**Methods in the Social Sciences Syllabus**

YSS3231: Methods in the Social Sciences

Semester 2, AY 2021 – 2022

Lecture: Monday 9:00 – 9:50 – BlackBox

Seminar (A): Thursday 9:00 – 11:00 – BlackBox

Seminar (B): Thursday 1:00 – 3:00 – BlackBox

**Instructor:**

Steve Monroe, Assistant Professor of Political Science

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Office Hours: 13:00 - 15:00, Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays

Please sign up at Calendly:

<https://calendly.com/yncsmonroe/monroe-office-hours>

**Overview and Learning Goals**

This module introduces students to quantitative and qualitative research methods in the social sciences. The module consists of three components: 1) Foundations in Social Science Research, 2) Quantitative Methods, and 3) Qualitative Methods. Students will learn, critique and apply a range of social science methods. These methods include: comparative case studies, in-depth interviews, participant observation and regression analysis.

This module has three learning objectives:

1. Strengthen students’ ability to formulate social science research questions and strategize how to answer them most effectively.
2. Equip students with research design foundations for their senior capstone.
3. Expand students’ awareness of different social science research methods, as well as these methods’ strengths and limitations.

This module is a requirement for Global Affairs and Urban Studies majors. It is cross-listed with Anthropology and PPE.

**About the Course:**

Social scientists are increasingly expected to be conversant in multiple methodologies and be able to assess the appropriate research method to answer a given research question. Even when they choose to specialize in a particular method, social scientists are still expected to be able to understand and critique relevant research findings across a range of methods.

To that end, this module allows students to fulfil the research methods requirement for several social science majors at Yale-NUS College by equipping them with basic skills in both quantitative and qualitative research methods. This module is a requirement for Global Affairs and Urban Studies majors. It also counts towards the Anthropology major though it does not automatically fulfil the methods requirement for Anthropology. This course can also be counted towards the PPE (unless Econometrics is taken) and Environmental Studies majors, but only at the discretion of the Head of Studies.

This module introduces students to a variety of methods in the social sciences. It focuses on five primary techniques: Survey methodology, case studies, quantitative data analysis, participant observation and in-depth interviewing. We will discuss the pros and cons of each method. We will also discuss best practices in formulating research questions. This module gives students a solid foundation to build their capstones, and to enrol in more advanced methodological courses in subsequent semesters.

**Course Structure and Format:**

This module is organized around three sub-units – Research Foundations, Quantitative Methods, and Qualitative Methods – which mirrors the structure of the main course textbook, Social Research Methods by Alan Bryman.

The module format consists of two meetings per week. The first meeting is a one-hour lecture. The second meeting is a two-hour seminar. During the quantitative and qualitative methods’ units, the seminar will be run as a “lab” with students engaging in hands-on exercises to learn particular skills (e.g. how to run a linear regression) or they will be asked to bring in their assignment work for feedback.

**Expectations and Assessment:**

* Attendance and Participation (10%)
* Lead Seminar Discussion of Case Study (10%)
* Assignments (x4) (50%)
* Research Proposal (30%)

**Attendance and Participation (10%):**

Students are expected to be engaged, attentive and respectful in lecture and seminar. This requires completing all of the assigned readings and preparing questions / comments.

Students will not get points for simply attending lecture or seminar. However, they will have point deductions for missing seminar or lecture without first getting permission. An AD note, medical certificate, or prior permission from the course instructor is required for absences to be excused. **Students will also be given one free pass which they can use to excuse one absence from class or grant them a 24-hour extension on an assignment deadline (no questions asked).** Each subsequent unexcused absence will result in a grade point penalty in their final participation grade (e.g. from a B to a B-, etc.). More than three unexcused absences will result in a grade point penalty in their final course grade. I will grade absences from lecture and seminar equally.

**I expect every student to attend at least one office hours session before week seven. If you cannot make office hours** (**13:00 - 15:00, Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays), please let me know and we can find an alternative time to meet. Students must sign up and book a slot for office hours on** [**Calendly**](https://calendly.com/yncsmonroe/monroe-office-hours) **before we meet.**

**Etiquette for Seminar**

We will value a step-up and step-back approach to participation in class. Listening and being attentive to one’s peers is just as valuable as contributing to class discussion. We will also recognize that there are gender, class, race and other factors that make some voices louder than others. Please give credit when credit is due, and be mindful that we all benefit from a more inclusive learning environment. Finally, students will use gender inclusive language in class and in writing assignments.

