

**ATA 689  
QUALITATIVE RESEARCH METHODS  
Fall 2026**

Monday 678, ATA Seminar Room  
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Office hours: By appointment

**Course Description**

This course introduces students to the theoretical, ethical, and practical dimensions of qualitative research in social sciences. It is designed to help and guide ATA students in their qualitative studies on modern Turkey. The course is organized around learning by doing. **Only students who intend to undertake original field research should enroll in the course.**

We will begin with close discussion of foundational texts in qualitative research. In the light of these readings, students will design, conduct, and present their own fieldwork projects. In addition to written assignments and class presentations, feedback on fellow participants' research will be a major component of the course. In addition to completing written assignments and delivering class presentations, students will provide constructive feedback on their peers' research, which will constitute a central component of the course.

**Course Objectives**

By the end of the course, students should be able to:

- explain the epistemological assumptions that distinguish qualitative modes of inquiry;
- master the key principles of qualitative research design
- formulate a focused and feasible qualitative research question;
- select and justify appropriate methods in relation to a research problem;
- produce systematic fieldnotes, conduct semi-structured interviews, and analyze textual or visual materials;
- practice reflexivity regarding positionality and ethics
- offer and use constructive peer feedback throughout the research process.

**Course Evaluation**

Students are expected to 1) attend class and actively participate in the discussion, 2) weekly report on their progress on their project for the course, 3) present in class a deconstructive analysis of a qualitative study (article, book) related to their own research topic, and 4) at the end of the semester, submit a final paper that that builds on their field research.

Class participation and presentation 25%  
Weekly Reports 25 %  
Final Paper 50%

**Selected Readings:**

Wayne Booth, Gregory Colomb and Joseph Williams. 2008. *The Craft of Research*. University of Chicago Press.

Howard Becker. 2007. *Writing for the Social Sciences*. Chicago University Press.

Howard Becker. 1998. *Tricks of the Trade: How to Think about Your Research While You're Doing it*. Chicago University Press.

Martin Hammersley and Paul Atkinson. 2007. *Ethnography: Principles in Practice*. Routledge.

Karen O'Reilly. 2005. *Ethnographic Methods*. Routledge.

Jennifer Mason. 2002. *Qualitative Researching*. Sage Publications.

H. Russell Bernard. 2017. *Research Methods in Anthropology*. Rowman&Littlefield Publishers

H. Russell Bernard. 2000. *Social Research Methods*. Sage Publications.

R.Harmanşah ve Z.N. Nahya (der). 2016. *Etnografik Hikayeler. Türkiye'de Alan Araştırması Deneyimleri*. Metis.