

NORTH DAKOTA STATE UNIVERSITY
EDUC 790: Research Practicum – Q Method Research
Course Syllabus – Spring 2013
3 Credit Hours

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Office Hours:	T/R 9-12, 1-3 (By Appointment)		

Course Description

The purpose of this course is to assist doctoral students with transition to the role of scholar researcher using appropriate methods, strategies, and research ethics. An introduction to Q method, the scientific study of subjectivity, along with its international community of scholars is included. Students will conceptualize research, write a short research proposal that adheres to IRB guidelines, conduct a Q research study, interpret results, and draw conclusions about the research findings. Job talks will also be developed from short manuscripts that follow journal review criteria.

Prerequisite(s)

Admission to doctoral program and/or instructor approval. Basic knowledge and experience with both qualitative and quantitative research design and analytical methods is expected.

Course Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Conceptualize and conduct a research study to explore human subjectivity in an articulated field of study;
2. Understand and adhere to Institutional Review Board policies concerning the ethical conduct of research for the protection of human participants;
3. Analyze and interpret data from Q method studies using available software;
4. Demonstrate an awareness of professional publications and the process for publishing in scholarly journals; and
5. Demonstrate the ability to disseminate research results of a Q method study both orally and in writing.

Course Readings

McKeown, B., & Thomas, D. (1988) *Q Methodology*. Volume 66, Quantitative Applications in the Social Sciences Series. Newbury Park, CA: Sage.

Watts, S. & Stenner, P. (2012). *Doing Q Methodological Research: Theory, Method, & Implementation*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.

Additional Readings: The above texts are only intended to provide an introduction to the topics covered in the course. Additional readings will be assigned each week and we will continue to construct a suggested reading list, including recent research.

Style of Teaching

Conducted as a seminar course merged with a practicum course, most of the class sessions will be an in-depth discussion of the readings within the context of student and instructor research, supplemented with individual and group activities, both in and out of class. These discussions will be based on student-generated concerns and responses to focus questions developed by the instructor on the content of the course.

This course is structured so that you have the freedom to learn as deeply and as broadly as you choose. You will have an opportunity to continue to improve any professional product you are developing for this class. Negotiation for group work is welcomed, but must be pre-planned with the instructor and will entail additional requirements to ensure equal effort is required.

Course Format

The course will be taught primarily face-to-face and may be supplemented with online work using Blackboard and other related technologies. Additionally, course readings will be posted on Blackboard, and all assignments are expected to be submitted using the Blackboard digital drop box as described below.

IVN Broadcast and Video Streaming

This course serves students across North Dakota, Minnesota, and beyond. Therefore, videoconference connections (IVN) may be provided to students in remote locations or when traveling for professional purposes. By attending this course, students imply consent for their image and voice to be recorded for later playback. Class recordings will be maintained for at least one week. When available, recordings can be accessed online through the course BlackBoard website. Use of class recordings are for the sole use of participants in this course and recordings should not be distributed in any format beyond course participants without consent of the instructor in accordance with the NDSU Student Handbook, guidelines for the use of intellectual property, and copyright law.

Course Website

A course website has been created on the Blackboard learning system. You can log in to Blackboard at: <http://bb.ndsu.nodak.edu>. The most current version of the course schedule will be maintained on this site, so it is important that you check the site regularly. You will also be responsible for announcements and assignments made available via Blackboard and will be required to submit assignments to this website for instructor feedback and grading. ***The instructor is only responsible for grading assignments that are submitted properly through the Blackboard digital drop box by the deadline listed in the syllabus.*** You will also be able to access a number of other potentially useful resources such as internet links and copies of course documents and other resources.

Course Learning Opportunities

I. Attendance and Participation

Expectation: As attendance in doctoral level courses is necessary for collaborative learning to occur, you are expected to prepare for and attend all class sessions and to actively participate in class discussions. Should you find an extreme circumstance that prevents you from attending class, arrangements must be made before class begins. Appropriate make-up work, as determined by the instructor, is mandatory or any absence will result in one letter grade lower than the grade you normally earned. While this will typically include watching the course video stream if available or meeting individually with the instructor, this may be only a partial fulfillment of the make-up work for the missed class. ***Missing more than two class***

sessions, even with completion of required make-up work, may result in a 10% deduction of the final grade you otherwise earned.

