

Critical and Cultural Studies 504
Methodology and Research
Mondays 2-5 pm

Fall 2014

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Course Description

The goal of this course is to introduce students to the range of qualitative research methods associated with cultural studies. As such, the course covers a spectrum of methodological tools, including discourse analysis, narrative inquiry, interviewing, ethnography, participant observation and oral history. Over the course of the semester, we will:

- * Produce and fine-tune our research questions
- * Conceptualize their scholarly field
- * Develop suitable methodological strategies
- * Decide on a system and rationale for analyzing data

Throughout, we will think through the controversies and challenges that surround each methodology, drawing attention to our own positionality and the ethics of research.

Course Materials

All of the course readings are gathered in a single packet, available at the Library Copy Center on the first floor of the Aptullah Kuran Library (North Campus).

Course Requirements

The goal of this course is to accompany students through the small-scale research project that they will conduct during the semester. The evaluation criteria outlined below is meant to reflect the various stages along this process.

Participation & Discussion Questions (15 points)

Attendance and participation are musts for this course, as each week's readings will be situated and analyzed through classroom discussions. To facilitate this process, each student will be responsible for developing one discussion question in reaction to each week's readings. These questions will be emailed to the group by noon on Sunday, and the following day's discussion will begin with these questions.

Second Version of Research Questions (10 points)

Due on October 20th, this assignment will be a revision of the student's preliminary (ungraded) research question.

Preliminary Literature Review (15 points)

Due on November 10th, this 5-page paper will be a preliminary paper that outlines the scholarly literature relevant to the student's research question.

Preliminary Method Statement (15 points)

Due on December 1st, this 5-page paper will be a preliminary method statement that outlines the manner in which the student will collect data and the rationale behind this choice.

Preliminary Data Analysis (15 points)

Due on December 22nd, this 5-page paper will be a preliminary attempt at analyzing the data that the student has amassed.

Final Paper (30 points)

Due on January 9th, this 20-page paper will consist of the compilation and further development of each of the previous sections, further refining the research's questions, its "field", methods and analysis.

Course Schedule

- Sept. 22** **Introduction: Cultural Studies and Qualitative Research**
- Sept. 29** **Practicalities I: Research Design**
Booth, Colomb and Williams, *The Craft of Research* (Ch. 1, 2, 3, 4)
Rossman, *Designing Qualitative Research* (Ch. 3)
* *Bring Preliminary Version of Research Questions to Class*
- Oct. 6** **NO CLASS**
- Oct. 13** **Orality, Speech and Discourse**
Ong, *Orality and Literacy* (Excerpts)
Austin, *How to do Things with Words* (Excerpts)
Goffman, "On Face-Work"
Johnstone, *Discourse Analysis* (Ch.1)
Foucault, "The Incitement to Discourse"
- Oct. 20** **Narrativity and Personal Narrative**
Langellier, "Personal Narratives: Perspectives on Theory and Research"
Scott, "Experience"
Laub, "Bearing Witness or the Vicissitudes of Listening"
* *Bring Second Version of Research Questions to Class*
- Oct. 27** **Practicalities II: Interviewing**
Seidman, *Interviewing as Qualitative Research* (Ch. 2, 6, 7, 8)

Briggs, *Learning How to Ask* (Ch. 3, 5)
Guest Visitor: Melike Acar

- Nov. 3** **The Poetics and Politics of Ethnography**
Geertz, “Thick Description: Toward an Interpretive Theory of Culture”
Clifford, “Partial Truths”
Pratt, “On Fieldwork in Common Places”
- Nov. 10** **Positionality and the Ethnographer**
Abu-Lughod, “Writing Against Culture”
Rosaldo, “The Use and Abuse of Anthropology”
Narayan, “How Native is a Native Anthropologist?”
Brettell, “Blurred Genres, Blurred Voices”
* *Bring Preliminary Literature Review to Class*
- Nov. 17** **Practicalities III: Participant Observation**
O’Reilly, “Participating and Observing”
Emerson, Fretz and Shaw, *Writing Ethnographic Fieldnotes* (Ch. 1, 2)
Edmondson, ““Saving Whiteface” in Tanzania”
Guest Visitor: TBA
- Nov. 24** **History and Memory**
Foucault, “Nietzsche, Genealogy, History”
Nora, “Between History and Memory”
Connerton, “Bodily Practices”
- Dec. 1** **Oral History: Conflicts and Challenges**
Portelli, “The Death of Luigi Trastulli: Memory and Event”
Borland, “That’s Not What I Said”
Yow, “Do I Like Them Too Much?”
Jackson, “*Touchable Stories* and the Performance of Infrastructural Memory”
**Bring Preliminary Method Statement to Class*
- Dec. 8** **Practicalities IV: Data Analysis and Ethics**
Alasuutari, *Researching Culture* (Ch. 11, 12, 13)
Fine, “Ten Lies of Ethnography”
Guest Visitor: TBA
- Dec. 15** **Thinking About Cultural Criticism**
Foucault, “What is Critique?”
Hall, “Cultural Studies: Two Paradigms”
De Certeau, “Walking in the City”
Abu-Lughod, “The Romance with Resistance”
- Dec. 22** **Reaching for Terms: Resistance, Agency and Freedom**
Foucault, “The Subject and Power”

Butler, "Implicit Censorship and Discursive Agency"
Mahmood, "The Subject of Freedom"
**Bring Preliminary Data Analysis to Class*

Final Paper Due: Friday, January 9th via email.