This seminar prepares doctoral students to design ethnographic research projects, write grant proposals, collect and analyze data, and write up research findings. Topics addressed include the relationship between theory and method, defining researchable questions, research ethics, IRB protocols, participant observation, writing fieldnotes, interview techniques (unstructured, semi-structured, structured), transcription, sampling, designing questionnaires, coding data, data analysis, research proposal evaluation criteria, peer review processes, interpersonal relations with fieldwork interlocutors, and other methodological topics of interest to seminar participants (e.g., oral histories, life histories, censuses, focus group interviews, archival research).

Practical exercises will introduce students to techniques of collecting, coding, analyzing and interpreting qualitative and quantitative data (with an emphasis on qualitative techniques). Students will review research proposals funded by a variety of agencies. We will discuss key components of successful proposals, along with screening criteria proposal reviewers use and how they vary across funding agencies. We will examine actual cases of ethical dilemmas considered by the AAA and how they were resolved, together with Institutional Review Board (IRB) criteria for research on human subjects.

Requirements include active participation in seminar discussions (which requires completing all assigned readings on time), occasional oral presentations, written exercises, practice in various research techniques, and a research proposal. Any student who misses a seminar meeting should inform the instructor in advance of the reason for the absence, and by noon on the Friday following the missed class must complete not only any regular assignment but also a make-up assignment that will include (but not necessarily be limited to) a five-page summary of the readings covered that week.

Grades will be determined as follows: class attendance and participation = 25%; short writing assignments and methods exercises = 25%; research proposal draft = 10%; research proposal = 40%. Late work will be penalized.

Required Readings include articles and book chapters available on the Sakai course website, and the following four paperback textbooks (available on reserve at Douglass Library or for purchase at NJ Books on Easton Ave.):


Other Resources

--Social Science Research Council, readings on research methods (archival research, case studies,
ethnographic methods, focus group interviews, oral histories, quantitative methods, survey research, research ethics). <http:www.ssrc.org> Also available at http://globetrotter.berkeley.edu/DissPropWorkshop/resources/


This site offers a detailed guide to stages of proposal writing, recommended timeline for proposal development, funding sources, ethics, defining research questions, proposal writing style tips, and components of a successful proposal (theory, research question, research design, budgets, concepts and terminology). It includes samples of proposals funded by NSF and Fulbright, along with George Orwell’s 1945 essay on “Politics and the English Language,” Michael Watts’ essay “The Holy Grail: In Pursuit of the Dissertation Proposal,” and recommended readings on research methods.


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SCHEDULE OF TOPICS AND READINGS

Week1/ 18 Jan.
INTRODUCTION: SCHOLARLY IMAGINATION


  ▪ Research conceptualization exercise.
Week 2/ 25 Jan.

(1) DEFINING A RESEARCH PROBLEM
(2) A SHORT HISTORY OF FIELDWORK

Howard S. Becker, Writing for Social Scientists, pp. vii-xiv (two prefaces) and pp. 135-149 (“Terrorized by the Literature”).
Theory in Research Proposal, UC-Berkeley Proposal Writing Workshop [S]

- Problem definition exercise.

Week 3/ 1 Feb.

RESEARCH ETHICS

Code of Ethics, American Anthropological Association (pp. 325-330 in Ethnographic Fieldwork).

“Briefing Paper on Informed Consent,” AAA Committee on Ethics, Lauren Clark and Ann Kingsolver. [S]

Institutional Review Board (IRB) Perspectives on Ethnographic and Oral History Research:
Reference/Optional (IRBs and Academic Freedom, IRBs and the AAA):
http://www.aaanet.org/ar/irb/index.htm
>http://www.aaanet.org/committees/ethics/ethics.htm>

**Information about Human Subjects Certification from Rutgers:**
http://orsp.rutgers.edu/Humans/hscp.php
**Online certification test (required of all researchers who work with humans):**
http://orsp.rutgers.edu/Humans/hscpletter.php

- Case studies of ethical dilemmas.

Week 4/ 8 Feb.
FIELDWORK RELATIONS, RAPPORT, TRANSFERENCE


Week 5/ 15 Feb.
PARTICIPANT-OBSERVATION AND FIELDNOTES


- Observation and fieldnotes writing exercise.

Week 6/ 22 Feb.
**CHOICE OF INTERVIEWEES, UNSTRUCTURED AND SEMI-STRUCTURED INTERVIEWS, LIFE HISTORIES, KINSHIP, MAPPING**


- Unstructured and semi-structured interview exercises.

Week 7/ 1 March **LANGUAGE IN THE FIELD, TEXT ANALYSIS, and Atlas.Ti DEMONSTRATION**

[Guest lecturer: **Professor Laura Ahearn**, 3:15-4:30]


- Interview transcription exercise.

**Dr. Teresa Delcorso** (Assistant Dean, Graduate School—New Brunswick), “**Applying for Grants and Fellowships: Understanding the Process.**” [4:45-6:00 p.m., Dept. of Anthropology, room TBA]

Week 8/ 8 March **STRUCTURED INTERVIEWING AND QUESTIONNAIRE DESIGN**

H. Russell Bernard, *Research Methods in Anthropology*, chapters 6, 10, 11 (pp. 146-168, 251-317); re-read chapter 2 (pp. 28-68); skim chapter 7 (pp. 169-185).

- Questionnaire design and structured interview exercise.

**SPRING BREAK, March 12-20**
Week 9/22 March

**GRANT PROPOSALS: KEY COMPONENTS AND EVALUATION CRITERIA, I**


Institute of International Studies, University of California (Berkeley), “Dissertation Proposal Workshop” (see “Nuts and Bolts” sections) http://globetrotter.berkeley.edu/DissPropWorkshop/


Sample proposals funded by Fulbright-Hays, Fulbright IIE, Guggenheim Foundation, National Science Foundation, Social Science Research Council, Wenner-Gren Foundation. [S]

- Proposal evaluation exercises.

**Guest Speaker (4:00-5:30 p.m.): **Dr. Josh DeWind, Social Science Research Council, Director of Migration Program and Director of Dissertation Proposal Development Program, “Design and Methods in Preparing Research Proposals: Theories in Migration Research.”


Week 10/29 March

**CODING AND ANALYZING QUALITATIVE AND QUANTITATIVE DATA**


- Data coding exercise.

Week 11/5 April

**FIELDWORK IN THE ARCHIVES, ORAL HISTORY, CENSUSES, MULTI-SITED FIELDWORK**


Fieldwork.

Week 12/12 April
**GRANT PROPOSALS: KEY COMPONENTS AND EVALUATION CRITERIA, II**

Sample proposals funded by Fulbright-Hays, Fulbright IIE, Guggenheim Foundation, National Science Foundation, Social Science Research Council, Wenner-Gren Foundation. [S]

- Proposal evaluation exercises.

Week 13/19 April
**WRITE-UP**

George Orwell, 1945, “Politics and the English Language.”
Available at <http://globetrotter.berkeley.edu/DissPropWorkshop/style/orwell.html>

- Writing and editing exercise.

**Draft #1 of research proposal due 3:00 p.m. Friday, April 22**

Week 14/26 April
**FROM RESEARCH PROPOSAL TO DISSERTATION TO BOOK**


**RESEARCH PROPOSAL DUE FRIDAY, MAY 6***
(3:00 p.m. in instructor’s office mailbox—no electronic submissions) *No exceptions*