Expectation: You are expected to be an active participant in your learning and to work at a minimum of three hours outside of class for every one hour of class each week. Roughly, one-third of your time will be spent reading, one-third of the time will be spent thinking, and one-third of the time will be spent writing. The focus of this class is collaborative, rather than competitive, cooperative or consultative.

Invitation: As you consider the wide range of possibilities for understanding subjectivity and the conduct of research in various integrated ways, you are invited to bring in relevant topics, cognitive connections, or articles of new knowledge and understanding to present to the class members. This is not graded but is a necessity for collegiality, collaboration and other professional skills of researchers and practitioners in education.

Invitation: It is recommended that you maintain a research journal and initiate a file system to record thoughts, feelings and activities to help organize your learning. This is encouraged as a highly valuable teaching and learning strategy, but will not be evaluated by the instructor.

III. Demonstration of Integrative and Creative Thought (Depth of Content)

Expectation: You are expected to develop a professional manuscript based on your Q method research to be evaluated by other class members, the instructor, and other colleagues. To obtain full credit for your work, you must develop a plan for submission to an appropriate professional audience. Potential audiences depend on your choice of research and will be discussed during the semester. Your product includes the manuscript, its peer evaluation, oral presentation in the form of a job talk, and plans for submission to the professional audience. The product will be evaluated by the instructor and will comprise 50% of your course grade. Criteria for evaluation will be reviewed during the semester (consistent with journal review procedures).

Invitation: In order to practice skills related to the dissemination of research, you are invited to develop your research product into a poster or presentation to be presented at a conference, such as the NDSU College of Human Development and Education's Research Showcase, to be held in the Memorial Union on April 17, 2013, or into a dissertation proposal (with the guidance of your chair). This is not required for completion of this course and will not be evaluated by the instructor.

Invitation: You are *strongly* encouraged to select a research topic that is both personally and professionally meaningful, including topics that can be used as the basis for future research or other productive, scholarly endeavors. Should you wish to pursue the project after the conclusion of the course, such as presenting or publishing the results, the instructor will provide additional guidance and feedback upon request.

III. Demonstration of Competencies Learned (Breadth of Content)

Expectation: You are expected to complete a Skills Activity every few weeks (see due dates on class schedule) to a competency level of satisfactory (with a corresponding letter grade of B) or a competency level of excellent (with a corresponding letter grade of A). Activity assignments turned in on time will be evaluated and returned for any additional edits you may want to add to potentially increase your level of competency. Each of the five weekly tasks will be graded by the instructor and will comprise a total of 50% of your course grade (10% each – see below for details).

Expectation: You are expected to complete a reflective essay at the completion of the course, which should address each of the following:

- The course description and objectives;
- The overall content of the course;
- The significant authors or resources you examined, including citations and references;
- The assignments you completed;
- The significance of the course to your degree program, work experience, and/or professional goals;
- How your views of research and subjectivity evolved during the course or why they didn't evolve;
- The strengths and limitations of the submitted work, including how you might change them later;
- How/why you changed your products as a result of instructor or peer feedback and/or self-reflection; and
- What this reflection as a whole reveals about you as a learner.

This reflective essay will be ungraded, but failure to submit it will result in a 5% deduction of the total course points, thus resulting in a final grade that is a half-letter grade lower than you otherwise earned.

Invitation: You are strongly encouraged to solicit professional input and feedback from others when completing all products for this class. In other words, fully utilize your colleagues (including fellow students and the instructor).

Grading and Other Important Details

- **Course grades can be calculated as follows:** An A is 93% or above of all possible points with no absences, high quality work and thinking, and consistent contributions to each session, a B is 85 to 92%, a C is 77 to 84%, a D is 68 to 76%, and an F is less than 69% of all possible points and typically indicates a semester in which you didn't have the time or energy to devote yourself to learning the depth and breadth of the course topics. The specific contribution of each requirement to the grade is as follows:

<u>Product</u>	<u>Due Date</u>	<u>Value</u>
Skills Activity 1: Significant Studies	2/2/13	10
Skills Activity 2: Research Plan	2/16/13	10
Skills Activity 3: IRB Training & Application	3/2/13	10
Skills Activity 4: Journal Analyses	4/6/13	10
Skills Activity 5: Peer Edits and Reviews	4/27/13	10
Culminating Project: Research Manuscript	5/4/13	40
Project Presentation: Job Talk	5/4/13	10
Course Reflection Paper*	5/4/13	0
Grade Expectation Sheet*	5/4/13	0

* While not graded, your final course grade will be lowered by 5% if the course reflection paper is not submitted and/or 5% if the grade expectation sheet is not submitted.

