

Course	Qualitative Methods for User Societies
Course No.	02RB233
Credits	2.0Credits
Grade	1, 2Year
Timetable	FallAB Wed1,2
Instructor	Aki Yamada
Course Overview	<p>Qualitative methods are often used in sociological research to explain a person's thoughts, behaviors, and/or actions, by focusing on subjective analysis in terms of why or how. This style of research can provide a fresh perspective in engineering fields, for example, examining how customers and end users utilize products, or why they favor a certain design or function over another. This introductory course in qualitative methods and design issues in sociological research will cover the basics of ethnography and ethnographical research, highlighting the strengths of qualitative research methods. One of the key points of the EMP's Empowerment Studio is the refinement of systems through exhibition and iteration. In development cycles such as this, qualitative methodologies can be a powerful tool for understanding the end users of a product and how to better develop according to their needs and desires. The course will be taught in English, and will start with an introduction and theoretical framework, actual field research, and at the end, we will summarize field data and write reports.</p>
Remarks	Those who do not belong to the PhD program in Empowerment Informatics need the permission of the instructor to register.
Course Type	lectures
Course Remarks	<p>Seminar and discussion style Lecture in English. A minimum of three students are required.</p>
Relationship to EMP Educational Objectives	Interdisciplinary ability:Broad specialist knowledge and experience
Course Objectives	<p>1)To become aware of the wide variety of qualitative or interpretive methods and techniques. 2)To become aware of broad ethnical consideration in interpretive research. 3) To develop the insights and skills to design a qualitative study with a coherent conceptual framework and plans for appropriate methods and analysis. This course offers an introduction to "Qualitative", or better, "Interpretive" research methods with emphasis on observation and interviewing, methods used in ethnographical fieldwork and many qualitative approaches.</p>
Course Schedule	
Graduating Methods and Criteria	<p>Final report A+:( above 90) A:(80-89 ) B:(70-79 ) C:(60-69) D:(Under 60)</p>

Homework	
Textbook	<p>Merriam, Sharan B 2009. Qualitative Research: A Guide to Design and Implementation, San Francisco: Jossey-Bass</p> <p>Presents a clear straightforward introduction to a variety of qualitative methods, with particular attention to case studies and good illustrations. Good chapters on design (Ch.4&amp;7) and good discussion of "theory" with useful appendix.</p> <p>Sideman, Irving. 2013. Interviewing Qualitative Research: A Guide for Researchers in Education and the Social Sciences. New York: Teachers College Press.</p>
References	
Office Hour	Office Hours: By appointment, email me or ask me in class.
Messages for Students	
Teaching Fellow / Teaching Assistant	
Keywords	Ethnography, observation, Field, work