**Lead Seminar Discussion of Case Study (10%):**

Each student will (co)lead one seminar discussion on a Case Study. The responsibilities of the discussion leaders include introducing the author(s) of the case study, providing a short summary of the readings and the methods applied. Discussion leaders are expected to comment on the reading’s methods and then lead a seminar discussion on the pros and cons of these methods in answering the author’s argument. The summary and critique of the readings should not take more than 10 minutes (maximum) with the rest of the time allocated to the facilitated class discussion or any activities the discussion leaders have planned. The Case Study overview and seminar discussion will take no longer than forty minutes.

The discussion questions should have some deep-dive questions that interrogate the case study’s methods and connect the case study to others as well as topics discussed in lecture. Discussants must weigh in and argue whether the case study’s author(s)’ methods and research design are effective in answering / sustaining their argument. **A template is provided at the end of this syllabus for the key points that need to be covered. A rubric will be provided for how discussion leadership will be assessed. Students will be expected to upload their slides onto Canvas after the presentation.**

**Assignments (50%):**

1. Research Question and Lit. Review (10%)
2. Sampling and Survey Design (10%)
3. Quantitative Group Project (15%)
4. Ethnography / Interviewing (15%)

**Research Proposal (30%):**

Students must submit a 3,000-word research proposal that outlines a research question, motivates it with a literature review, proposes a particular research method to answer said question, identifies a possible alternative research method and explains why this alternative method was not chosen. In explaining their research design, students need to discuss how the concept will be operationalized, outline the hypotheses, and explain how the data will be collected and analyzed. Any potential ethical issues should be flagged in the proposal.

**Assignment Submissions and Deadlines:**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Assignments** | **Max Word Count\*** | **Deadline** |
| 1. Research Question and Lit. Review (10%)
 | 1,500 words | Week 3, Sun, Jan 30, 11:59 pm |
| 1. Survey Design (10%)
 | No word limit | Week 6, Sun, Feb 20, 11:59 pm |
| 1. Group Quantitative Analysis (15%)
 | 2,000 words | Week 9, Sun, Mar 20,11:59 pm |
| 1. Ethnography & Interview (15%)
 | 1,000 words | Week 12, Thursday Apr 14,11:59 pm |
| 1. Research Proposal (30%)
 | 3,000 words | Thursday,Apr. 28th, 11:59 pm |

\*Word count does not include appendices that contain tables, lists of survey questions, etc.

All assignments should be posted onto Canvas by the stipulated deadline. Your assignment will be considered late if it misses the deadlines set above. **You have one free pass which allows you to submit an assignment within 24 hours after the deadline without any penalty.** This pass is non-transferable. For every other late assignment, you will pay a penalty: Your grade for the assignment will go down by one grade point (e.g. from A to A-, A- to B+) if you do not submit by the deadline, and then continue to fall by an additional grade point per 24 hours after the deadline.

**Grading Rubric:**

A+ : 100-97

A : 96-93

A- :92-90

B+ :89-87

B: 86-83

B-: 82-80

C+: 79-77

C: 76-70

D+: 69-60

D: 59-51

F: <=50

*Excellent work* (A) proposes a highly interesting thesis, defends this thesis with especially persuasive argumentation, anticipates and responds to the most likely and most forceful objections to the thesis, expresses an elegant style of writing or speaking, and models highly original thinking. Work of this calibre indicates potential for graduate work at a top program.

*Good work* (B) proposes a reasonably interesting thesis, defends this thesis with adequate argumentation, anticipates and responds to unlikely or weak objections to the thesis, expresses a careful but not elegant style of writing or speaking, and/or models somewhat original thinking.

*Satisfactory work* (C) proposes a relatively uninteresting or overly ambitious thesis, defends this thesis with argumentation that does not withstand close scrutiny, fails to anticipate and respond to objections to the thesis, expresses an awkward or unclear style of writing or speaking, and/or models largely unoriginal thinking.

*Minimally acceptable work* (D) fails to propose an identifiable thesis, neglects adequate argumentation to defend claims, ignores potential objections, expresses a careless style of writing or speaking, and/or models entirely unoriginal thinking.

**Please note that this module will have a flexible grading curve. For each assignment, roughly a third of students will receive an A or above. The remaining 2/3rds will receive an A- or below.**

**Required Books:**

The following books are required for the course and can be purchased through Bookhaven or Amazon.com:

1. Bryman, Alan. 2012. Social Research Methods. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

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

3. DeVeaux, Richard, Velleman, Paul F. and David E. Bock. Intro Stats: International Edition. Pearson.

4. Healy, Kieran. Data Visualization: A Practical Introduction. 2019. Princeton University Press.

5. Kvale, Steinar, and Svend Brinkmann, Interviews: Learning the Craft of Qualitative Research Interviewing (Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage, 2015).

**Other Readings:**

All additional chapter/article readings will be available in .pdf format through the course module on Canvas or in e-format through the NUS library.

**Required Software:**

“Expect to make errors, and don’t worry when that happens. You won’t break anything. Each time you figure out why the code has gone wrong, you will learn a new thing about how the language (R) works.” – Kieran Healy, *Data Visualization*, pg. 48.

For the statistical analysis portion of the course, students will be (re)introduced to the software package R Studio. We will download the package together in seminar and go over basic statistical analysis and how to make captivating plots.

Using R is hard. Thankfully, there is a [vibrant online community](https://scholar.harvard.edu/dromney/online-resources-learning-r) and lots of resources at Yale-NUS College to help you out. I will keep students posted about R Tutoring drop-in sessions during the semester. Professor Gastner’s R [tutorial videos](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCYLy70wl08d5c8PKTUgJ0Pw/videos) are also quite helpful. Lastly, I urge students to remember that, like any language, the best way to get better at R is to learn by doing. Be patient. You’ll get there!

**Citations:**

Students must cite using the Chicago Manual of Style in each of their written assignments.

**Plagiarism:**

Plagiarism is a very serious offence that goes against the ethos of academic honesty within Yale-NUS College.

We provide below a list of resources that explain what constitutes plagiarism. You are also reminded of the serious consequences in case you are caught plagiarizing. All student papers will be submitted to turnitin.com for a plagiarism check. Any suspected academic dishonesty will be reported to the Academic Integrity Committee.

In this regard, we reproduce here a passage on Academic Integrity from the College Website:

“Yale-NUS College expects its students to abide by the highest standards of academic integrity as a matter of personal honesty and communal responsibility. Acting with academic integrity requires that (a) students do their own work, (b) students not interfere with the work of others, (c) students accurately and honestly represent the content of their work, and (d) students properly attribute others’ work.

Violations of the College’s academic integrity standards undermine both the community and the individual growth of students. Accordingly, they will be addressed with the utmost seriousness and sanctions ranging from grade penalties to expulsion. Examples of violations of academic integrity include plagiarism, copying or sharing homework answers, submitting work completed for one course as ‘new’ work for another course, or fabricating or falsifying research data.

Professors are obligated to refer suspected lapses in academic integrity to the College’s Committee on Integrity and Discipline (CID), which follows a set of policies and procedures approved by the faculty when investigating and adjudicating cases. To learn more about these policies and expectations, visit the Student Life – Academic Integrity website.”

Yale NUS College Library, “Yale-NUS Policies on Academic Integrity.” (2014). In Avoiding Plagiarism. Retrieved from <https://library.yale-nus.edu.sg/avoiding-plagiarism/>

**Learning and Disability:**

Students with learning disabilities should contact their Vice Rector’s office for support and guidance.

**Computer Policy:**

I strongly encourage students to put their laptops away in lecture and seminar, and take notes in notebooks and print the readings if possible. For students who absolutely need their laptops, I request you leave the computer on airplane mode. This will help you (and students peering at your screen behind you) stay engaged in lecture and seminar.

Please note that the assigned readings may change throughout the term. I will let you know if they do. **The readings and** *Social Research Methods* **are on e-reserves. The other required books are not. Links will guide you to websites or provide book / article call numbers.**

**Week I: Research Questions and Methods (Jan 10 – 14)**

Lecture: **Welcome and Getting Started**

* Duckworth, Angela and Stephen Dubner. “How Can You Stop Comparing Yourself To Others (NSQ: Episode 13).” *Freakonomics Podcast*. 2020. [Link.](https://freakonomics.com/podcast/how-can-you-stop-comparing-yourself-with-other-people-rebroadcast/)
	+ **Listen to Question #2: Why are we so inclined to force causal narratives? (Start at min 17, lasts roughly 17 minutes)**
	+ Strongly Recommended (but not required): Question #1 How can you avoid the emotional pain of social comparisons? (16 minutes)
* *Social Research Methods*, Chapter 3: “Research Designs” (35 pages) *(skim)*

Seminar: **Introductions, Seminar Expectations and How to come up with a research question?**

* *Social Research Methods*, Chapter 4, “Planning A Research Project and Formulating Research Questions,” (15 pages, *skim*).
* Massengil, Rebekah. *Writing Sociology: A Guide for Junior Papers and Senior Theses,* Chapter 1: The Research Question, 5 – 11 (6 pages).

*Assignment #1 Research Question and Literature Review (Due Jan. 30th)*

* *Outline a research question you wish to pursue and write a literature review that cites at least five journal articles/books to motivate your particular question.*

**Week 2: The Lit Review (Jan 17 – 21)**

Lecture: How to write and research a Lit Review

* **Guest lecture from Social Sciences Librarian Chris Tang**
* *Social Research Methods*, Chapter 5, “Getting started: reviewing the literature,” (27 pages, *skim*).
* See How to Write a Lit Review (5 minutes 37 seconds)[. Link.](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BgNehPgFiyc)

Seminar: Writing the Lit Review and Workshopping Research Questions

* Mosley, Layna and Saika Uno. “Racing to the Bottom or Climbing to the Top? Economic Globalization and Collective Labor Rights,” *Comparative Political Studies.* 2007; 40; 923 (27 pages).
* Krippner, Greta. *How To Read a (Quantitative) Journal Article*. 2010. Prepared for Sociology 101 (5 pages).
* Teo, You Yenn. “Speaking is always done by someone, someone is speaking,” *The Is What Inequality Looks Like,* 2019. p.286-287 (2 pages).

**Seminar Activity 1: Discussion of Mosley and Uno “Racing to the Bottom”, and Reverse Outline of their Lit. Review**

**Seminar Activity 2: Workshop students’ research questions. Students are expected to bring a first draft of their research question.**

**Week 3: Operationalization and Causation (Jan 24 – 28)**

Lecture: Intro to Research Design

* Spector, Paul. *Research Designs.* Sections 1.0 and 2.0: Introduction and “Basic Concepts”, 1981. 1- 18 (18 pages).
* Davis, James. *The Logic of Causal Order.* 1985. Introduction. 2 – 24 (22 pages).
* King, Gary, Robert O. Keohane and Sidney Verba. *Designing Social Inquiry*. 1994. Chapter 3: Causality and Causal Inference. 75-114 (39 pages).
* Charmaz, Kathy and Robert Thornberg. “The pursuit of quality in grounded theory,” *Qualitative Research in Psychology* (2021), 18:3, 305-321. Stop at page 321. (18 pages).

Seminar: Mapping Causality

* Barnett, Carolyn, Amaney A. Jamal, and Steve L. Monroe. "Earned Income and Women's Segmented Empowerment: Experimental Evidence from Jordan." *American Journal of Political Science* (2020). (17 pages).
* **Case Study 1: Wedeen, Lisa. *Ambiguities of domination: Politics, rhetoric, and symbols in contemporary Syria*. University of Chicago Press, 2015. Introduction, 1 – 31 (31 pages).**

**Seminar Activity 1: Causality Mapping Exercise of ``Earned Income and Women’s Segmented Empowerment: Experimental Evidence from Jordan (Barnett, Jamal and Monroe, 2020).’’**

**ASSIGNMENT #1 DUE JAN 30 AT 11:59 PM**

**Week 4: Ethics (Jan. 31st – Feb.4) – Happy Lunar New Year!**

Lecture: Ethics and Research

* *Social Research Methods*, Chapter 6: “Ethics and Politics in Social Research,” (25 pages, *skim*).
* Undergraduate Research Ethics: Read Steps 1 to 4. [Link.](https://studentlife.yale-nus.edu.sg/policies/undergraduate-research/)

Seminar: Researcher Meets (Ethics) Critic and Goffman Discussion

* Goffman, Alice. 2014. *On the Run: Fugitive Life in an American City*. Chapter 1 and Appendix A, 9-22 and 211-262 (64 pages).

**Seminar Activity 1: Researcher Meets (Ethics) Critic. Discussion of Bhatia and Monroe’s Research Proposal: Insecurity and Support for Female Leadership in Conflict-Prone States: Evidence from Afghanistan.**

Note: Students will read Bhatia and Monroe’s Research Proposal in Seminar. We will then discuss best practices and ethical considerations for the first half of seminar.