- All of the assignments in this course are designed to assess the mastery of the course objectives. If you have questions how any assignment relates to the course purpose or objectives, please ask the instructor.
- ***Out of respect to the instructor and other students in the class, and due to the accelerated pace of the course, assignments are due at times specified on the syllabus or as extended by the instructor.*** (Note: The instructor will not modify assignment deadlines to be earlier than stated on the original syllabus without unanimous consent of all participants in the course.) Unless otherwise

specified, assignments are due by the start of class (9:00 a.m.) and any assignment time-stamped after that time, even by a minute, is considered late. All assignments should be submitted through Blackboard's "submit assignment" link. ***Except in the case of a verifiable emergency, assignments will lose 20% of their point value per calendar day late.*** In the case that an assignment is submitted in multiple parts, it will be counted as if the entire assignment is submitted at the time of the latest time-stamp.

- Because all education professionals are expected to communicate well in writing, ***written assignments will be graded on their technical quality as well as content.*** All written assignments should be proofread carefully for spelling, grammar, and syntax. First drafts of assignments are rarely appropriate in graduate-level courses.
- Although self-evaluation and peer evaluation are a significant portion of your growth and development in this course, the instructor does final grading of the assignments. Upon the receipt of your Grade Expectation form, which will be after all other work for this class is fully complete, any inconsistencies between your expectation for a grade and the grade assigned will be discussed with the instructor. ***Interviews about grades and course assignments will be conducted with all students during finals week.***
- As the students in this course are typically working toward a Ph.D. in Education, the products utilized for assessment are intended to be authentic to the professional experience of such individuals after graduation, though they also broadly apply to others interested in education at all levels. Thus, the products are primarily intended to promote the development of skills related to understanding, planning for, conducting, and disseminating research. If you are not pursuing a Ph.D. in Education, the instructor will gladly work with you on an individual basis to develop products that will be meaningful to your professional goals. Any substituted course products must require similar levels of student effort and an agreement between the instructor and student must be finalized, in writing, by the end of the third week of the semester.
- Use a realistic estimate when predicting the time you will need to complete the course activities and requirements. Although the option of taking an incomplete ("I") is available to you at the end of the semester should you encounter an emergency or other unexpected events, it may mean that you will receive one letter grade decrease in your course grade.

If you find that you are falling behind or are experiencing difficulty in completing course assignments, please discuss the situation with the instructor as soon as possible so that mutually-negotiated accommodations can be made that will enable you to fulfill the requirements of the course and to avoid having to take an incomplete. University policy dictates that incomplete grades can only be given if at least two-thirds of the course requirements have been completed by the end of the grading period.

- In an effort to create a psychologically secure environment, students are expected to exhibit professional behavior and a scholarly disposition. Discussions and questions take place in an atmosphere of collegial exchanges. Teamwork and collegiality is a part of shared learning and is therefore expected in throughout the course.
- As all work in this class is expected to utilize APA (*6th edition*) style, learn and practice it early.

Drop and Add Policy

The standard drop/add policy for classes will be followed as determined by the Office of Registration and Records (<http://www.ndsu.edu/bisonconnection/registration/policies/registration/>).

Intellectual Property Policy

Words and ideas are the intellectual property of the individuals who originated them. Thus, whenever you quote more than three words in sequence from any single source, you must enclose those words in quotation marks. Cite in parentheses the author of the book or article, the year of publication, and the number of the page on which the words were written (e.g., Fowler, 2009, p. 25). Include the complete citation of the source in your references at the end of your paper. Failure to follow these procedures will result in loss of points on any paper in which such failure occurs. Furthermore, failure to follow these procedures may be viewed as plagiarism and, thus, a violation of university policies that pertain to academic integrity.

Academic Integrity

All work in this course must be completed in a manner consistent with standards suitable to members of an academic community. The following specific policies apply:

- “Right and Responsibilities of Community: A Code of Student Behavior (2008, August) available from the dean of Student Life (MU 250) or on the NDSU Student Life website (http://www.ndsu.edu/fileadmin/studentlife/PDF_Files/CodeofStudentBehavior.pdf);
- The College of Human Development and Education’s Professional and Academic Honor Codes (http://www.ndsu.edu/fileadmin/hde/undergraduate/HDE_Honor_Code.pdf); and
- NDSU University Senate Policy, Section 335: Code of Academic Responsibility and Conduct (<http://www.ndsu.edu/fileadmin/policy/335.pdf>).

