**CULT 503: Cultural Analysis Workshop**

**Spring 2021**

Fridays 12:40-15:30

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Office: FASS 2024

Office Hours: By appointment

**Course Requirements**

15% Attendance and participation

40% Four assignments

10% Final presentation

35% Final paper

**Attendance and participation (15%):** The course aims to help you prepare for your thesis research. Hence regular attendance would be in your interest. You must come to class having done the readings and ready to discuss them. Poor attendance and/or participation will be reflected in your grade.

Each student is expected to post on SUCourse+ two discussion questions on the week’s reading material by Thursday midnight.

**Assignments (40%):** Students will write four short assignments throughout the semester. Details are to be found below.

**Final presentation (10%):** Each student will make a 10-minute presentation on the first two parts of their final paper in our last class meeting.

**Final paper (35%):** Please write 7-10 double-spaced pages analyzing your research experience throughout the course. **(i)** Reflect on research skills: How did your participant observation attempts compare? What did your interview teach you regarding interviewing skills? How did participant observation and interviewing complement each other for you? **(ii)** Reflect on ethics: What ethical problems did you run into and how did you, if at all, overcome them? **(iii)** Reflect on collected data: How (through what procedures) did you make sense of the research material you collected? Has this research material answered the research question that you had identified at the beginning of the semester? **(iv)** Reflect on the match between your research objectives and the methods you used. Going forward, what could be done differently?

**Reading List**

All readings will be available on SUCourse+ unless they are available as ebooks through the IC.

**W1 (Feb. 26) Introduction**

**THE WHAT**

**W2 (Mar. 5): Life as lived**

M. Pickering (2008) “Experience and the Social World” in M. Pickering (ed) *Research Methods in Cultural Studies*, Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press, pp. 17-31.

S. Lawler (2008) “Stories and the Social World” in M. Pickering (ed) *Research Methods in Cultural Studies*, Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press, pp. 32-52.

**W3 (Mar. 12): Cultural products**

A. Davis (2008) “Investigating Cultural Producers”in M. Pickering (ed) *Research Methods in Cultural Studies*, Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press, pp. 53-67.

A. Meyer (2008) “Investigating Cultural Consumers” in M. Pickering (ed) *Research Methods in Cultural Studies*, Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press, pp. 68-88.

**THE WHERE**

**W4 (Mar. 19): Siting your research**

P. Saukko (2003) “Studying multiple sites and scapes” in *Doing Research in Cultural Studies*, London: Sage, pp. 176-196.

U. Hannerz (2010) “Field worries: Studying down, up, sideways, through, backward, forward, early or later, away and at home” in *Anthropology’s World: Life in a Twenty-First-Century Discipline*, London: Pluto Press, pp. 59-86.

**Optional:** J. Burrell (2009) “The Field Site as a Network: A Strategy for Locating Ethnographic Research”, *Field Methods*, 21(2): 181-199.

**W5 (Mar. 26): Virtual worlds (and going virtual due to covid-19)**

C. Hine (2011) “Virtual Ethnography: Modes, Varieties, Affordances”, in N. Fielding, R. M. Lee & G. Blank (eds), *The Sage Handbook of Online Research Methods*, London: Sage, pp. 257-270.

A. Caliandro (2018) “Digital Methods for Ethnography: Analytical Concepts for Ethnographers Exploring Social Media Environments”, *Journal of Contemporary Ethnography*, 47(5): 551-578.

**Optional:** N. James & H. Busher (2016) “Online interviewing”, in D. Silverman (ed), *Qualitative Research* (4th edition), London: Sage, pp. 245-260.

**W6 (Apr. 2): Locating yourself: ethics & politics of research**

R. Horwitz (1993) “Just Stories of Ethnographic Authority”, in C. B. Brettell (ed.) *When They Read What We Write: The Politics of Ethnography,* Westport, CT: Bergin and Garvey, pp. 31-43*.*

A. Ryen (2016) “Research Ethics and Qualitative Research”, in D. Silverman (ed), *Qualitative Research* (4th edition), London: Sage, pp. 31-48.

**Optional:** M. Zavala (2013) “What do we mean by decolonizing research strategies? Lessons from decolonizing, Indigenous research projects in New Zealand and Latin America”, *Decolonization: Indigeneity, Education & Society*, 2(1): 55-71.

