

SOC 478
Analysis in Field Research Methods
Fall 2013 — Online (September 16 –December 20)

Course Instructor: Robin O’Day, Ph.D.
Office: Saunders 207 (2nd Floor, Sociology Department)
Office Hours: Tuesdays 11:00 – 12:00 p.m. and or by appointment
Email: roday@hawaii.edu
Telephone: (808) 956-7329

I. Seminar Description

This course provides a survey of research techniques for collecting and analyzing qualitative data. Students will learn various methods for conducting social scientific fieldwork. As the course progresses, students will learn how to select an appropriate fieldwork research topic, situate the topic in the relevant literature, consider ethical implications, think through theory to better explain social processes, and reflect upon their own position as a researcher producing ethnographic knowledge. Moreover, students will also learn how to apply these research techniques as they carry out their own independent ethnographic research project. Some of the research methods taught in this course includes doing participant observation, interviewing, writing fieldnotes, coding and analyzing data, and writing up fieldwork experiences into a coherent report. There are two main goals in this course: (1) to teach students the principles of qualitative research methods, and (2) to systematically guide students through each step of an original and independent ethnographic field research project.

II. Required Texts:

1. Bailey, Carol A., 2007. *A Guide to Qualitative Field Research*, Second Edition. Pine Forge Press.
2. Emerson, Robert M., Rachel I. Fretz, and Linda L. Shaw. 2011. *Writing Ethnographic Fieldnotes*, Second Edition. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
3. Additional readings may be handed out in class.

III. Writing Intensive Requirements:

This course fulfills the University of Hawaii’s writing intensive focus requirements. The criteria are as follows:

1. The class uses writing to promote the learning of class materials.
2. The class provides interaction between the instructor and students while students do assigned writing.
3. Written assignments contribute significantly to each student’s class grade.

4. The class requires students to do a substantial amount of writing – a minimum of 4,000 words, or about 16 pages.
5. To allow for meaningful professor – student interaction on each student’s writing, the class is restricted to 20 students.

IV. Course Format:

This an online course offered through “Laulima: The Learning and Collaborative Server for the University of Hawaii Community.” Since this is an online course, students are expected to have access to reliable computer equipment in order to participate in the course. Moreover, students are responsible to meet all scheduled deadlines and to regularly check the Laulima site for course updates. It is imperative that students understand that an online course requires students to manage their own time effectively in order to succeed in the course.

**Please speak, e-mail, or call the instructor if you anticipate having (or are having) difficulty meeting the course expectations. It is best to address challenges and problems early before they become overwhelming.*

V. Seminar Requirements

****Students are expected to devote a minimum of THREE HOURS PER WEEK outside of class doing fieldwork.***

1. **Weekly Reflections (10%):** These weekly reflections will give you practice writing and thinking about the course material in relation to carrying out fieldwork research. These written responses will ask you to reflect upon some of the relevant themes and issues covered during the week’s materials. Each week the instructor will post one or more questions on the Laulima site. Students will choose and respond to ONE question. I am looking for evidence of your own personal thoughts and reflections on the question you choose to write about. The responses should be 250 words in length. I expect your writing to be thoughtful and complete without being excessively lengthy. You are expected to post your finished response papers on the Laulima site by Thursday evening (no later than 11:59 pm) each week. If you are unable to submit your reflection by the deadline, I will accept late submissions, but they will be assessed a penalty. Since these papers are “public comments” they act as an opportunity for a dialogue with your classmates. (250 words each)
2. **Weekly Peer Comments (10%):** Each week you will be required to respond to ONE of the other student’s reflections for that week. Your comment must be at least a paragraph long (i.e. a minimum of three sentences). Moreover, your response must demonstrate intellectual engagement (i.e. show evidence of thoughtfulness). Comments can be critical, but they must not be disrespectful. The instructor will monitor and comment on the discussions as needed. (50-100 words each)

3. Quizzes (10%)

There will be a total of five (5) quizzes spread over the course. The quizzes will test your knowledge of the assigned readings. You will be given a choice of questions based on the readings. You will be required to answer one (1) of the questions. You will be given approximately 15 minutes for each quiz. Quizzes will be taken online through the Laulima website. You can take the quiz anytime during the week that the quiz is assigned. You must complete the quiz by 11:59 pm on the Sunday evening of the week in question.

4. Research Proposal (10%)

Each student must write a two-page (500 word) research proposal outlining the topic they wish to pursue for their ethnographic project. The details that students should include in their proposal will be handed out in class. However, students should clearly explain what they want to study, their motivation for choosing their topic, whether they have any personal connection to the group/community they want to research, a short hypothesis of what students expect to discover, and a detailed research schedule in which the student explains the days and times they expect to devote to fieldwork.

5. Literature Review (10%)

Based upon the feedback you receive from your instructor on your initial research proposal, you will do a short literature review, and integrate at least three (3) academic sources into your proposal. Additional instruction will be provided in class.

6. Fieldnote Assignment (10%)

Students will submit one of their fieldnote entries for evaluation (minimum 500 words). The instructor will provide additional instructions on how to format the assignment, and the information to be included.

7. Interview Transcription (10%)

Students will submit one of their interview transcriptions for evaluation. The length of the interview should be a minimum of ten minutes. Additional instruction will be provided in class.

8. Final Ethnographic Research Project (30%)

The Final Ethnographic research project should be between twelve to fifteen (12-15) pages in which you fully document your fieldwork research project. It is due on the final day of class. The project will include your research statement/hypothesis, a discussion of your research methods, your literature review, your analysis, and a full bibliography.