Notice: The instructor reserves the right to report academic integrity violations and assign a grade of “F” for the assignment or for the entire course as appropriate.

Students with Disabilities

Any student with disabilities or other special needs who needs special accommodations in this course is invited to share these concerns or requests with the instructor as soon as possible.

Students Serving in the Military

Veterans and student soldiers with special circumstances or who are activated are encouraged to notify the instructor in advance.

Religious Observances

Students have a right to expect that religious observances, practices, and beliefs will be respected and reasonably accommodated. Upon prior notification to the course instructor, students in this course will be excused from class or other scheduled academic activities to observe verifiable religious holy days. Students will be permitted a reasonable amount of time to make up the material or activities covered in their absence and will not be penalized because of religious observances.

Sexual Harassment

Please see the following link to review university policy and procedures regarding sexual harassment: (<http://www.ndsu.edu/fileadmin/policy/162.pdf>).

EDUC 790: Q METHOD RESEARCH

TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE – SPRING 2013

Session	Topic	Readings & Due Dates
1. January 12th a. 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. b. 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.	Welcome & Course Overview Introduction to Q	W/S, Chapter 1
2. January 19th a. 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. b. 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.	Q Research Design Theoretical Frameworks	W/S, Chapter 2 & Posted Readings
3. February 2nd a. 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. b. 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.	Concourse Development Basic Design Issues	W/S, Chapter 3 & Posted Readings <i>Significant Studies Due (10%)</i>
4. February 16th a. 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. b. 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.	Fieldwork and Data Collection Research Ethics	W/S, Chapter 4 & Posted Readings <i>Research Plan Due (10%)</i>
February 18th – March 1st	Individual Consultation	<i>Bring IRB Draft</i>
5. March 2nd a. 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. b. 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.	Factor Extraction Factor Rotation	W/S, Chapters 5-6 & Posted Readings <i>Final IRB Application Due (10%)</i>
March	Individual Consultation As Needed	
6. April 6th a. 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. b. 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.	Factor Interpretation Factor Interpretation	W/S, Chapter 7 & M/T, All <i>Bring Initial Output; Journal Analyses Due (10%)</i>
7. April 20th a. 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. b. 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.	Writing and Publishing Q Writing and Publishing Q	W/S, Chapter 8 & Posted Readings
April 22nd – April 26th	Individual Consultation	<i>Bring Output & Mockups Peer Review Draft Due April 27th (10%)</i>
8. May 4th a. 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.	Disseminating Research Results	<i>Job Talks (10%); Manuscript Due (40%)</i>
May 6th – 9th As Scheduled	Individual Grade Meetings	<i>Course Reflection Due (0%)</i>

EDUC 790: Q METHOD RESEARCH

COURSE OUTCOMES MAP – SPRING 2013

Outcome	Course Topic	Assessment	Due Date
1. Conceptualize and conduct a research study to explore human subjectivity in an articulated field of study;	1b. Introduction to Q;	Significant Studies	2/2/13
	2a. Q Research Design;	Research Plan	2/16/13
	2b. Theoretical Frameworks;		
	3a. Concourse Development; 3b. Basic Design Issues;		
2. Understand and adhere to Institutional Review Board policies concerning the ethical conduct of research for the protection of human participants;	4a. Fieldwork and Data Collection;	IRB Training	3/2/13
	4b. Research Ethics	IRB Application	3/2/13
3. Analyze and interpret data from Q method studies using available software;	5a. Factor Extraction;	Initial Output	4/6/13
	5b. Factor Rotation;	Theoretical Array	4/20/13
	6. Factor Interpretation	Mockups	
4. Demonstrate an awareness of professional publications and the process for publishing in scholarly journals;	7. Writing and Publishing Q	Journal Analyses	4/6/13
		Peer Edits & Reviews	4/27/13
5. Demonstrate the ability to disseminate research results of a Q method study both orally and in writing.	8. Disseminating Research Results	Culminating Manuscript	5/4/13
		Job Talk	5/4/13
		Course Reflection	5/6/13 –
		Grade Expectation Sheet	5/9/13

Possible Changes to the Syllabus

This syllabus is your contract for production in the course. If changes are made to it they will be announced in class and posted on the course website as soon as possible. No changes increasing requirements will be made without unanimous consent of the entire class as these might adversely affect your grade.