**Week 9**

**Qualitative Research Designs and Methods**

**Draft of an Abbreviated Qualitative Research Plan**

The purpose of the four related papers that you will produce, beginning this week, which is Week 8 and continuing through week 11, is to take a single scenario (stress) and, by creating your own research proposals, learn how the three different types of research (quantitative, qualitative, and mixed methods) might be used to investigate this single scenario, thereby comparing and contrasting the three different types of research. You will use the stress scenario described below across weeks 8-COMPLETED, 9, 10, and 11. Some parts of each proposal’s introduction, literature review, and justification may be the same, but the purpose statement, research questions, and methods will obviously differ quite a bit for each proposal.

**Here is the scenario we will all be using:**

“Stress pervades many areas of life. Whether it is stress from relationships, work, school, or the social environment, research has shown that it can have a profound impact on mental health, physical well-being, productivity, performance, and decision making. Research on cognitive appraisals, coping, and social support has also provided insight into how people view and manage stress. (Note: You may tailor your research plans based on this research problem scenario to your area of specialization (My specialization is PhD in Psychology- General Research/Teaching)”

Week 8 you are supposed to describe your own quantitative research proposal in the area of stress using the questions highlighted below in yellow.

Week 8, develop an abbreviated quantitative research plan **COMPLETED**

**For week 9, you will describe your own qualitative research proposal in the area of stress.**

For week 10, you will describe your own mixed methods research proposal in the area of stress.

For week 11, you will make any corrections needed to the above papers, based on my feedback, which I will provide each week, .and include them all in a single application submission, along with a 2-3 page comparison and evaluation of the strengths and limitations of each of the three research methods. Your week 11 paper should look something like this:

Comparison and evaluation of the three methods

<insert your description of the strengths and limitations of each of the three research methods here (2-3 pages)>

Quantitative research proposal

<insert your week 8 paper with refinements here> COMPLETED

Qualitative research proposal

**<insert your week 9 paper with refinements here>**

**Mixed methods research proposal**

<insert your week 10 paper with refinements here>

**Week 9**

What are your research questions? To what extent can you test them? How would you justify the viability of your questions?

What are your hypotheses? How would you test them?

Why would this design be the most appropriate for answering the research questions? Conversely, why would qualitative and mixed methods designs not be appropriate?

What quantitative approach would you select for this study? Why is that approach the most appropriate one for answering the research questions?

What theoretical framework or perspective would you use?

What is your target population? How would you identify and recruit participants? What factors would contribute to determining appropriate sample size? You will not need to calculate sample size for this assignment.

What are the independent and dependent variables?

If appropriate for your plan, what instruments might you need?

What data collection procedures might you use? Why would those be the most appropriate methods to use? How would that data help to answer your research question(s)/hypotheses?

What are threats to validity? How might you mitigate them?

How might you analyze the data?

What are the ethical considerations related to the plan?

**Week 9 assignment:**

Craft a 2- to 3-page paper in which you do the following:

Provide an introduction.

Provide a purpose statement.

Provide viable research questions and hypotheses.

Generate a written research plan that addresses the above questions.