



**PAPM 3000 Policy Research**

**Fall 2018**

**Course Information**

**Instructor:** Vlasios Melessanakis  
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**Class times:** Mondays, 6:05 – 8:55 pm  
**Classroom:** SA 306

**Course Overview**

This course offers a broad introduction to policy research, with a specific emphasis on qualitative research methods. The course offers a survey of the most commonly used qualitative research methodologies and data-collection tools such as interviews, focus groups, ethnography, observation, and content analysis. It also introduces students to the most important elements associated with building a research design, including the formulation of research questions, the parameterization of concepts and indicators, and the consideration of ethical issues – all of which are important to policy research.

**Course Requirements**

Exam (in-class) on November 26: 50%

Group Research Project: 50%

- Part 1: Literature Review due on October 29 (25%)
- Part 2: Research Proposal due on November 19 (25%)

The group project is to be completed in a group of 4 or 5 students – with every student in the group receiving the same grade. Exceptions apply to students registered with the Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities, and with permission from the instructor.

The instructor will provide details concerning the exam and group research proposal in the first weeks of the course.

**Textbook**

Qualitative Research Methods for the Social Sciences  
By Howard Lune and Bruce L. Berg (LB)  
Ninth Edition (2017)

Additional readings will be provided in cuLearn.

## Course Outline and Readings

### 1. Course outline + the changing nature of public policy (September 10)

- No readings

### 2. Introduction to Policy and Qualitative Research (September 17)

- LB, Chapters 1
- Brower, Ralph S., Mitchel Y. Abolafia, and Jered B. Carr. 2000. "On Improving Qualitative Methods in Public Administration Research," *Administration and Society* 32(4): 363-397.

### 3. Research Design and Conceptualization (September 24)

- LB, Chapter 2
- Gerring, John. 1999. "What Makes a Concept Good?" *Polity* 31(3): 357-393.
- Mulgan, Richard. 2000. "Accountability: An Ever-Expanding Concept?" *Public Administration* 78(3): 555-573.

### 4. Research Ethics (October 1)

- LB, Chapter 3
- Hammersley, Martyn and Anna Traianou. 2012. "Privacy, Confidentiality and Anonymity" in *Ethics in Qualitative Research: Controversies and Contexts*. London: Sage Research Methods. P.99-132.

\*\*\*Note: no class on October 8 (Thanksgiving)

### 5. Content and Discourse Analysis (October 15)

- LB, Chapter 11
- Ospina, Sonia M., and Jennifer Dodge. 2005. "It's About Time: Catching Method Up to Meaning—The Usefulness of Narrative Inquiry in Public Administration Research," *Public Administration Review* 65(2): 143-157.
- Hsieh, Hsiu-Fang and Sarah E. Shannon. 2005. "Three Approaches to Qualitative Content Analysis." *Qualitative Health Research* 15(9): 1277-1288.

\*\*\*Note: no class on October 22 (Reading Week)

### 6. Interviews and Focus Groups (October 29)

- LB, Chapters 4 and 5
- Goldstein, K. 2002. "Getting in the Door: Sampling and Completing Elite Interviews," *PS: Political Science and Politics*, 35 (4): 669-672.
- Reinharz, Shulamit. 1992. Chapter 2: Feminist Interviewing, *Feminist Methods in Social Research*. Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press.

Part 1 of Project due at the beginning of class

### 7. Observation, Ethnography and Historical Research (November 5)

- LB, Chapters 6 and 9
- Kubik, Jan. 2009. "Ethnography of Politics: Foundations, Applications, Prospects" in Edward Schatz, ed., *Political Ethnography*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
- Rhodes, R. A. W. 2005. "Everyday Life in a Ministry: Public Administration as Anthropology," *American Review of Public Administration* 35(1): 3-25.

- Green, Alix R. 2003. "Using History in Public Policy Development," submitted to the University of Hertfordshire in partial fulfilment of the requirements of the degree of Ph.D.

#### 8. Case Studies (November 12)

- LB, Chapter 10
- Levy, Jack S. 2008. "Case studies: Types, designs, and logics of inference," *Conflict Management and Peace Science* 25(1): 1-18.
- Flyvbjerg, Bent. 2006. "Five Misunderstandings About Case-Study Research," *Qualitative Inquiry* 12(2): 219-245.
- Alexander George and Andrew Bennett. 2005. "Comparative Methods: Controlled Comparison and Within Case Analysis," in George & Bennett, *Case Studies & Theory Development*, MIT Press, pp. 151-179.

#### 9. Writing Policy Research (November 19)

- LB, Chapter 12

Part 2 of Project due at the beginning of class

#### 10. Final Exam (November 26)

\*\*\*Note: no class on December 3

### University Policies

#### *Academic Integrity*

Please be aware that all work submitted as a requirement of PAPM 3000 must be both your own work and original to this course. Academic offences are serious infractions and will not be tolerated. Students should consult [Section 14](#) of the Faculty of Graduate Studies Calendar, General Regulations concerning academic integrity and instructional offences.

#### *Academic Accommodation*

You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term. For an accommodation request the processes are as follows.

- Pregnancy obligation: write to the instructor with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details visit the Equity Services website: <http://www2.carleton.ca/equity/>
- Religious obligation: write to the instructor with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details visit the Equity Services website: <http://www2.carleton.ca/equity/>
- Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities: The Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) provides services to students with Learning Disabilities (LD), psychiatric/mental health disabilities, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder, Autism Spectrum Disorders, chronic medical conditions, and impairments in mobility, hearing, and vision. If you have a disability requiring academic accommodations in this course, please contact PMC at 613-520-6608 or [pmc@carleton.ca](mailto:pmc@carleton.ca) for a formal evaluation. If you are already registered with the PMC, contact your PMC coordinator to send the instructor your **Letter of Accommodation** at the beginning of the term, and no later than two weeks before the first in-class scheduled test or exam requiring accommodation. After requesting accommodation from PMC, meet with the instructor to ensure accommodation arrangements are made.

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