This course is designed to provide training in using participant-observation methodology. The course is divided into two parts. The course is devoted to teaching: (1) the basic assumptions underlying the methodology; (2) the techniques internal to the operationalization of the methodology; (3) ethics of doing this type of research, the practical logistics required before entering the field; (4) the preparations required to create a usable data set before data gathering has begun; (5) executing the research; (6) analyzing the data; and (7) presenting the data. During this period students will read technical materials covering these topics as well as examples of ethnographic research.

Requirements:

Each student will be required to have read all the required material thoroughly before class sessions, and be ready to participate in the course discussions through a question-and-answer format. There will a final take-home exam. Your final grade will be determined on the grade for your final exam and in-class participation each week.

Books For the Course:


Readings

Week 1 (January 18th): Overview of Course.

Week 2 (January 25th): Participant-Observational Approaches
READINGS:

Corey Abramson and Neil Gong, eds., Beyond the Case: Introduction and Conclusion.

Week 3 (February 2nd): Behavioralist Approach: Principles

READINGS:
Abramson and Gong, Beyond the Case: Chapters 1, 2

Week 4 (February 8th): Behavioralist Tradition: Example


Week 5 (February 15th): Grounded Theory/ Extended Case Method: Principles

READINGS:

Michael Burawoy, The Extended Case Method, Chapters 1, 2

Week 6 (February 22nd): Extended Case Method and Grounded Theory—Examples

READINGS
Michael Burawoy, The Extended Case Method, Chapter 4

Glasser and Strauss, The Discovery of Grounded Theory, Chapter 6
Abramson and Gong, *Beyond the Case*, **Chapters 5 and 7**

**Week 7 (March 1st): Symbolic Interaction Method—Principles**

**READINGS:**

Kent L. Sandstrom, Daniel D. Martin and Gary Alan Fine, *Symbols, Selves, and Social Reality*, **Chapters 1-6.**

**Week 8 (March 8th): Symbolic Interaction Method—Examples**

**READINGS:**

Kent L. Sandstrom, Daniel D. Martin and Gary Alan Fine, *Symbols, Selves, and Social Reality*, **Chapters 7, 8.**

Recommended:

**Week 9 (March 15th): Ethnomethodology—Principles**

**READINGS:**


Harold Garfinkel, *Studies in Ethnomethodology*, **Chapters 1.**

**Week 10 (March 22nd): SPRING BREAK**

**Week 11 (April 5th): Ethnomethodology—Examples**

**READINGS:**

Kenneth Liberman, *More Studies in Ethnomethodology*, **Chapters 1, 2, 3.**

**Recommended:**


Abramson and Gong, *Beyond the Case*, Chapters 3, 4.

**Week 12 (April 12th):** Question Development, Case(s) Selection(s), Access Issues

**READINGS:**


**Week 13 (April 19th):** Conducting Research: Observation, Note Taking, Data Storage

**READINGS:** In Class Exercise

**Week 14 (April 26th):** Analysis

**READINGS:**


Abramson and Gong, *Beyond the Case*, Chapter 2, 8.

**Final Exam Due on May 9**