

**Sociology 273F
Spring 2016**

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Office Hours: Tues. 4:00-5:30
Thurs: 4:00-5:00**

Interviewing

Some of the most interesting and inspiring sociological studies have utilized interviewing as their principal methodological approach to the subject of interest. Moreover, the vast majority of social scientific research employs interviewing in one form or another. Given its central place within the toolkit of sociological approaches to research, this course is designed to deepen the students' knowledge of interviewing as a research method. We will look at the ethical dilemmas and research challenges it poses, as well as become familiar with the details of employing it as one's methodology.

Since the best way of learning about a methodology is to practice using it, students will be required to conduct a research project during the course of the semester that relies primarily upon interviewing. Thus, students will begin by conceiving of a research question, relating it to the relevant theoretical literatures, and defining the precise methodology that will be employed in studying it. They will, then, move on to carry out the research (including **at least 8 interviews during the Fall 2016 semester**), code and analyze the data, and prepare a final paper based upon the project. A brief description of the research question/project is due by 9:00 AM on Friday, **2 September**; a project proposal will be due on **20 September**; a short paper based upon interviews conducted to date will be due on **25 October**; and the final paper will be due by 12:00 noon on **7 December**.

In addition, students will share their work with the rest of the seminar participants by making an initial presentation about their project (between Weeks 6-8) and presenting their final results (between Weeks 12-14).

Course Materials:

A reader of required articles has been put together for the course, which can be purchased by the students. (These are indicated with an * in the Course Readings listed below.) In addition, one required book can be purchased from ASUC Bookstore.

Course Readings:

Week 1: Introduction. (30 August)

Week 2: Why Use Interviewing as a Methodology/An Example of a Research Project That Employed Interviewing (31 August-6 September)

Required Reading:

*Richardson, Stephen A., et al., Interviewing: Its Forms and Functions. Skim Chapter 1 (pp. 7-31) and read Chapter 2 (pp. 32-55). New York: Basic Books (1965).

Weiss, Robert S., Learning from Strangers: The Art and Method of Qualitative Interview Studies. Chapter 1 (pp. 1-14). New York: The Free Press (1994).

*Blauner, Bob, Black Lives, White Lives: Three Decades of Race Relations in America. Read the Introduction and the Intro. to Part I; skim Chapters 1 and 4; read the Methodological Appendix; and read the The Author's Story (pp. 1-41; 89-106; 327-330; and 349-359). Berkeley: University of California Press (1989).

Recommended Reading:

- Dexter, Lewis Anthony, Elite and Specialized Interviewing. Chapter 1. Evanston, IL: Northwestern University Press (1970).

Week 3: How to Start the Interviewing Process/Another Example of a Research Project That Employed Interviewing (7-13 September)

Required Reading:

Weiss, Robert S., Learning from Strangers: The Art and Method of Qualitative Interview Studies. Chapters 2 and 3 (15-60).

*Small, Mario Luis, "How Many Cases Do I Need? On Science and the Logic of Case Selection in Field-Based Research," Ethnography 10, 1 (2009): 5-38.

*Smith, Sandra, Lone Pursuit: Distrust and Defensive Individualism among the Black Poor. Read Appendices B and C (pp. 179-193). New York: Russell Sage Foundation (2007).

*Hochschild, Arlie, The Second Shift. Read Chapters 1 and 2; skim Chapters 4 and 6; and read the Appendix: My Study - A Naturalistic Approach (Pp. 1-21; 33-58; 75-94; and 289-293). New York: Avon Books (1989).

Recommended Reading:

- Dexter, Lewis Anthony, Elite and Specialized Interviewing. Chapter 2.

- Rubin, Herbert J., and Irene S. Rubin, Qualitative Interviewing: The Art of Hearing Data (3rd Edition). Chapter 6. Los Angeles, CA: Sage.

Week 4: The Interviewing Process Itself/Another Example of a Research Project that Employed Interviewing (14-20 September)

Required Reading:

*Rubin, Herbert J., and Irene S. Rubin, Qualitative Interviewing: The Art of Hearing Data (3rd Edition). Chapters 9-10 (pp. 131-169).

*Luker, Kristin, Abortion and the Politics of Motherhood. Read the Introduction; skim Chapters 5-6; and read the Appendix 1: Methodology (pp. 1-10; 92-157; 247-256). Berkeley: University of California Press (1984).

Recommended Reading:

- Briggs, Charles L., Learning How to Ask. Chapter 5 (93-111). Cambridge: Cambridge University Press (1986).

