

SOCY 3401: FIELD METHODS SPRING 2015 2 – 3:15

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You are responsible for everything in this syllabus, the text, articles, the registration handbook, and material covered in lecture. Save all your work until your final grade has been recorded.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is designed to provide you with the guidance and tools to conduct original field research on a topic of your choice. Most social science research strives to be objective and often requires that the researcher never interact directly with the participants. This type of research is referred to as quantitative. In contrast, field research or ethnography embeds the researcher in the social phenomena of interest as the researcher observes and, may or may not, interacts directly with the participants. The goal of ethnography is to provide the subjective meaning and experience of the participants, not the researcher's interpretation of the participants' lives. This makes for a fundamentally different research experience and findings. Field research stands out as a research method because of the close relationship between the researcher and the participant. Field research is one type of qualitative methodology.

UNIVERSITY POLICIES

Honor Code

All students of the University of Colorado at Boulder are responsible for knowing and adhering to the academic integrity policy of this institution. Violations of this policy may include: cheating, plagiarism, aid that constitutes academic dishonesty, fabrication, lying, bribery, and threatening or intimidating behavior. All incidents of academic misconduct shall be reported to the Honor Code Council and those students who are found to be in violation of the academic integrity policy will be subject to both academic sanctions from the faculty member involved and non-academic sanctions given by the Honor Code Council (including but not limited to university probation, suspension, or expulsion). Please refer to www.colorado.edu/honorcode to view the specific guidelines. If you have any questions related to this policy, contact the Honor Code Council at honor@colorado.edu. **Honor code violations will result in a 0 for the assignment at a minimum and may also result in failing this course, probation, or expulsion.**

Classroom Behavior

Students and faculty each have responsibility for maintaining an appropriate learning environment. Students who fail to adhere to such behavioral standards may be subject to disciplinary measures. Faculty have the professional responsibility to treat all students with

understanding, dignity and respect, to guide classroom discussion, and to set reasonable limits on the manner in which they and their students express opinions. Professional courtesy and sensitivity are especially important with respect to individuals and topics dealing with differences of race, nationalities, culture, religion, politics, sexual orientation, gender, and gender variance.

Class rosters are provided to the instructor with the student's legal name. I will gladly honor your request to address you by an alternate name or gender pronoun. Please advise me of this preference early in the semester so that I may make appropriate changes to my records. See policies at <http://www.colorado.edu/policies/classbehavior.html>

Discrimination and Harassment

The University of Colorado at Boulder policy on Discrimination and Harassment, the University of Colorado policy on Sexual Harassment and the University of Colorado policy on Amorous Relationships apply to all students, staff and faculty. Any student, staff or faculty member who believes s/he has been the subject of discrimination or harassment based upon race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, religion, sexual orientation, or veteran status should contact the Office of Discrimination and Harassment (ODH) at 303-492-2127 or the Office of Judicial Affairs at 303-492-5550. Information about ODH, the above referenced policies and the campus resources available to assist individuals regarding discrimination or harassment can be obtained at <http://www.colorado.edu/policies/discrimination-and-harassment-policy-and-procedures>.

Religious Holidays

Campus policy regarding religious observances requires that faculty make every effort to reasonably and fairly deal with all students who, because of religious obligations, have conflicts with scheduled exams, assignments or required attendance. In this class, you should notify me at least two weeks ahead of time to request special accommodation if you have a conflict. See full details at http://www.colorado.edu/policies/fac_relig.html.

Students with Disabilities

If you qualify for accommodations because of a disability, please submit a letter to me from Disability Services in a timely manner so that your needs may be addressed. Disability Services determines accommodations based on documented disabilities (Contact: 303-492-8671, Willard 322, www.colorado.edu/disabilityservices).

REQUIRED READINGS

Hennink, Monique, Inge Hutter, and Ajay Bailey. 2011. *Qualitative Research Methods*. Los Angeles, CA: Sage.

Lois, Jennifer. 2003. *Heroic Efforts: The Emotional Culture of Search and Rescue Volunteers*. New York: New York University Press.