**Seminar Activity 2: Discussion of *On the Run.***

**Week 5: Sampling and Small-N Studies (Feb. 8 – 12)**

Lecture: Sampling and Case Studies

* *Social Research Methods*, Chapter 8: “Sampling,” Chapter 18 “Sampling in Qualitative Research” (38 pages, skim).
* Gerring, John. "What is a case study and what is it good for?." *American Political Science Review* (2004): 341-354 (13 pages).
* Seawright, Jason and John Gerring. 2008. “Case Selection Techniques in Case Study Research: A Menu of Qualitative and Quantitative Options.” *Political Research Quarterly* 61(2):294-308 (14 pages).

Seminar: The Comparative Case Method

* **Case Study 2: Holland, Alisha. *Forbearance as Redistribution: The politics of informal welfare in Latin America*. Cambridge University Press, 2017. Introduction, 1 – 12 (12 pages).**
* Small, Mario Luis. "How many cases do I need?' On science and the logic of case selection in field-based research." Ethnography 10.1 (2009): 5-38 (33 pages).

*Assignment #2: Survey Design*

*Based on a stated research question, design a survey comprising 10 questions.*

* *Your questions should operationalize at least one independent variable or one dependent variable. (You might have multiple ways to operationalize any given variable.) Explanatory projects must have at least one independent variable and one dependent variable. Descriptive projects need only an independent or dependent variable. Be explicit in assignment’s feedback section (below) about whether project is explanatory vs. descriptive, and which questions pertain to independent vs. dependent variables.*
* *All but one of your questions must be closed-ended.*
* *Practice your survey on two respondents. Then interview them to determine how they interpreted each question, and how they thought they should respond to each question.*
* *Write about their feedback. After taking their feedback into account, revise your survey questionnaire, taking into account the phrasing and order of questions.*
* *Write a cover letter/participant information sheet that explains the objective of the survey and contains appropriate statements regarding research ethics, anonymity, etc.*
* *Write out your research protocol including a description of the kind of survey you will be conducting and your sampling frame and design.*

**Week 6: Survey Design (Feb.14 – 19)**

Lecture: Survey Questions

* Fowler, Jr., Floyd J. 1995. Improving Survey Questions: Design and Evaluation. Chapter 4 – “Some General Rules for Designing Good Survey Instruments.” 78-103 (25 pages).
* Clip from Yes Prime Minister. “[Leading Questions](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G0ZZJXw4MTA)”
* Valentine’s Day Special: Take Tara Parker Pope’s *New York Times* [Do You Have a Generous Relationship?](https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2019/07/16/well/generous-relationship-quiz.html) Quiz.

Seminar: Discussion of Social Desirability Biases and Workshopping Survey Questions

* **Case Study 3:**
	+ **Schuldt JP, Konrath SH, Schwarz N. 2011. “Global Warming” or “Climate Change.” Public Opinion Quarterly. 75 (1): 115 – 124 (9 pages).**
	+ **Streb Matthew, Frederic B and Genovese, M. A. “Social Desirability Effects and Support for a Female American President.” *Public Opinion Quarterly*, 72 (1): 76 – 89 (13 pages).**

**Seminar Activity 1: Students will workshop their survey questions**

**ASSIGNMENT #2 DUE FEB 20 AT 11:59 PM**

Enjoy the Mid-Semester Break!

**Week 7: Why Quantitative Analysis? (Feb.28 – Mar.4)**

Lecture: Intro to Quantitative Analysis

* Kieran, Healy. *Data Visualization: A Practical Introduction.* Princeton University Press, 2018. Chapters 1.
* *Intro to Stats: International Edition*. Chapter 3: Displaying and Summarizing Quantitative Data 49 – 75 (26 pages), Chapter 5: The Standard Deviation as a Rule 123 – 144 (21 pages), Chapter 6: Scatterplots, Association, and Correlation. 167 - 181 (14 pages).

Seminar: LAB – “R”efresher (Part I)

* Kieran, Healy. *Data Visualization: A Practical Introduction.* Princeton University Press, 2018. Chapter 2.
* Making Data Meaningful. *United Nations Economic Commission for Europe* (2009). 1 – 21 (21 pages).

Seminar Activity 1: “R”efresher activity

Seminar Activity 2: Students will meet and start working on their quantitative analysis project.

*Please do questions at the end of Healy Chapter 2*. Please email your Rmarkdown sheet to Prof. Monroe by Friday Mar 4. Assignment will contribute to students’ participation grade.

