English 713: Research Methods in Rhetorics, Literacies, and Community Engagement
Mondays 4:30-7:10pm, Curtin 368

Professor: Rachel Bloom-Pojar, Ph.D.
Office: Curtin 482
Office Hours: TBD
Email: bloompoj@uwm.edu

Course Description: This seminar focuses on the issues and practice of qualitative research as it applies to areas of inquiry in rhetoric, writing, and literacy studies. We will examine a variety of methodological approaches to qualitative research. As a class, we will focus on developing the knowledge and skills necessary for designing rigorous, qualitative studies, applying for IRB human subjects approval, and engaging in ethical practices for research with communities. You will also have the chance to practice some of the research methods we study and engage in collaborative work to do a preliminary analysis of qualitative data. Ultimately, by the end of this course, you should have the tools and knowledge to design a methodologically-sound qualitative study and understand how you might approach analyzing the data you would collect in that study.

Logistics: While it is not a requirement to be at the stage where you are ready to conduct the qualitative research, this will be most useful for students who have an idea of what they are interested in studying with rhetorics, literacies, and/or community engagement. This will also be beneficial to help students learn how to best study those issues, concepts, interactions, and/or phenomena through qualitative research. There will be a required component of this course to attend two events outside of class in Milwaukee. Details will be forthcoming on this requirement and there will be some flexibility in the dates and times, but they will be related to qualitative data collection and analysis that we will do together as a class.

Reading List:
1. Writing Studies Research in Practice edited by Lee Nickoson & Mary P. Sheridan
2. Methodologies for the Rhetoric of Health & Medicine, edited by Lisa Meloncon & J. Blake Scott

We will also read articles & selected book chapters that will be made available on Canvas.

Assignments*/Grading Breakdown:
20% Blog Posts (2): Class Highlight Post + Field Notes Post @ writingandrhetoricmke.com
30% Collaborative Coding Project (Group project to code and analyze qualitative data that will be provided + oral presentation)
40% Final Project (scope and format to be decided in consultation with me considering your stage as a researcher and interests/needs)
10% Participation and Engagement with Class, Homework, and Research Activities

*Additional details and instructions for assignments will be shared with the full syllabus at the start of the semester