DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP  
Florida Atlantic University  

COURSE NUMBER & TITLE: EDA 6415 Introduction To Qualitative Inquiry  

CATALOG DESCRIPTION:  
(3 semester hours)  
Students will learn about qualitative methods for research in schools and other organizations. We will study research design, data collection techniques, fieldwork relations and beginning data analysis. Applying concepts to practice, students will be involved in structured learning activities to learn about processes of qualitative research.  

REQUIRED TEXTS:  

AUDIO/VISUAL TECHNOLOGY:  
Blackboard-web assisted; DVD. Video tape, Electronic mail, Internet, Power point presentations, qualitative software  

COURSE CONNECTION TO CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK:  
This course is based upon the essential components of the College’s conceptual framework, including the need for high performing educational managers to be capable, informed and ethical leaders and managers, having the ability to build learning organizations based upon a reflective decision-making model for continuous improvement.  

GUIDELINES USED IN DEVELOPING COURSE OBJECTIVES:  
Florida Educational Leadership Examination (FELE)  
Florida Principal Competencies (FPC)  
NCATE Standards  
Interstate School Leaders Licensure Consortium Standards (ISLLC)  

COURSE OBJECTIVES:  
Students will be able to:  
1) practice the techniques and develop the skills of a qualitative researcher;  
(FELE Communications G, FELE Technology F; FPC 18)  
2) understand the strengths and weaknesses of qualitative research; and  
(FPC 5, 6; NCATE 2.1, 2.2)  
3) read critically and utilize qualitative studies effectively.  
(FELE Public School Curriculum D; NCATE 2.4, 3.3; ISLLC 6)  

CONTENT OUTLINE:  
Units & Topics:  

Unit 1 Topic: What is Research?  

Unit 2 Topic: Principles of Qualitative Research Design  
What Do You Want to Know?  

Unit 3 Topic: Fieldwork: Participant & Transient Observation  

Unit 4 Topic: Beginning Data Analysis  
Document & Artifact Review
Unit 5   Topic: Learning By Asking: Interviewing
Unit 6   Topic: In-depth Interviewing
Unit 7   Topic: Data Analysis & Computer Programs
Unit 8   Topic: Critical Conversations About Research
Units 9 &10 Topic: Making Sense of Your Field Research
Unit 11  Topic: Becoming Responsible Consumers of Qualitative Research
Unit 12  Topic: Field Research & Data Analysis
Unit 13  Topic: The Ethics of Qualitative Research
Unit 14  Topic: How to Communicate Qualitative Research Findings
Unit 15  Topic: Final Reflections On Qualitative Inquiry: What It Means to Be A Qualitative Researcher and Application to Practice

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:
1. Fieldwork memos
2. Researcher log & journal
3. Book critique
4. Field study: presentation & report
5. Reflective essay

GRADING/EVALUATION CRITERIA:
This course will follow FAU’s grading policy.

A  = 4.0   A-  = 3.67
B+ = 3.33  B  = 3.00  B-  = 2.67
C  = 2.00  C-  = 1.67
D+ = 1.33  D  = 1.00  D-  = 0.67
F   = 0

ATTENDANCE POLICY:
Regular attendance is expected. Attendance includes active involvement in all class sessions, class discussions, and class activities as well as professional conduct in class.

BIBLIOGRAPHY:


