SOC 615: 
Sociology of Health and Health Services 
Spring 2012

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Thursday 4-6:30pm 
Saunders 233


This course focuses on the unique, collaborative discursive practices constructing medical consultation. We will inspect history taking, diagnosis, patient management, interpretation of tests and routine follow up visits.

We will learn how to make transcripts of medical interactions and how to inspect the turn taking structure of medical talk. We will use both perspectives of conversation analysis and ethnomethodology.

Jan 12: Introduction to the seminar. Read Chapter 1 & 2 in Heritage and Maynard.

Jan 19: Student presentation of chapter 1 & 2. We will look at video records of doctor patient interaction. Read chapter 3 in Heritage and Maynard.

Jan 26: Presentation of chapter 3. We will learn how to make transcripts. Read chapter 4 in Heritage and Maynard.

Feb 2: Presentation of chapter 4. Discuss of patients noticing they have a health problem. Read chapter 5 in Heritage and Maynard.

Feb 9: Presentation of chapter 5. More discussion of patients noticing they have a medical problem and the ways doctors react to patients' formulations of their problems. Read chapter 6 in Heritage and Maynard.
Feb 16: Presentation of chapter 6. We will inspect a video record of a patient with an itchy nose. Read chapter 7 in Heritage and Maynard.

Feb 23: Presentation of chapter 7. Discussion of clinical objects, heart disease, diabetes, neurological diseases, and other conditions. Inspect of a patient and doctor talking about his physical and mental problems. Read chapter 8 in Heritage and Maynard.

Mar 1: Presentation of chapter 8. Discuss the work of Anssi Peräkylä and his collaborators in Finland. They are focused on psychotherapy interaction. Read chapter 9 in Heritage and Maynard.

Mar 8: Presentation of chapter 9. Discussion of the bad news and good news. Read chapter 10 in Heritage and Maynard.


Mar 19-23: Spring Break

Mar 29: Presentation of chapter 11. Discussion of text based activities. Read chapter 12 in Heritage and Maynard.


Apr 19: Presentation of chapter 14. Phone or internet medicine.

Apr 26: Student presentations.

May 3: End of semester potluck.