**Week 8: Distributions and Correlations (Mar. 8 – 12)**

* Kieran, Healy. *Data Visualization: A Practical Introduction.* Princeton University Press, 2018. Chapter 3
* *Intro to Stats: International Edition*. Chapter 7: Linear Regressions. 199 - 236 (37 pages): Stop at page 221.

*Please do questions at the end of Healy Chapter 3*. Please email your Rmarkdown sheet to Prof. Monroe by Friday Mar 12. Assignment will contribute to students’ participation grade.

Seminar: “R”efresher (Part II)

Seminar Readings: Intro to Stats: Chapter 8 (Regression Wisdom);

Chapter 14 (Random Variables and Probability Models), Chapter 15 (Sampling and Distribution Models)

Seminar Activity 1: Students will start working on their quantitative analysis project.

*Assignment #3: Group Quantitative Data Analysis Due Mar 20th*

*Using the assigned dataset, write a report exploring the (causal?) link between two variables of interest.*

* *State the research question*
* *Provide a brief literature review (no more than five academic citations)*
* *Present Hypotheses*
* *Plot the relevant distributions (histograms, bar charts, etc.). Use the plots to identify potential outliers and decide whether to drop them or not. Prepare scatterplots of correlations between the variables of interest.*
* *Run univariate regressions*
* *Identify additional independent variables and control for them in the regression. Explain whether/how your main results are affected.*
* *Discuss potential threats to a causal interpretation of your findings. Suggest ways a researcher might be able to establish causality in this case.*

**Week 9 : Establishing Causality? (Mar.14 - 18)**

Lecture: Causal Methods (Part I)

* *Intro to Stats: International Edition*. Chapters 16 and 17
* Angrist , J.D. and Pischke, J-R. 2015. “Randomized Trials” Chapter 1 in “Mastering Metrics: The Path from Cause to Effect”, Princeton University Press. (32 pages).

Seminar: Causal Methods (Part II)

* May, Maria A. “RCTs: Not All that Glitters is Gold,” Stanford Social Innovation Review. 2012. [Link.](https://ssir.org/articles/entry/rcts_not_all_that_glitters_is_gold#:~:text=A%20look%20at%20the%20limitations%20of%20randomized%20control%20trials.&text=The%20rigor%20of%20this%20methodology,%E2%80%9Cgold%20standard%E2%80%9D%20of%20evidence.)
* Kieran, Healy. *Data Visualization: A Practical Introduction.* Princeton University Press, 2018. Chapter 4
* **Case Study 4: Finan, Frederico and Laura Schechter (2012) "Vote-buying and Reciprocity." Econometrica, Vol. 80(2) 863-881 (18 pages).**

LAB Seminar Activity 1: Students continue working on their quantitative analysis project.

**ASSIGNMENT #3 DUE MAR 20 AT 11:59 PM**

**Week 10: Participation Observation (Mar. 21 - 25)**

Lecture:

* *Social Research Methods*, Chapter 19, “Ethnography and Participant Observation” (43 pages).
* Emerson, Robert M., Rachel I. Fretz, and Linda L. Shaw. *Writing Ethnographic Fieldnotes*. Ch. 2 “In the Field: Participating, Observing, and Jotting Notes.” P. 17 – 38 (17 pages).

Seminar: Discussion of *This is What Inequality Looks Like*

* **Case Study 5 : Teo, You Yenn. *This is what inequality looks like.* Step 1: Disrupt the Narrative (pg. 24 – 44); A Methodological appendix for all readers: This is what data looks like (pg. 281 – 289).**
* Charmaz, Kathy and Robert Thornberg. “Quality in constructivist grounded theory: checklists and guidelines” in The pursuit of quality in grounded theory,” *Qualitative Research in Psychology* (2021), 18:3, 321-322. Stop at page 321. (2 pages).

Seminar Activity 1: Participation Observation of YNC

**Week 11: Interviews (Mar. 28 – Apr. 1)**

**Lecture:**

* Seidman, Irving. “Technique Isn’t Everything, But it is a Lot,” *Interviewing as Qualitative Research: A Guide for Researchers in Education and the Social Sciences* (New York: Teachers College Press of Columbia University 2006), 78-94. (16 pages).
* Kvale, Steinar, and Svend Brinkmann, *Interviews: Learning the Craft of Qualitative Research Interviewing* (Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage, 2015), Chapter 5 “The Qualitative Research Interview As Context,” 81-96, Chapter 6 “Thematizing and Designing an Interview Study,” 125-148, Chapter 7 “Conducting an Interview,” 149-166 (55 pages.).

