**Syllabus**
Research Methods II
IS40510, Winter 2011
Tuesday 10-12PM, SILS Room 107
Labs in G6 DAE

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**Textbooks**

Required texts:


Other required reading will be drawn from:


Some other required readings may be announced during the module. Such readings will be posted online. You will be informed in advance where to find the readings.

**Introduction**

This module continues from Research Methods I (RM I). Whereas Research Methods I served as an introduction to the research process in information and library science—the formation of a research agenda—Research Methods II will have you delve into conducting actual research with data gathered from the world in which we live in. This will be accomplished through fieldwork combining both quantitative and qualitative methods.

For this semester, fieldwork will focus on *the relationship between people and technological artifacts*. While we will cover a wide range of research techniques, we will primarily focus on two methods that have particular relevance in information science (or informatics)
1) Grounded Theory methods that generate, analyze and interpret texts from ethnographic fieldwork.
2) Statistical hypothesis testing designed to draw research conclusions from a population data source (e.g., surveys).

This class will deemphasize a dichotomous view of methodology—qualitative versus quantitative—and, instead, take a pragmatic stance that good research will often utilize a diverse set of methodologies to best explain, evaluate, and learn from the behavioral phenomena that characterizes the interplay between technology and people.

**Learning Outcomes**

Upon completion of Research Methods II, students will be able to:

1) Develop appropriate data collection instruments for mixed methods research
2) Choose and conduct from a wide repertoire of appropriate qualitative/quantitative analyses for the data at hand
3) Gain fluency with software to assist in qualitative and quantitative analyses
4) Prepare a comprehensive research report that draws on socio-technical theories from the research literature to communicate novel research results
5) Work collaboratively on a research team.

**Assessment**

This is the currently planned assessment. This is subject to change.

Class Participation/Attendance: 15%
Quantitative Assignment: 20%
Qualitative Assignment: 20%
Ethnographic writeup: 45%

It is your responsibility to check your email regularly and the class website for any module announcements, clarifications, or changes in readings or assignments. Most importantly, this class will require you to actually spend time doing interviews and observations in a pub to complete your fieldwork. *Attendance is mandatory.*

There is zero-tolerance for cheating in this module. Please do not plagiarize. Cite work that you use.

**Schedule of Modules:** Course readings/topics may change. Readings for each listed week are to be completed before class on Tuesday.

**WEEK 1: Module introduction and Informatics**
If you need a refresher course, refer to:
  
Robson—Chapter 2 and Chapter 3
Bernard—Chapter 16

WEEK 2: Quantitative Data collection methods: Surveys & Counting

Required reading:

Robson—Chapter 8 and Chapter 10

Barley, S. R. (1986). Technology as an Occasion for Structuring: Evidence from Observations of

Computer Supported Cooperative Work (CSCW), 16(1-2), 1-10. doi:10.1007/s10606-007-9043-6

the Design of New Media to Support Leisure Outings. *Computer Supported Cooperative Work (CSCW)*, 16(1-2), 45-73. doi:10.1007/s10606-007-9046-3


WEEK 3: Qualitative Data collection methods: Participant observation & Interviewing

Required reading:

Bernard—Chapter 9, 13, 14 (pg. 387-398), and 15 (pg. 437-448)
Robson-Chapter 9 and 11 (pg. 325-345)

Weiss, 1994, Interviewing, from Learning from Strangers.


**WEEK 4: Quantitative Data analysis: Descriptive statistics, inferential statistics**

Class held in the Daedalus Building, G6: Lab intro to SPSS software

**Required reading:**

Robson (pg. 385-389)

Robson-Chapter 13 (pg. 391-454)

**Supplemental Reading:**

Bernard-Chapter 19 and 20

**WEEK 5: Qualitative Data analysis: Grounded Theory & Coding**

Class held in the Daedalus Building, G6: Lab intro to NVivo software

**Required reading:**

Robson (pg. 190-193)


**WEEK 6: Quantitative Data analysis: t-test, F-test, chi-squared test**

**Required reading:**

Bernard-Chapter 7, 19 (pg. 584-593), and 20 (pg. 594-612)

Robson-review material on correlation (pg. 420-427)

**WEEK 7: Qualitative Data analysis: Discourse/Content analysis, Postmodern theories**

[**QUALITATIVE ASSIGNMENT DUE**]

**Required reading:**

Berger & Luckman-Chapter 1
Phillips & Hardy-Chapter 1

Supplemental reading:
Phillips & Hardy-Chapter 2
Sismondo-Chapter 6

WEEK 8: Quantitative data analysis workshop

WEEK 9: Putting it all together: writing, editing, discussion, conclusions. Examples from literature.
[**QUANTITATIVE ASSIGNMENT DUE]**

WEEK 10: Group data session

WEEK 11: Advanced techniques for data analysis: Regression + multiple regression, alternative qualitative methods. Guest speaker.

WEEK 12: Final presentations
[**FINAL REPORTS DUE**]