

FIELDING GRADUATE UNIVERSITY

HOD DOCTORAL PROGRAM

◆ ASSESSMENT CONTRACT ◆

**KA – 753B – RESEARCH
METHODS AND DESIGNS**

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ASSESSMENT BEGIN DATE: 1 DECEMBER 2007

ASSESSMENT COMPLETION DATE: 1 MARCH 2008

AGREEMENT IS FOR CREDIT

LEARNING GOALS

Through the course of this study, I will:

- ▶ Develop an in-depth understanding of, and competency with, a variety of methods, designs, and approaches to scholarly research
- ▶ Gain the ability to compare the strengths, limitations, similarities and differences of these various research traditions, including their ethical implications
- ▶ Be able to articulate the relationships between research questions, research designs, research methods, and data analysis
- ▶ Gain confidence in the ability to undertake practical research projects – such as a dissertation – and to relate concrete research decisions to professional concerns
- ▶ Learn the process for seeking funding for research projects

WORKING BIBLIOGRAPHY

- ▶ Banks, M. (2001) *Visual methods in social research*. Thousand Oaks: SAGE Publications
- ▶ Bentz, V.M. and J.J. Shapiro (1998) *Mindful inquiry in social research*. Thousand Oaks: SAGE Publications
- ▶ Bernard, H.R. (1999) *Social research methods: Qualitative and quantitative approaches*. Thousand Oaks: SAGE Publications
- ▶ Bickman, L. and D.J. Rog, eds. (1998) *Handbook of applied social research methods*. Thousand Oaks: SAGE Publications
- ▶ Black, T.R. (1999) *Doing quantitative research in the social sciences: An integrated approach to research design, measurement, and statistics*. Thousand Oaks: SAGE Publications
- ▶ Creswell, J.W. (2002) *Research design: Qualitative, quantitative, and mixed methods*. Thousand Oaks: SAGE Publications

- ▶ Denzin, N.K. and Y.S. Lincoln, eds. (1994) *Handbook of qualitative research*. Thousand Oaks: SAGE Publications
- ▶ Durkheim, E. (1964) *The rules of sociological method*. Free Press: New York
- ▶ Geertz, C. (1988) *Works and lives: The anthropologist as author*. Stanford University Press
- ▶ Gergen, K.J. (1994) *Toward transformation in social knowledge, 2nd edition*. Thousand Oaks: SAGE Publications
- ▶ Golden, M.P., ed. (1976) *The research experience*. New York: F.E. Peacock
- ▶ Greenwood, D. and L. Morten (1988) *Introduction to action research*. Thousand Oaks: SAGE Publications
- ▶ Krippendorff, K. (2004) *Content analysis: An introduction to its methodology, 2nd edition*. Thousand Oaks: SAGE Publications
- ▶ May, T., ed. (2002) *Qualitative research in action*. Thousand Oaks: SAGE Publications
- ▶ McIntyre, L. (2005) *Need to know: Social science research methods*. New York: McGraw-Hill
- ▶ Mistakes, C. (1990) *Heuristic research*. Thousand Oaks: SAGE Publications
- ▶ Neuman, W.L. (2000) *Social research methods: Qualitative and quantitative approaches*. Boston: Allyn & Bacon
- ▶ Park, P. (1993) "What is participative research?" in Park, P., et al. *Voices of changes*. New York: Bergen and Garvey
- ▶ Polkinghorne, D.E. (1988) *Narrative knowing and the human sciences*. Albany: State University of New York Press
- ▶ Rosenwald, C. and R.L. Ochberg, eds. (1992) *Storied lives: The cultural politics of self-understanding*. New Haven: Yale
- ▶ Schratz, M. and R. Walker (1995) *Research as social change*. New York: Routledge
- ▶ Silverman, P. (1999) *Doing qualitative research: A practical handbook*. Thousand Oaks: SAGE Publications
- ▶ Singleton, R., Straits, B. and M. Straits (1993) *Approaches to social research*. U.K.: Oxford
- ▶ Stringer, E.T. (1996) *Action research: A handbook for practitioners*. Thousand Oaks: SAGE Publications
- ▶ Van Manen, M. (1992) *Researching lived experience: Human science for an action sensitive pedagogy*. Ontario: The Althouse Press

- Wengraf, T. (2001) *Qualitative research interviewing: Biographic, narrative, and semi-structured methods*.
Thousand Oaks: SAGE Publications

LEARNING PLAN AND DEMONSTRATION OF LEARNING

I plan to organize this formal study of Research Methods and Designs into three phases: A) Theoretical, B) Practical, and C) Reflective.

- A) Theoretical: I will become familiar with the material in the broad Working Bibliography above, producing a select Annotated Bibliography for my own uses - uses, it turns out, which will begin before my dissertation project. This Annotated Bibliography also will include books and articles unknown to me at present, yet which research of the Working Bibliography will lead me to consult.

To complete this phase, I will write a substantial essay concerning each of the three primary research methods - Qualitative, Quantitative, and Action - detailing the various issues that currently engage scholars about these methods, including ethical concerns. I will title this essay: "Current Issues in Three Social Research Traditions."

- B) Practical: I will design a separate piece of research using each of the three chosen research methods: Qualitative, Quantitative, and Action. Each Design will consist of an accompanying essay in which I: 1) Create a 'research question,' 2) Detail the kind of design I intend to use, 3) Describe the kind of data that I will need to gather to answer this question, using this design, 4) Detail the procedures I intend to follow, showing how these procedures will generate the data I need, and 5) Describe the choices I have made in designing this research, indicating my rationale for each.

This phase will demonstrate my ability to undertake practical research and to relate concrete research decisions to the issues brought up in the readings.

- C) Reflective: I will consummate this educational experience by writing a personal essay in which I reflect on the learning integrated throughout this Knowledge Area, suggesting avenues for future study, and making a note of potential funding sources in my area of interest.