

**Sociology 273F
Spring 2021**

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Office Hours: Tues. 4:00-5:00
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<https://www.wejoinin.com/sheets/jobii>**

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 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 Spring 2021 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 Saturday, **23 January**; a project proposal with sample questions will be due on **10 February**; a short paper based upon interviews conducted to date will be due on **31 March**; and the final paper will be due by 12:00 noon on **10 May**.

In addition, students will share their work with the rest of the seminar participants by practicing their interview questions with each other (17 February), as well as making an initial presentation about their project (between Weeks 6-8) and presenting their final results (between Weeks 12-14).

Course Materials:

-A set of *required articles and book chapters* has been put together for the course, which can be found on our b-course site. They are listed by week in alphabetical order in the section for "Files." (These are indicated with an * in the Course Readings listed below.)

-In addition, *one required book* is available for purchase in either hard copy or electronic form on line. It is: Weiss, Robert S., Learning from Strangers: The Art and Method of Qualitative Interview Studies. New York: The Free Press (1994).

There are also several electronic copies of this book available through the UCB library system. However, only three students will have access to them at any given time (much as if they were materials on reserve).

-You will need to have *an audio-recorder*.

-Other Equipment: If you need equipment (laptop, webcam, microphone) in order to participate in our Zoom meetings, you may borrow them through the Student Technology Equity Program (STEP): <https://bit.ly/32eaimn>

Challenging times:

To say that we are in the midst of challenging times is to say the least. The following is a web-site that has many useful ideas if things start to feel overwhelming or impossible at any point in the semester: <https://recalibrate.berkeley.edu/one-click-mode/one-click-graduateprofessional-students>

Course Readings:

Week 1: Introduction. (20 January)

Week 2: Why Use Interviewing as a Methodology/An Example of a Research Project That Employed Interviewing (21-27 January)

Required Reading:

Weiss, Robert S., Learning from Strangers: The Art and Method of Qualitative Interview Studies. Chapters 1 and 2 (pp. 1-37). New York: The Free Press (1994).

*Richardson, Stephen A., et al., Interviewing: Its Forms and Function. Chapter 2 (pp. 32-55). New York: Basic Books (1965).

*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).

- Teddlie, Charles, and Abbas Tashakkori. 2009. Foundations of Mixed Methods Research: Integrating Quantitative and Qualitative Approaches in the Social and

Behavioral Sciences. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications, Inc.

- Creswell, John W., and Vicki L. Plano Clark. 2011. *Designing and Conducting Mixed Methods Research* 2nd Ed. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications, Inc.
- Johnson, R. Burke, Anthony J. Onwuegbuzie, and Lisa A. Turner. 2007. "Toward a Definition of Mixed Methods Research" *Journal of Mixed Methods Research* 1(2): 112-133

Week 3: How to Start the Interviewing Process/Another Example of a Research Project That Employed Interviewing (28 January-3 February)

Required Reading:

- Weiss, Robert S., Learning from Strangers: The Art and Method of Qualitative Interview Studies. Chapter 3 (39-59).
- *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.
- *Rubin, Herbert J., and Irene S. Rubin, Qualitative Interviewing: The Art of Hearing Data (3rd Edition). Chapters 9-10 (pp. 131-169). Los Angeles, CA: Sage (2012).
- *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 (4-10 February)

Required Reading:

- *Hermanowicz, Joseph C., "The Great Interview: 25 Strategies for Studying People in Bed," Qualitative Sociology 25, 4 (Winter 2002): 479-499.
- *Luker, Kristin, Abortion and the Politics of Motherhood. Read the Introduction; skim Chapter 6; and read the Appendix 1: Methodology (pp. 1-10; 126-157; 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 (11-17 February)

Required Reading:

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

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, NY: Cornell University Press (1990).

Week 6: Issues in Interviewing (18-24 February)

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).
- *DeVault, Marjorie L., and Glenda Gross, "Feminist Qualitative Interviewing: Experience, Talk, and Knowledge." In Handbook of Feminist Research: Theory and Praxis, edited by Sharlene Nagy Hesse-Biber. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage (2014).
- *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 (25 February-3 March)

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: The Feminist Practice of Oral History, edited by Sherna Berger Gluck and Daphne Patai, pp. 63-75. New York: Routledge (1991).

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 (2013): 9-19.

Week 8: Analysis of Data/Problem Solving (4-10 March)

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 (11-17 March)

*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: Analyzing a Transcript and Analyzing *Your* Data (31 March)

Week 11: Writing up your Results (1-7 April)

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 (14 April)

Week 13: Individual Presentations (21 April)

Week 14: Individual Presentations (28 April)