

# Bemidji State University

## GEOG 4190: Qualitative Methods in Geographic Research

### A. COURSE DESCRIPTION

Credits: 3

Lecture Hours/Week: \*.\*

Lab Hours/Week: \*.\*

OJT Hours/Week: \*.\*

Prerequisites: None

Corequisites: None

MnTC Goals: None

As a geographic perspective becomes increasingly important in analysis of critical issues at multiple scales from the local to the global, this course demonstrates how research grounded in qualitative methodologies encourages innovative approaches and yields significant insights. Prerequisite: GEOG 2200. While not required, it is highly recommended that GEOG 4210 and GEOG 4265 be taken previously or concurrently.

**B. COURSE EFFECTIVE DATES:** 08/25/2014 - Present

### C. OUTLINE OF MAJOR CONTENT AREAS

1. As a geographic perspective becomes increasingly important in analysis of critical issues at multiple scales from the local to the global, this course demonstrates how research grounded in qualitative methodologies encourages innovative approaches and yields significant insights. The course will begin by {1} justifying the importance of doing qualitative research in Geography and {2} then exploring the basics of research design. Moving to a focus on the acquisition of nonvisible information, the course next
2. {11} participant observation.
3. {3} details methods of questionnaire design, administration, and data compilation, before {4} reviewing spatial sampling techniques. The third part of the course confronts issues of positionality in qualitative research, including {5} negotiation of the personal and political in research, {6} interpretation of qualitative data, {7} the writing of qualitative research, and {8} the difficulties of moving from interpretation to action-applied qualitative research. Remaining sections of the course deal more specifically with methods of {9} interviewing, {10} working with focus groups, and

### D. LEARNING OUTCOMES (General)

1. Students will be able to distinguish the principal features of interview techniques used in qualitative research in Geography.  
Students will be able to distinguish the principal features of focus group techniques used in qualitative research in Geography.  
Students will be able to distinguish the principal features of participant observation techniques used in qualitative research in Geography.
2. Students will be able to understand the importance of doing qualitative research in Geography.  
Students will be able to organize a basic research design.  
Students will be able to prepare, administer, and compile the data resulting from a questionnaire.  
Students will be able to effectively utilize a variety of spatial sampling techniques.  
Students will be aware of the complexity of issues surrounding the intersections of the personal and the political in conducting qualitative research in Geography.

### E. Minnesota Transfer Curriculum Goal Area(s) and Competencies

None

**F. LEARNER OUTCOMES ASSESSMENT**

As noted on course syllabus

**G. SPECIAL INFORMATION**

None noted