I. Purpose

This course provides a detailed overview of knowledge and skills in qualitative inquiry. It examines issues in the philosophy of science and paradigms for qualitative inquiry in social work. It emphasizes principles and procedures for qualitative inquiry design, including an introduction to data collection, analysis, and report writing, while attending to criteria for establishing trustworthiness.

II. Prerequisites

Students wanting to take this course should have completed SW978: Research Design or a comparable course, or they should seek permission from the instructor.

III. Objectives

By the completion of SW 979, doctoral students will be able to:

A. Articulate the connections between paradigm, research question, qualitative method, and methods for data analysis.

B. Identify and develop research questions appropriate for qualitative inquiry.

C. Review empirical and theoretical scholarly literature in order to identify rationale for qualitative study and implications of study findings.

D. Discuss ethical issues that arise throughout the qualitative research process, focusing on those related to responsible data collection, management, and reporting.

E. Design and implement a qualitative research project that appropriately matches research questions.

F. Describe the development and usefulness of different qualitative research methods, including ethnography and ethnomethodology, grounded theory, phenomenological approaches, historical research, and constructivist inquiry, among others.

G. Understand and apply various common methodologies of empirical qualitative data collection including individual and focus group interviews, observation, as well as examination of documents, records, and artifacts.

H. Ability to understand and apply various methods of qualitative data analysis, and determine when to use each appropriately, including introduction to the use of qualitative data analysis software packages.
I. Identify and apply criteria for rigor and trustworthiness for different types of qualitative research.

J. Identify ways to organize, synthesize, report, disseminate, and utilize qualitative inquiry findings through paths such as dissertation, presentations, publications, teaching, and service.

K. Understand similarities and differences between quantitative and qualitative research approaches and connection with mixed methods.

IV. Required Topics

**Paradigms and Theoretical Perspectives**
Objectivist/Positivist, Constructionist, and Alternative 
  e.g. Post-Positivist, Constructivist, Heuristic, Pragmatic, or Critical Theories

Compare and contrast paradigms/theoretical perspectives, examining the values, assumptions, research methods and methodologies, and research implications associated with each

**Similarities and differences between Quantitative and Qualitative Research Approaches**

**Qualitative Research Methodologies**
e.g., Naturalistic or Constructivist
  Ethnography, Auto-Ethnography, and Ethnomethodology
  Phenomenological Research
  Oral History
  Case Study
  Biography
  Grounded Theory
  Empowerment
  Discourse Analysis
  Participant Action Research
  Feminist And Culturally-rooted Research
  Mixed Methods
  Qualitative Program Evaluation Research

**Formulating and Matching Research Questions, Methodologies, and Topics**
Overall Questions
More Focused Questions

**Ethical issues in qualitative research**
  Preparing IRB forms for qualitative studies
  Responsible collection, management, and reporting of qualitative data
  Relating standard human subjects protection issues to social work professional values and ethics arising in qualitative studies

**Methods: Collecting and Analyzing Empirical Materials**
Interviews: Individual and Group
Observations
Transcript preparation
Field Notes and Reflexive Logs
Methodological Logs
Developing Analytic Units, Codes, Categories, Themes
Constant Comparison Analytic Process
Document analysis
Analysis of narrative content
Emergent Understanding
Introduction to Qualitative Research Software

**Rigor in Qualitative Research**
Trustworthiness and Authenticity
Credibility
Dependability
Transferability
Confirmability, including Audit Trail and Auditing Procedures
Additional criteria specific to paradigm/method of inquiry, e.g., empowerment, social construction

**Developing and Presenting Qualitative Research**
Strategies for Dissemination of Findings
Implications for Dissertation