VI. Calculation of Grades

1. Weekly Reflections	10%
2. Weekly Peer Comments	10%
3. Quizzes	10%

4. Research Proposal Part	10%
5. Literature Review	10%
6. Fieldnote Assignment	10%
7. Interview Transcription	10%
8. Final Ethnographic Research Project	<u>30%</u>
	Total: 100%

VII. Final grades will be calculated on the percentage of points earned:

97 -100%	A+	82-84	B	69-71	C-
93-96	A	79-81	B-	65-68	D+
89-92	A-	75-78	C+	62-64	D
85-88	B+	72-74	C	59-61	D-
				0-58	F

VIII. Deadlines and Late Assignments

All assignments are due on the date indicated in the syllabus. Students should provide an electronic copy of their assignments through e-mail to roday@hawaii.edu, or submit it through the Laulima course website. Students can also submit a printed copy of their assignment through the Sociology Office in Saunders Hall on the Manoa campus by the deadline. Late assignments will be assessed a penalty. The late penalty policy consists of subtracting one “letter grade” per day for every missed day until the assignment is handed in.

IX. Writing Intensive Revision and Resubmission Option

The following assignments can be revised and resubmitted: Research Proposal; Literature Review; Fieldnote Assignment; Interview Transcription; and the Final Ethnographic Research Project. Students are expected to hand in their assignments by the deadlines outlined in the syllabus. If you meet the deadline, you will be given the option to revise and resubmit your assignment. You will be given one additional week to revise and resubmit your assignment from the date your instructor returns the assignment to you. However, minimal revisions will not automatically result in a higher grade. It is possible that your grade could actually decrease if the revisions are done poorly.

X. Plagiarism Policy (from UH Calendar):

“Plagiarism includes, but is not limited to, submitting, to satisfy an academic requirement, any document that has been copied in whole or in part from another individual's work without identifying that individual; neglecting to identify as a quotation a documented idea that has not been assimilated into the student's language and style; paraphrasing a passage so closely that the reader is misled as to the source; submitting the same written or oral material in more than one course without obtaining authorization from the instructors involved; and "dry-labbing," which includes obtaining and using experimental data from other students without the express consent of the instructor, utilizing experimental data and laboratory write-ups from other sections of the course or from previous terms, and fabricating data to fit the expected results.”

XI. Kokua for Students with Disabilities:

If you need accommodations because of the impact of a disability please contact me privately. I am happy to work with you and the KOKUA Program (Office for Students with Disabilities) to ensure reasonable accommodation in the course. KOKUA can be reached at (808) 956-7511 or (808) 956-7612 (voice/text) in room 013 of the Queen Lili'uokalani Center for Student Services.

XII. Class Schedule

Week	Date	Content/Readings
1	September 16-22	Bailey, Chapter 1: Introduction to Qualitative Field Research (1-13)
2	September 23-29	Bailey, Chapter 2: Ethical Issues In Qualitative Field Research (15-31) Emerson et al., Chapter 1: Fieldnotes in Ethnographic Research (1-20) Quiz #1 (Due by 11:59 pm, Sunday, September, 29)
3	September 30- October 6	Bailey, Chapter 3: Prelude to Qualitative Fieldwork (33-47) Emerson et al, Chapter 2: In the Field: Participating, Observing, Jotting Notes (21-29)
4	October 7-13	Bailey, Chapter 4: The Infrastructure of Qualitative Field Research: Paradigms (49-61). Emerson et al, Chapter 2: In the Field: Participating, Observing, Jotting Notes (29-43) Research Proposal Due (Due by 11:59 pm, Sunday, October 13)
5	October 14-20	Bailey Chapter 5: Methodology (63-78) Emerson et al., Chapter 3: Writing Fieldnotes 1: At the Desk, Creating Scenes on a Page (45-74) Quiz #2 (Due by 11:59 pm, Sunday, October 20)
6	October 21-27	Bailey Chapter 6: Observation: Planning Observations (79-94) Emerson et al., Chapter 3: Writing Up Fieldnotes I: (74-87) Literature Review Due (Due by 11:59 pm, Sunday, October 27)
7	October 28-	

- November 3 Bailey, Chapter 7: Interviews (95-111)
Emerson et al., Chapter 4: Writing Fieldnotes II (89-109)
- 8 November 4-10 Bailey, Chapter 8: Field Notes and Leaving the Field:
Guidelines for Writing Field Notes (113-123)

Emerson et al., Chapter 4: Writing Fieldnotes II (109-127)
Quiz #3 (Due by 11:59 pm, Sunday, November 4)
- 9 November 11-17 Bailey, Chapter 9: Coding Memoing, and Descriptions
(125-141)

Emerson et al, Chapter 5: Pursuing Members Meanings
(129-151)
Fieldnote Assignment Due (Due by 11:59 pm, Sunday,
November 17)
- 10 November 18-24 Bailey, Chapter 10: Typologies, Taxonomies, Visual
Representations, and Themes (143-160)

Emerson Chapter 5: Pursuing Members' Meanings (151-
169)
Quiz #4 (Due by 11:59 pm, Sunday, November 24)
- 11 November 25-
December 1 Bailey, Chapter 11: Storytelling, Critical Events, and
Analytic Induction (161-178)

Emerson, Chapter 6: Processing Fieldnotes: Coding and
Memoing: (171-188)
Interview Transcription Due (Due by 11:59 pm, Sunday,
December 1)
- 12 December 2-8 Bailey Chapter 12: Evaluation Criteria and Final
Manuscript (179-195)

Emerson, Chapter 6: Processing Fieldnotes: Coding and
Memoing (188-199)
Quiz #5 (Due by 11:59 pm, Sunday, December 8)
Ethnographic Project Due (Due by 11:59 pm, Sunday,
December 8)
- 13 December 9-15 Emerson Chapter 7: Writing an Ethnography (201-242)
Emerson Chapter 8: Conclusion: (243-248)
- 14 December 16-20 **Final Revised Ethnographic Project Due**