If you've ever wondered what we're doing when we talk to each other, or how it is that we "do things with words," this class is for you. We are concerned with the structure and patterning of talk and social interaction: how, in conversing with one another, we initiate social actions of various kinds, respond to such initiations, and build (or maybe fracture) relationships along the way. How does social organization manifest itself in our talking and acting? When does social organization break down? In more official terms, we will work on answers to these questions by learning how we can gain access to the socially ordered substructures of lived experience. The main orientation derives from the sociological subfields of Ethnomethodology (EM) & Conversation Analysis (CA) with sprinklings from Interactional Linguistics (IL).

Meetings: 2:30-3:45 MW
4308 Sewell Social Science

Office Hours: 4-5 W or by ap

Course Resources

Course Requirements
Summary Instructions
Summary Example

Transcribing Conventions
Turnitin Instructions
For Grads: Semester Paper

Recommended Reading (on reserve Sewell Social Science Library):


Syllabus Part 1--BASIC ISSUES in EM & CA

During this part of the course (which covers about 2/3 of the semester), we work on learning the "basics" of doing ethnomethodological conversation analysis. We learn about attending to the detail and concreteness of everyday talk and social interaction, working to rid ourselves of what the philosopher Ludwig Wittgenstein has called the "craving for generality" and our "contemptuous attitude toward the particular case." We will become quite technical in learning how particularities and detail matter and how they can be incorporated in an analytic set of procedures that identify robust pattern and order in single instances as well as collections of such instances in a way that permits appreciating generics but not generalizations.

Week 01: Introduction: Ethnomethodology & Conversation Analysis

Recommended (no summary): A. Hepburn & G.B. Bolden. 2013. CA & Transcription
### Week 02: CA as a Perspective


Summary of Clayman and Gill is due Monday, September 14.

Also for extra credit: hand in on Wednesday, September 16, written (and typed) questions and/or comments regarding: D.W. Maynard. 2013. Everyone & No One to Turn To. Note: this will be graded on the usual 2 point scale, and will count, along with other potential extra credit assignments, toward your overall summary score.

**DON'T FORGET TO SUBMIT EACH SUMMARY TO TURNITIN.COM. (This applies for all other written assignments as well but this is your last reminder on the website!)**

### Week 03: Talk and/as Action


Summary due Wednesday, 9/23/15

### Week 04: Taking Turns

Reading: H. Sacks et al. 1974. Turn-taking for Conversation

Guide for Turn-taking summary

Summary due Wednesday, 9/30/15


### Week 05: Adjacency Pairs

Reading: T. Stivers. 2013. Sequence Organization

Recommended (no summary): J. Heritage. 1984. Chapter 8 (CA)

Summary due Monday 10/5/15

**In class exercise and short answer quiz on Wednesday, 10/7/15**

Soundfile for Exercise 1

Transcript for Exercise 1

### Week 06: Preference Structure

Reading #1: A. Pomerantz & J. Heritage. 2013. Preference

Reading #2: C. Kitzinger & H. Frith. 1999. Just Say No

Note: This week summarize the Pomerantz & Heritage reading (approx. 3/4 page), and use your comment (approx. 1/4 page) for the Kitzinger & Frith reading.

Summary due Wednesday, 10/14/15

### Week 07: Telephone Call Openings
Reading: E. Schegloff, 1986. Routine as Achievement
Summary due Wednesday 10/21/15
Also for extra credit and due Wednesday 10/21/15: E. Schegloff. 1987. Single Episode Analysis. (Use Turnitin as usual.)

**Week 08: Delivering Bad and/or Good News**

Reading: D.W. Maynard, The News Delivery Sequence
Summary due on Wednesday 10/28/15

**Week 09: Methodological Issues**

Reading: H. Sacks, Notes on Methodology
Summary due Wednesday, 11/4/15

**Week 10: Review Preference, Openings, News Delivery; Applied CA**

Reading: J. Heritage et al., Reducing Patients' Unmet Concerns in Primary Care
Summary due Monday, 11/9/15
In class exercise and short answer quiz on Wednesday 11/11/15
Soundfile for Exercise 2
Transcript for Exercise 2

**Syllabus Part 2--REFINEMENTS and APPLICATIONS**

We have now covered the basics of Ethnomethodological Conversation Analysis. In the final third of the course, we will employ EM/CA to study a particular interactional phenomenon possibly related to a specific setting (e.g., medical).

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downloaded as "movie" or other files that stay on the computer desktop after you have exited your Web browser. Such files should be put in the "trash" as soon as you have completed the assignment. They are not for copying, circulating, or using outside of the course assignments. The privacy and confidentiality of any and all subjects are to be protected both inside and outside of the class.
Soc. 535/735: Talk & Social Interaction:
Ethnomethodology & Conversation Analysis

This course is both a conceptual and involves "hands-on" work. Usually, we will spend one class session per week discussing reading and other background material along with relevant analytic concepts and strategies, including theoretical considerations. During the other class session, we will work in small groups, listening to audiotapes or watching videotapes and learning how to analyze naturally occurring interaction. The requirements are as follows:

1. **Reading & summarizing (30% of grade total).** Each week, there is one required article for you to read. You are to do a summary of the reading, although sometimes there will be a different assignment for the summary. The due dates for summaries are on the course homepage. There are 15 summaries worth two points each & thereby contribute 30% toward your grade. Per Note 1 below, these are to be submitted as hard copy AND electronic copy. If you submit hard copy but forget electronic copy or vice versa, you will be eligible for half credit (1 point rather than 2). If you submit neither, including instances in which you are inadvertently late, you will receive no credit. There are no excuses allowed, such as 'the printer didn't work'; 'my computer froze', 'I forgot but I can send it to you right away', etc. Either the hard copy and electronic copy are submitted on time, or they are not. There is no in-between. Note: there will be opportunities for extra credit that can enhance your overall Reading Summaries score, and these may help out if you miss an assignment.

2. **Three in-class exercises and short answer quizzes (60% of grade).** (Dates could change depending on how the course progresses. You are responsible for tracking any due date changes.) These exercises/quizzes are open book/open note, and are worth 20 points each for a total of 60 points. **To get a passing grade in the course, you must complete ALL exercises in addition to other requirements.**

4. **Class attendance and participation (10% of grade)** are extremely important because we cover the most significant aspects of course content during our meetings. If you need to miss class (for medical reasons or other emergencies), please inform me in advance if possible or after the event if it is not. If you miss class, you are responsible for obtaining copies of handouts and notes. If you miss 0-1 classes, you get 10 points for the semester. One (1) point is subtracted from your attendance score for each additional class that you miss.

Note 1 on attendance: if you arrive late – after I have taken attendance, it is the same as non-attendance. If you leave early, it is also means you will not earn credit for attending the class. Also: do NOT leave the room during the class. Coming late to class, leaving class for water or lavatory, or leaving class early, can be extremely disruptive, which is why I have strict rules about this.

Note 2: Summaries and Exercises are to be submitted as hard copy AND electronic copy. Electronic copy is done by way of Turnitin.com, which has software that can check for plagiarism or other unoriginality by comparing submitted documents to previously submitted documents, journal publications, online writings, and other texts.

Note 3: Alterations to the readings and reading schedule, including due dates for in-class exercises, always happen, depending on how the course unfolds over the semester. You will need to come to class for announcements about changes in readings or in schedule of reading and due dates for quizzes and exercises.