The discursive practice approach is grounded in four insights concerning discourse. One is the affirmation that social realities are linguistically/discursively constructed. The second is the appreciation of the context-bound nature of discourse. The third is the idea of discourse as social action. The fourth is the understanding that meaning is negotiated in interaction, rather than being present once-and-for-all in our utterances.

The course will be primarily an expansion of these points. Its aim is to provide a broad theoretical basis for analytic endeavors dealing with discourse in all its forms. We will consider the “discursive turn”—away from positivism and psychological explanation toward language and discourse. The influence of Wittgenstein, Austin, Ryle, Schutz, Whorf, Hymes, Garfinkel, Sacks, and Foucault, among others, will be discussed.

Readings will include Hughes and Sharrock, The Philosophy of Social Research, Edwards, Discourse and Cognition, and Bilmes, Discourse and Behavior, as well as a variety of articles and book chapters. Grades will be based on a classroom work and a final paper.

Week 1: Introduction

Week 2: Ordinary language philosophy. Read Fann (photocopy); Austin (photocopy); Coulter (photocopy)

Week 3: Linguistic/discursive/social construction of reality. Read Whorf (photocopy); Gumperz and Levinson (photocopy)

Week 4: Linguistic/discursive/social construction of reality. Read Berger and Luckmann (photocopy); Becker (photocopy); Rosenhan (photocopy); Bilmes, “On the believability of Northern Thai spirit mediums” (photocopy), Sacks (photocopy)

Week 5: Positivism. Read Hughes and Sharrock, pp. 1-95

Week 6: The interpretive turn. Read Hughes and Sharrock, pp. 96-209 (except for 180-195)
Week 7: Ethnography and context. Read Hymes (photocopy); Schegloff (photocopy); Briggs (photocopy)

Week 8: Ethnomethodology. Read Garfinkel, Chapters 1, 3 (photocopy); Heritage (photocopy) (optional)

Week 9: Ethnomethodology. Read Garfinkel, Chapter 4 (photocopy); Clayman and Maynard (photocopy)

Week 10: Discursive sociology. Read Bilmes, *Discourse and behavior*, Introduction and Chapters 1-4

Week 11: Discursive sociology. Read Bilmes, *Discourse and behavior*, Chapters 5-8

Week 12: Discursive psychology. Read Edwards, Chapters 1-4

Week 13: Discursive psychology. Read Edwards. Chapters 5-8

Week 14: Discursive psychology. Read Edwards, Chapters 9-11

Week 15: Postmodern perspectives. Read Hughes and Sharrock, pp. 180-195; Foucault pp.21-70 (photocopy); Lyotard pp. 18-41 (photocopy)