

## COURSE DESCRIPTION

How do we listen well to people in the communities where we live and work? How can we gain a deeper understanding of their key issues and challenges? And how do we apply what we've learned to our ministry, whether in the church or the marketplace? Join us as we bring a structured approach to these questions, drawing on biblical and theological reflection, case studies, and practical tools and strategies that apply to local and global contexts. This course is relevant for church leaders, cross-cultural workers, ministry personnel, organizational leaders, teachers, and students interested in exploring people-centered research.

## LEARNING OBJECTIVES

**Upon the successful completion of this course, students should have a clearer understanding of:**

1. Explain the rationale for people-centered research and the ways it can enhance understanding and practice in Christian ministry
2. Strengthen their skills in critical analysis of relevant case studies with attention to: research topic, methods, tools, data collection, analysis of findings, and conclusions

## COURSE OUTLINE

**Day 1 May 17** Listening Well: An Invitation to People-Centered Research

**Day 2 May 18** Planning Well: Designing Research and Considering Research Ethics

**Day 3 May 19** Digging Deeper: Collecting and Recording Data

**Day 4 May 20** Telling the Story: Analyzing Findings and Sharing Results

**Day 5 May 21** Reviewing the Process and Looking Ahead

## REQUIRED TEXTS

Moschella, Mary Clark. *Ethnography as Pastoral Practice: An Introduction*. Cleveland, OH: Pilgrim Press, 2008. (260 pp.)

Okesson, Greg. "How to Study Congregations." In *A Public Missiology* (chap. 6: pp. 147-177). Grand Rapids: Baker, 2020.

Merriam, Sharan B. and Robin S. Grenier, eds. "Assessing and Evaluating Qualitative Research" (chap. 2: pp. 18-33). In *Qualitative Research in Practice: Examples for Discussion and Analysis*. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, 2018.

Merriam, Sharan B. and Elizabeth J. Tisdell. "An Introduction to Qualitative Research" (chap. 1: pp. 3-21). In *Qualitative Research: A Guide to Design and Implementation*. 4<sup>th</sup> ed. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, 2015.

Reid, Colleen, Lorraine Greaves, and Sandra L. Kirby. "Being a Researcher: Locating Yourself and Research Ethics" (chap. 3: pp. 47-64). *Experience Research and Social Change: Critical Methods*. 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2017.

Siew, Yau Man. "A Case Study in Adult Discipleship: Stories of Apprenticeship to Jesus at an Urban Anglican (Episcopal) Church." *Christian Education Journal*. (September, 2020).

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Please Note: This Course Information Sheet is meant to assist in selecting courses. The official syllabus should be consulted for more detailed information. A full syllabus with drop deadlines, policies, and course assignment details is available on Moodle for registered students: [moodle.regent-college.edu/login](https://moodle.regent-college.edu/login)