**Seminar:** Challenges of Interviewing Vulnerable Populations

* Walling, Joan. 2009. “The Challenges of In-Depth Interviewing with Disadvantaged Respondents.” In *Research Confidential: Solutions to Problems Most Social Scientists Pretend They Never Have*. 78-100 (22 pages).
* **Case Study 6: Edin, Kathryn and Maria Kefalas. 2005. *Promises I Can Keep: Why Poor Women put Motherhood before Marriage*. Introduction, Appendices A and B. 1-26 and 225-248 (48 pages).**
* **Case Study 7: Parreñas, Rhacel S. 2011. *Illicit Flirtations: Labor, Migration, and Sex Trafficking in Tokyo*. Introduction. 1-24 (24 pages).**

*Assignment #4: Ethnography and Interviews. Due Apr. 10.*

* Conduct an ethnography at Yale-NUS to answer the question: “How do Yale-NUS students experience and/or understand inequality and privilege in their daily lives?” You can also customize the question to suit your particular interests.
* After choosing your research site/event, visit the site at least twice and write up fieldnotes based on your experiences.
* Develop an interview guide to answer your research question, tailoring the interview guide depending on your customized research question and chosen sub-population of Yale-NUS students.
* Conduct one interview based on the guide and transcribe the recorded audio file.
* Submit a 1,000-word research memo outlining your findings from the interview ethnography experience. Attach your interview transcript and fieldnotes to your memo.

**Week 12: From Jotting to Field Notes (Apr. 5 – Apr. 9)**

**Lecture:**

* *Writing Ethnographic Fieldnotes*. Ch. 3 “Writing up Fieldnotes I – From Field to Desk,” P. 17 – 38, Ch. 4 “Writing up Fieldnotes II – Multiple Purposes and Stylistic Options,” 89 – 127, (55 pages).

**Seminar: Cancelled (Prof will be at a conference)**

**ASSIGNMENT #4 DUE APR 14 AT 11:59 PM**

**Week 13: From Jotting to Field Notes (Part II) (Apr.11 – 15)**

**Lecture: Cancelled (Prof will be at a conference), but you are still expected to do the readings.**

**Coding Qualitative**

* *Writing Ethnographic Fieldnotes.* Ch. 6 “Processing Fieldnotes: Coding and Memoing,” 142 – 168, (26 pages).
* Moghaddam, Alireza. "Coding issues in grounded theory." *Issues in educational research* 16, no. 1 (2006): 52-66 (14 pages).

**Seminar: Analysing Qualitative Data. Note: Thursday is off because of Wellness Day. Prof. Monroe will schedule a make-up seminar**

* **Case Study 8: Margaret K. Nelson and Rebecca Schutz. 2007. “Day Care Differences and the Reproduction of Social Class.” Journal of Contemporary Ethnography 36(3):281-317 (38 pages).**
* Pachirat, Timothy. *Among the Wolves: Ethnography and the Immersive Study of Power.* Routledge 2018. Act Six: The Trial (132 – 159) (28 pages).

Have a blessed Good Friday!

*Assignment #5: Research Proposal*

*Students must submit a 3,000-word research proposal that outlines a research question, motivates it with a literature review, proposes a particular research method to answer said question, identifies a possible alternative research method and explains why this alternative method was not chosen. In explaining their research design, students need to discuss how the concept will be operationalized, outline the hypotheses, and explain how the data will be collected and analyzed. Any potential ethical issues should be flagged in the proposal.*

**ASSIGNMENT #5 DUE APR 28 AT 11:59 PM**

**Outline for Case Study Discussion**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Author(s) and Case Study | Who are the Authors? What is the Case Study (book, academic article)? Who is the audience? |
| Research Question and Argument | What are the authors’ asking? What are they arguing? What is their key finding? |
| Research Method | How do the authors’ answer their question? What data are they using? What population are they studying? |
| Methods Analysis and Critique | Why did the authors choose this method? What are some strengths of this method? What are some weaknesses? How does this method answer the author’s question? What alternative methods could have answered this question? |
| Connections | How does this case study and its methods relate to readings discussed in lecture and other case studies? |
| Capstone Suitability | How suitable is this method for a capstone project? How could this method be used to answer a capstone? |