, Tong Sun, and Wei Peng, Eric Bier, Christian Øverland, Mike Butman, Suzanne Fischer, and Lisa Korzetz</i></p>
7	Interview Research using Videoconferencing and Online Meetings	<p><i>Cases in Online Interview Research</i></p> <p>PART III: RESEARCH USING COMBINATIONS OF VIDEOCONFERENCE, TEXT, MEETING TOOLS, E-MAIL, AND FACE-TO-FACE INTERVIEWS</p> <p>Chapter 8 Case: Transitioning From F2F to Online Instruction: Putting the Action Into Online Research</p> <p><i>Wendy L. Kraglund-Gauthier</i></p> <p><i>Critique and Analysis by Lynn Wilson</i></p> <p>Framework Commentary by Janet Salmons</p> <p>Chapter 10 Case: Implementing Technology in Blended Learning Courses</p> <p><i>Nellie Deutsch</i></p> <p><i>Critique and Analysis by Wendy L. Kraglund-Gauthier</i></p> <p>Framework Commentary by Janet Salmons</p>
8	Interview Research Using a Combination of Technologies	<p><i>Cases in Online Interview Research</i></p> <p>Chapter 9 Case: Integrated Interdisciplinary Online Interviews in Science and Health: The Climate and Health Literacy Project</p> <p><i>Lynn Wilson</i></p> <p><i>Critique and Analysis by Sally Dowling</i></p> <p>Framework Commentary by Janet Salmons</p> <p>Chapter 11 Case: Online Asynchronous and Face-To-Face Interviewing: Comparing Methods for Exploring Women’s Experiences of Breastfeeding Long Term</p> <p><i>Sally Dowling</i></p> <p><i>Critique and Analysis by Nellie Deutsch</i></p> <p>Framework Commentary by Janet Salmons</p>
9	Analyzing Studies using the E-Interview	<p><i>Cases in Online Interview Research</i></p> <p>PART IV: REFLECTIONS ON E-INTERVIEW RESEARCH</p>



	Research Framework	Chapter 12 Building the Bike While Riding It: Creating E-Interview Methods While Conducting Research A Meta-Synthesis of the Cases Janet Salmons
10	Trends and the Future of Online Interviewing	<i>Online Interviews in Real Time</i> , Chapter 9



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