Week 5: Learning to Listen/Some Issues in Interviewing (21-27 September)

Required Reading:

Weiss, Robert S., Learning from Strangers. Chapters 4 and 5 (61-150).

*Richardson, Stephen A., et al., Interviewing: Its Forms and Functions. Chapter 8 (pp. 198-206).

Recommended Reading:

- Bourgois, Philippe, "Confronting the Ethics of Ethnography: Lessons from Fieldwork in Central America." In Decolonizing Anthropology: Moving Further Toward an Anthropology for Liberation, edited by Faye V. Harrison, pp. 110-126. Washington D.C.: ABA/AAA (1991).

- Jackson, Jean E., "I Am a Fieldnote: Fieldnotes as a Symbol of Professional Identity." In Fieldnotes: The Makings of Anthropology, edited by Roger Sanjek, pp. 3-33. Ithaca: Cornell University Press (1990).

Week 6: Issues in Interviewing (28 September-4 October)

Required Reading:

*Lofland, John, and Lyn H. Lofland, Analyzing Social Settings: A Guide to Qualitative Observation and Analysis (Third Edition). Chapter 4 (pp. 46-65). Belmont: Wadsworth Publishing Company (1995).

*Oakley, Ann, "Interviewing Women: A Contradiction in Terms." In Doing Feminist Research, edited by Helen Roberts, pp. 30-61. London: Routledge and Kegan Paul (1981).

*Riessman, Catherine Kohler, "When Gender is Not Enough: Women Interviewing Women," Gender and Society 1, 2 (June 1987): 172-207.

Recommended Reading:

-Anderson, Kathryn, and Dana C. Jack, "Learning to Listen: Interview Techniques and Analysis." In Women's Words: The Feminist Practice of Oral History, edited by Sherna Berger Gluck and Daphne Patai, pp. 11-25. New York: Routledge (1991).

-Arendell, Terry, "Reflections on the Researcher-Researched Relationship: A Woman Interviewing Men," Qualitative Sociology 20, 3 (1997): 341-368.

Week 7: More Issues in Interviewing (5-11 October)

Required Reading

- *Becker, Howard S., Sociological Work: Method and Substance. Chapter 8 (pp. 123-134). Chicago: Aldine Publishing Co. (1970).
- *Dean, John P., and William Foote Whyte, "What Kind of Truth Do You Get?" In Elite and Specialized Interviewing, edited by Lewis Anthony Dexter, pp. 119-131.
- *Borland, Katherine, "'That's Not What I Said': Interpretive Conflict in Oral Narrative Research." In Women's Words, edited by Sherna Berger Gluck and Daphne Patai, pp. 63-75.

Recommended Reading:

- Baca Zinn, Maxine, "Insider Field Research," Social Problems 27, 2 (December 1979): 209-219.
- Khan, Shamus, and Colin Jerolmack, "Saying Meritocracy and Doing Privilege," The Sociological quarterly 54, 1: 9-19.

Week 8: Analysis of Data/Problem Solving (12-18 October)

Required Reading:

- Weiss, Robert S., Learning from Strangers. Chapters 6 (151-182).

Recommended Reading:

- Lincoln, Yvonna S., and Egon G. Guba, Naturalistic Inquiry. Chapter 12 (pp. 332-356). Beverley Hills, CA: Sage Publications (1985).
- Strauss, Anselm, Qualitative Analysis for Social Scientists. Chapter 3 and 5 (pp. 55-81; and 109-129). Cambridge: Cambridge University Press (1987).

Week 9: Analysis of Data/Problem Solving (19-25 October)

- *Coffey, Amanda, and Paul Atkinson, Making Sense of Qualitative Data. Chapter 2 (pp. 26-53). Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications (1996).
- *Lofland, John, and Lyn H. Lofland, Analyzing Social Settings. Chapter 9 (pp. 186-197).

Week 10: General Discussion Geared to Assist You in Analyzing *Your* Data (26 October-1 November)

Week 11: Writing up your Results (2-8 November)

Required Reading:

- Weiss, Robert S., Learning from Strangers. Chapter 7 (pp. 183-206).

*Becker, Howard S., Writing for Social Scientists. Chapters 5 and 8 (pp. 90-107; and 135-149). Chicago: University of Chicago Press (1986).

*Lofland, John, and Lyn H. Lofland, Analyzing Social Settings. Chapter 10 (pp. 204-229).

Recommended Reading:

- Strauss, Anselm, Qualitative Analysis for Social Scientists. Chapter 12 (pp. 249-264).

Week 12: Individual Presentations (15 November)

Week 13: Individual Presentations (22 November)

Week 14: Individual Presentations (29 November)