This seminar provides an introduction to ethnography, including the politics and ethics of participatory research, methods of listening, observing and recording, and approaches to interpretive analysis. We will concentrate on practices of interviewing and recording often used in ethnographic research, including the analysis of recorded transcripts. Discussion of the politics of ethnography will inform the seminar’s work throughout.

A common weakness of research proposals for “qualitative” research is the methodology section. Similarly, one of the difficulties faced by ethnographers working in areas of applied research is the thinness of methods for thick description, often reduced to vague statements about participant observation and interviewing. This seminar addresses these problems with a hands-on approach to a variety of methodologies and techniques appropriate for ethnographic projects.

Much of the learning in this seminar will be through doing. Through the development of individual projects, students will gain experience with organizing and conducting their own ethnographic research. This will include carrying out interviewing, generating notes and transcripts, and interpreting their significance. Several types of discourse analysis will be reviewed and applied to the texts, transcripts, and notes generated by student projects. Text-analysis software will be introduced.

The seminar will afford an opportunity for students to develop and explore individual interests through pilot research or analysis of prior work.

**Requirements**
Active participation in class discussion, demonstrating preparation, is important and will count for 15% of your grade. Weekly written assignments, including brief 1-page reflections assessing readings each week, will count for 15%. As the class progresses, the focus shifts to the production and analysis of interview transcripts, notes, and analysis. The remaining 70% of your grade will be based on write-up of your research, including an interview transcript (15%) & analysis (15%) and a final paper (40%) that discusses fieldwork practices, describes and critiques methodological choices, and presents preliminary results gained from work during the seminar.

**Required texts**
Carolyn Fluehr-Lobban. 2013. *Ethics and Anthropology*

**Optional text**
**Accessing readings:** Books are at the bookstore. The Skinner and Bernard books are available online through the UH library Voyager website. You'll find the rest of the readings on the course website on Laulima, or via journals and books accessible through Voyager.

**Anthropology 710: Weekly Schedule**

I. What is Ethnography?

Aug 25: **Introduction:** ethnography, social science, fieldwork  
-- Murchison, “What is Ethnography?” (3-18)

II. Software tools

Sept 1: **(HOLIDAY: no class)**  
- Familiarize yourself with tools for data recording and processing (see Laulima)  
- Come up with plan for doing at least two interviews on a topic of your choice

Software tools: text processing and bibliography software

(1) For both PC and Mac users: Find and install a program for text processing and analysis. If you don’t have your own choice, download the test version of “HyperResearch” (at: [http://www.researchware.com/](http://www.researchware.com/)) and work through its tutorials: [http://www.researchware.com/products/hyperresearch/tutorials.html](http://www.researchware.com/products/hyperresearch/tutorials.html). Import a sample file and try out some of the basic moves for coding.

(2) If you don’t already use bibliography software, it is strongly recommended that you get started now. “Endnote” is available through UH subscription. Other popular programs include “Sente” or “Zotero.”

III. Research Ethics and Politics

Sept 8: **Politics and Practices of Fieldwork (1-page interview plan due)**  
-- Lassiter, Pt 1, “History & Theory” (ix-76)  
-- Smith, “Forward” and “Introduction” (19-55)

Sept 15: **Research Ethics, IRBs, and Informed Consent (informed consent form due)**  
-- Fluehr-Lobban, Chs 1-3 (1-86), Ch 6 (139-156)  
-- Chenhall, Senior & Belton, “Negotiating Human Research Ethics” (13-17)  
-- Optionally, you may want to browse the AAA’s ‘ethics resources’: [http://www.aaanet.org/cmtes/ethics/Ethics-Resources.cfm](http://www.aaanet.org/cmtes/ethics/Ethics-Resources.cfm)  
IRB informed consent form examples:

Sept 22: Collaborative Approaches to Ethnography
-- Lassiter, Collaborative Ethnography (77 – 154)
-- Fluehr-Lobban, Ch 7, “Framing Future Debates” (157-170)

IV. Ethnographic Practice: Observing & Interviewing

Sept 29: Fieldwork: Participating, Observing, Recording (2-3 pages of HyperResearch coding due)
-- Bernard, “Participant Observation” (256-290) “Field Notes and Data Base Management” (291-305)
-- Revisit & practice with text-processing program

Oct 6: Ethnographic Interviewing (1)
-- Bernard, “Interviewing: Unstructured and Semi-structured” (156-186)
-- Rapport, “The Interview as a Form of Talking-partnership…” (53-68)
-- Montgomery, “Difficult Moments in the Ethnographic Interview” (143-161)

Oct 13: Recording, Transcribing, Representing (1-page transcribing sample due)
-- Duranti, “Transcription” and “Translation” (137–144, 154-161)
-- Download & practice ExpressScribe: make sample recording & transcribe 1 page.

Oct 20: Ethnographic Interviewing (2) (5 pages of transcript & brief notes due)
-- Skinner selection: Pick one chapter from Section III: Interview Cases

Oct 27: Life History Interviewing (interview transcript & interpretation due)
-- Peacock & Holland, “The Narrated Life” (367-383) [UH Voyager: Anthrosourse]
-- Svasek & Domeka (in Skinner) “The Autobiographical Narrative Interview” (107-126)
-- Personal Narratives Group, “Origins” (3-15)

Nov 3: Virtual Ethnography
-- Hine, “Virtual Ethnography” (257-270)
-- Golub, “Being in the World (of Warcraft)” (17-46)
-- Boellstorff et al. “Interviews and Virtual Worlds Research” (92-112)

V. Techniques of interpretive analysis

Nov 10: What is Discourse Analysis?
-- Gee, An Introduction to Discourse Analysis, Chapters 1-4 (1-59)
-- Josephides (in Skinner) “Finding and Mining the Talk” (89-105)
Nov 17: Cultural Models & ‘Figured Worlds’
   -- Quinn, “Introduction” (1-34)
   -- Gee, An Introduction to Discourse Analysis, Chapters 5-7. (60-117)

Nov 24: Analyzing Recorded Talk (transcript coding & analysis due)
   -- Gee, An Introduction to Discourse Analysis, (Chapters 5-6) (118-167)
   -- Gee, “Samples of Discourse Analysis” Chapters 11-13 (168-216)

VI. Project Presentations

Dec 1: Final paper presentations (hand in notes or powerpoint)
   -- no reading assigned

Dec 8: Final paper presentations (hand in notes or powerpoint)
   -- no reading assigned

Dec 10: Final paper due

READINGS

Bernard, H. Russell

Boellstorff, Tom, Bonnie Nardi, Celia Pearce & T.L. Taylor

Chenhall, Richard, Kate Senior and Suzanne Belton

Clifford, James

Duranti, Alessandro

Fluehr-Lobban, Carolyn
2013 Ethics and Anthropology: Ideas and Practice. Walnut Creek: AltaMira.
Gee, James Paul  

Golub, Alex  

Hine, Christine  

Lassiter, Luke Eric  

Luttrell, Wendy  

Murchison, Julian.  

Peacock, James L. and Dorothy C. Holland  

Personal Narratives Group, ed.  

Quinn, Naomi  

Skinner, Jonathan, ed.  

Smith, Linda Tuhiiwai  