Additional readings will be made available throughout the semester on D2L.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. **This course is labor-intensive.** You will spend a lot of time outside of the classroom in your field setting. I expect you to spend at least eight hours a week in your setting and an additional two hours writing your field notes.
2. Readings for the day need to be completed *before* the class meeting. Class activities and discussions will primarily draw from the assigned readings.
3. This class will be taught as a quasi-seminar and workshop. Therefore, talking, working, and thinking with others are an important part of this class. In order for discussions to take place, you will be required to share your experiences and questions. I will encourage all students to express opinions, critiques, and thoughts about others' comments and experiences. Remember, that we will be discussing the ideas, philosophies, and methodologies of field research, not each other.
4. **All assignments must be turned in on time. I deduct 10% of the assignment grade every class it is late. Late assignments will only be accepted within two class meetings of their original due date.**

EVALUATION COMPONENTS

Assignments: You will be able to get each assignment from the D2L page (Writing Assignments).

Each assignment is worth 10 points..... 4 x 10 = 40 points.

In-class exercises: You will be put into small groups during class to discuss the material or individually tackle a task. You will write a summary of these exercises and submit to me. These will be unannounced and you cannot turn one in if you were not in class.

Each exercise is worth 5 points..... 6 x 2.5 = 15 points.

Paper Sections: A full draft of each section is due on the day when we will be editing papers in class. A deduction of 10% will occur if you do not have a full draft or miss class for this class.

Each assignment is worth 50 points..... 2 x 50 = 100 points.

Methods Exam: A take-home essay exam..... 35 points

Final Presentation: The final part of the class is a defense of your project, analysis, and conclusions. Attendance is required, each day you miss 10% deduction will be imposed.

Final presentation..... 10 points.

TOTAL POINTS = 200

Save all graded work for this course. If you do not have the original graded copy of your work, revising your grade will not be considered.

TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE

WEEK 1

Tu 1/13 Course Introduction and Thinking Topics
Th 1/15 Thinking Topics and Writing

WEEK 2

Tu 1/20 Epistemology and Qualitative Research: Text 1 and 2
Th 1/22 Starting Where You Are: Text 3

WEEK 3

Tu 1/27 Getting In and Evaluating Sites
Th 1/29 Library Research Tutorial (place – Norlin E113)

WEEK 4

Tu 2/3 Evaluating Sites Analysis
Th 2/5 Literature Review
Due: Assignment I

WEEK 5

Tu 2/10 *Sidewalk*
Th 2/12 *Sidewalk: Methods*

WEEK 6

Tu 2/17 Getting Along and Logging Field Notes: Text 5 and 8
Th 2/19 Interviewing: Text 6 and Articles: Weiss “Preparation for Interviewing” and “Issues in Interviewing”
Due: CITI Certificate

WEEK 7

Tu 2/24 Research Ethics and Issues in the Field: Text 4
Th 2/26 Reflexivity and Positionality: Article: England “Getting Personal”
Due: Assignment II

WEEK 8

Tu 3/3 Six Words: Article “Nuts, Schiz, Psycho”
Due: Assignment III
Th 3/5 **Due:** Introduction/Lit Review edit

WEEK 9

Tu 3/10 Field Day: Text 8
Due: Revised Introduction/Lit Review
Th 3/12 Field Day

WEEK 10	
Tu 3/11	Progress Workshop Due: Assignment IV
Th 3/19	Progress Workshop
WEEK 12	
Tu 3/31	Lois Intro – 3
Th 4/2	Lois 4 – 8
WEEK 13	
Tu 4/7	Thinking Topics Due: Take-home Methods Essay Exam
Th 4/9	Asking Questions: Text 9
WEEK 14	
Tu 4/14	Coding: Text 10
Th 4/16	Coding and Analysis: Text 11
WEEK 15	
Tu 4/21	Analysis
Th 4/23	Analysis
WEEK 16	
Tu 4/28	Due: Data Analysis and Conclusion edit
Th 4/30	Individual Defense Due: Revised Data Analysis and Conclusion
FINAL	Wednesday, May 6, 1:30 - 4 P.M.