

SOC 478

Analysis in Field Research Methods

Summer 2010, Session I, MTWRF 10:30- 11:45a.m.

“Field” is right there in your everyday life. Let us get into the fascinating world of fieldwork!

Course Instructor: Natsuko Higa

Office: Saunders 340 (3rd Floor, Department of Anthropology)

Office Hours: Mondays, Thursdays 1:00- 2:00 p.m. or by appointment

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Please be advised that this syllabus is for informational purposes only. The details of the course including required readings may be revised. The finalized syllabus will be available on the first day of class.

I. Seminar description

This seminar examines qualitative research methods used in social science, focusing primarily on participant observation, on writing field notes, and on the transformation of these primary field data into written ethnographic documents. Doing fieldwork or participant observation is one of the essential methods to understand how individuals make sense of their social worlds that would be taken for granted. Through the course readings, discussions, in-class interview practice, and most importantly, out-of-school fieldwork practice, you will learn the practical methods of fieldwork on a step-by-step basis.

There are two parallel goals in this course: (1) to give an overview of qualitative methods, including current approaches, examples, and issues, and (2) to assist students through the various steps toward the completion of the final ethnographic research paper. I will focus on the second goal and emphasize participant observation and writing-up process.

II. Seminar requirements

I will ask you to bring several writing assignments to the class during the semester. Most of these will be directed toward helping you to complete your final ethnographic research paper. You will hand in these assignments on the day they are assigned so that I can give you immediate feedback. In the end of the course, you will write up a field research paper that demonstrates your competence in the research methods presented in this class.

1. Class Participation (15%):

Classes will be highly participative and interactive. Successful learning will be dependent upon your completion of field activities, reading assignments, and classroom discussions. If you have any questions or concerns regarding the course or assignments, I encourage you to come speak with me during my office hours, or arrangements can be made via email.

2. Mini Quizzes (15%):

To help you gain a better comprehension of assigned readings and classroom activities, **mini quiz will be given once a week** throughout the course. The schedule will be announced on the first day of class.

3. Original Field Note (10%) and Integrated Transcript (20%):

In order to learn the field research methods in more practical ways, we will visit some place around the campus (details will be announced in class), and do fieldwork, taking field notes. Note that two class fieldtrips are to give you the basics of fieldwork and form a foundation of your research that will be conducted subsequently by yourselves. After the first field trip, you will **turn in the original field notes on June 4th**. After the second field trip, you will integrate the second field note with your previous notes, and **turn in a 5 page integrated transcript on June 14th**.

4. Final Research Paper and Presentation (40%):

Based on your collection of field notes, integrated paper and readings in the class, you will analyze the data and write a **7 page draft for the final paper and submit it on June 21st**. Responding to my comments and classroom feedbacks on your draft, you will **complete the final 12- 15 page research paper at the end of the course that is due on July 2nd**. The classes **on June 28th and 29th are for final presentations**, in which you will make a presentation on your final papers.

III. Calculation of Grades:

Course grades will be based on:	
Class Participation	15 %
Mini Quizzes	15%
Field Note	10 %
Integrated Transcript	20%
<u>Final Research Paper/ Presentation</u>	<u>40 %</u>
Total	100%

IV. Grading Scale:

A	90-100%	B	80- 89%
C	70- 79%	D	60- 69%
F	< 60%		

V. Required Text:

Emerson, Robert M., Rachel I. Fretz, and Linda L. Shaw. 1995. *Writing Ethnographic Fieldnotes*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

(This is also recommended but will be uploaded on laulima for a few chapters: Taylor, Steven J. and Bogdan, Robert. 1998. *Introduction to Qualitative Research Methods 3rd Edition*)

VI. Writing Intensive Requirements:

This course fulfills the University of Hawaii's writing intensive focus requirements. The criteria for these 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.

VII. Important Notice on Plagiarism:

“Plagiarism includes but is not limited to submitting, in fulfillment of an academic requirement, any work that has been copied in whole or in part from another individual's work without attributing that borrowed portion to the individual; neglecting to identify as a quotation another's idea and particular phrasing that was not assimilated into the student's language and style or paraphrasing a passage so that the reader is misled as to the source; submitting the same written or oral or artistic material in more than one course without obtaining authorization from the instructors involved; or "drylabbing," which includes obtaining and using experimental data and laboratory write-ups from other sections of a course or from previous terms” (University of Hawaii at Manoa, Student Conduct Code, Section H. Academic Dishonesty, Part 2, Page 6).

VIII. KOKUA for Students with Disabilities:

If you feel you need accommodations because of the impact of a disability, please 1) contact the KOKUA Program (V/T) at 956-7511 or 956-7612 in room 013 of QLCSS, and 2) speak with me to discuss your specific needs. I will be happy to work with you and the KOKUA Program to meet your access needs related to your (documented) disability. (The KOKUA program will assist you in the documentation process if you have not yet completed it.)

Week	Date	Class Session Content
1	5/24	Introduction; overview of the course
	5/25	Taylor&Bogdan. Chap.1. Introduction: Go to the People
	5/26	Taylor&Bogdan. Chap.2. Participant Observation: Pre-Fieldwork
	5/27	Taylor&Bogdan. Chap.3. Participant Observation: In the Field
	5/28	Taylor&Bogdan. Chap.3. Participant Observation: In the Field
2	5/31	<i>Holiday: Memorial Day</i>
	6/1	Emerson et al. Chap.1. Fieldnotes in Ethnographic Research
	6/2	Emerson et al. Chap.2. In the Field: Participating, Observing, and Jotting Notes
	6/3	★ Going out for Fieldwork I
	6/4	Emerson et al. Chap.3. Writing up Fieldnotes I: From Field to Desk ※ 1st Assignment DUE: Field Notes Submission
3	6/7	Emerson et al. Chap.4. Writing up Fieldnotes II: Creating Scenes on the Page
	6/8	Emerson et al. Chap.5. Pursuing Members' Meanings
	6/9	Emerson et al. Chap.6. Processing Fieldnotes: Coding and Memoing
	6/10	★ Going out for Fieldwork II
	6/11	Class Discussion: How Can We Describe the Scene?
		Emerson et al. Chap.7. Writing an Ethnography (1)
4	6/14	※ 2nd Assignment DUE: Integrated Transcript Submission
	6/15	Emerson et al. Chap.7. Writing an Ethnography (2)
	6/16	Taylor&Bogdan. Chap.4. In-Depth Interviewing
	6/17	Taylor&Bogdan. Chap.4. In-Depth Interviewing
	6/18	In-class Workshop: Doing Interview

5	6/21	Taylor&Bogdan. Chap.5. Montage: Discovering Methods ※ 3rd Assignment DUE: Draft Paper Submission
	6/22	Taylor&Bogdan. Chap.5. Montage: Discovering Methods
	6/23	Taylor&Bogdan. Chap.6. Working with Data: Data Analysis in Qualitative Research
	6/24	Taylor&Bogdan. Chap.6. Working with Data: Data Analysis in Qualitative Research
	6/25	In-class Workshop 2nd: Data Analysis
6	6/28	Final Presentation (1)
	6/29	Final Presentation (2)
	6/30	TBA
	7/1	TBA
	7/2	TBA ※ 4th Assignments DUE: Final Paper Submission