**Mixed Methods Research**

**Tuesday 2pm-3:15pm in Redcay 105**

**Thursday 2pm-3:15pm in Hudson Hall GIS Lab**

**Instructor:**

Dr. Kim Coleman

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Office: 149 Hudson Hall

Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday: 11:00am until 12:00pm or by appointment

**Purpose**

This course is an introduction to quantitative and qualitative methods for environmental planning and management. Course topics include census data analysis, survey design and implementation, field reconnaissance, photo interpretation, content analysis, interviewing techniques, and focus groups. The primary purpose of this course is to introduce students to the types of analytical methods used by professional environmental planners. Students will also learn to interpret and synthesize analytical results to support planning and policy change.

**Course Objectives**

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

* Describe difference between research paradigms
* Articulate the utility and appropriateness of qualitative versus quantitative research
* Design a research proposal
* Analyze and interpret data
* Identify limitations in research designs and methods

**Course Evaluation** (if you have any special needs, please contact Kim ASAP)

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Assignment | % of Grade |
| Themes from Interviews | 5 |
| Coded Interviews | 10 |
| Presentation: Preliminary Findings | 10 |
| Quantitative Analysis | 10 |
| Final Presentation | 15 |
| Mid-term exam | 25 |
| Final exam | 25 |

Plus/minus grades will be assigned as follows: 100 to 90 = A; 88.5 to 90 = B+; 82.5 to 88.5=B; 80 to 82.5 = B-; etc.

**Material**

Creswell, John W. *A concise introduction to mixed methods research*. Sage Publications, 2014.

(available in bookstore).

NVivo Software Student Edition (available in Hudson 027).

**Class Schedule**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Date** | **Topic** | **Readings** | **What is Due?** |
| 1/29 | Introduction to class |  |  |
| 1/31 | Creswell Chapter 1 | Creswell Chapter 1 |  |
| 2/5 | Review of key topics from chapter 1 |  |  |
| 2/7 | Introduction to NVivo: How it works, what it can do, what it can’t do. |  |  |
| 2/12 | Creswell Chapter 2 | Creswell Chapter 2 |  |
| 2/14 | Getting started in NVivo: uploading files, assigning cases, assigning attributes, coding |  |  |
| 2/19 | Creswell Chapter 3, focus on qualitative research | Creswell Chapter 3 |  |
| 2/21 | Qualitative data analysis in NVivo |  |  |
| 2/26 | Creswell Chapter 3, focus on quantitative |  |  |
| 2/28 | Quantitative analysis in NVivo |  |  |
| 3/5 | Chapter 4: Mixed Methods Designs | Creswell Chapter 4 |  |
| 3/7 | Introduction the class research project: beginning our project in NVivo | Background on CFLRP (on Moodle) | Themes you’re interested in! |
| 3/12 | Mid-term Review |  |  |
| 3/14 | Mid-term |  |  |
| 3/19 | Spring Break |  |  |
| 3/21 | Spring Break |  |  |
| 3/26 | Chapter 6: Introducing a Mix Methods Study | Creswell Chapter 6 |  |
| 3/28 | In-class coding |  |  |
| 4/2 | Data interpretation: Qualitative |  |  |
| 4/5 | In-class coding |  |  |
| 4/9 | Presenting Initial Findings |  | Presentations: “Preliminary Findings” (from coding); Coded interviews turned into Kim |
| 4/11 | NVivo work day: combining class coding! |  |  |
| 4/16 | Data interpretation: Quantitative |  |  |
| 4/18 | NVivo analysis functions |  |  |
| 4/23 | Integrating and interpreting mixed methods data | Creswell Chapter 7 |  |
| 4/25 | Research Project Work Day |  |  |
| 4/30 | Presenting Mixed Methods Research | Creswell Chapter 8 | Quantitative Analysis |
| 5/2 | Research Project Work Day |  |  |
| 5/7 | Developments of Mixed Methods | Creswell Chapter 10 |  |
| 5/9 | Final Research Presentations |  | Final Presentation |
| 5/16 | Final Exam: 2:30pm in Hudson 027 |  |  |

**Honor Code**

All work required of you in this course is expected to be the product of your individual effort (or your team, if working on a team project). You may use class notes, discussions, and references to inform your work, but all the writing/scripting/creating required by assignments must be yours. No notes, books, or other assistance may be used during exams.

**Penalties**

All assignments (except in-class activities) must be typed and turned in via Moodle on the day they are due. Extensions will be granted for extraordinary circumstances. Submit a request and legitimate documentation.