COURSE OVERVIEW: This course is for students who are composing or conducting doctoral research using qualitative social-science methods; it provides individualized mentorship in a collegial context. Students will pursue their own research while receiving training in: research design; interview and participant-observation methodologies; data collection, organization, coding and analysis.

COURSE OBJECTIVES: Upon completion of this course, students will be able to: operationalize a scholarly question or problem into a feasible research plan; devise effective strategies for resolving unanticipated troubles that arise during fieldwork; organize and code qualitative data efficiently with the use of specialized computer software; present results of qualitative research; participate in critical collegial exchange about qualitative research.

PREREQUISITES: Any graduate-level course in qualitative social-science methodology. Additionally, students must either be preparing a dissertation proposal or conducting IRB-approved qualitative research for their dissertations.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS: Weekly attendance, formal presentations of own scholarship, and critical appraisals of the work of other students. Students will make individualized contracts with the professor regarding the progress they will be obliged to make toward their dissertation project during the semester period.