**THE HOW**

**W7 (Apr. 9): Choosing research topics**

**Assignment 1 is due:** Please submit a draft research plan that addresses the following: What is your research question? What do you hope to find out as a result of this research? Which methods do you think would be suitable for this purpose? Why would this research project be significant?

W. Booth et al. (2016) “From a Broad Topic to a Focused One” (pp. 37-46) and “From Questions to a Problem” (pp. 49-63) in *The Craft of Research*, Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

D. Silverman (2017) “Focusing a Research Project” (ch. 3), *Doing Qualitative Research* (5th edition), London: Sage, pp. 21-54.

**Optional:** J. Mason (2002) “Finding a Focus and Knowing Where You Stand” (pp.13-23) and “Designing Qualitative Research” (pp. 24-38) in *Qualitative Researching*, London: Sage.

**W8 (Apr. 16): Participant observation**

M. Crang & I. Cook (2007) “Participant Observation” in *Doing Ethnographies*, London: Sage, pp. 37-59.

K. O’Reily (2012) “Participating and Observing” in *Ethnographic Methods*, London: Routledge, pp. 86-115.

**Optional:** V. Colic-Peisker (2004) “Doing ethnography in one’s own ethnic community” in L. Hume & J. Mulcock (eds.) *Anthropologists in the Field: Cases in Participant Observation*, NY: Columbia University Press, pp. 82-94.

**W9 (Apr. 23): No class due to national holiday - Engage in participant observation (if possible) at two different times in your selected field site and take extensive fieldnotes.**

**W10 (Apr. 30): Interviewing**

**Assignment 2 is due:** Turn in about 4 double-spaced pages of fieldnotes.

J. A. Holstein & J.F. Gubrium (2016) “Narrative Practice and the Active Interview”, in D. Silverman (ed), *Qualitative Research* (4th edition), London: Sage, pp. 67-82.

B. Czarniawska-Joerges (2004) “Narratives in an Interview Situation.” in *Narratives in Social Science Research*, London: Sage, pp. 47-59.

P. Atkinson & A. Coffey (2003) “Revisiting the relationship between participant observation and interviewing” in J.F. Gubrium & J.A. Holstein (eds.) *Postmodern Interviewing*, London: Sage, pp.109-122.

**W11 (May 7): Data analysis**

**Assignment 3 is due:** Turn in a set of interview questions.

M. Crang & I. Cook (2007) “Analyzing Field Materials” in *Doing Ethnographies*, London: Sage, pp. 131-149.

D. Silverman (2017) “How was it for you? The Interview Society and the irresistible rise of the (poorly analyzed) interview”, *Qualitative Research*, 17(2): 144-158.

J.W. Creswell & D. L. Miller (2000) “Determining validity in qualitative inquiry”, *Theory into Practice,* 39(3): 124-130.

**Optional:** D. Silverman (2017) “Quality in Qualitative Research” (ch. 17), *Doing Qualitative Research* (5th edition), London: Sage, pp. 376-402.

**May 14 – Bayram Holiday: Identify potential informants and conduct an interview.**

**W12 (May 21): Writing up: Making arguments**

**Assignment 4 is due:** Turn in about 3 double-spaced pages on your interview experience, summarizing both the interview content and your reflection on how the interview went.(You may want to transcribe your interview before you begin writing your final paper)

W. Booth et al. (2016) “Making Good Arguments: An Overview” in *The Craft of Research*, Chicago: University of Chicago Press, pp.110-121.

H. S. Becker (1998) “Concepts” in *Tricks of the Trade: How to Think about Your Research While You’re Doing it*, Chicago: the University of Chicago Press, pp. 109-145.

**Optional:** D. Silverman (2017) “Using Theories” (ch. 7), *Doing Qualitative Research* (5th edition), London: Sage, pp. 131-155.

**W13 (May 28): Writing up: Questions of representation**

K. Borland (1991) “'That's Not What I Said': Interpretive Conflict in Oral History Narrative Research”, in S.B. Gluck & D. Patai (eds.) *Women’s Words: the Feminist Practice of Oral History*, New York: Routledge, pp. 63-75.

L. Richardson (2003) “Poetic Representation of Interviews” in J.F. Gubrium & J.A. Holstein (eds.) *Postmodern Interviewing*, London: Sage, pp. 187-201.

**Optional:** H.L. Goodall (2000) “Representing Ethnographic Field Experiences: From Fieldwork to Fieldnotes to Stories” in *Writing the New Ethnography*, New York: Rowman & Littlefield, pp. 83-130.