

COURSE OUTLINE

Course Code / Title : HS4040 Language and Social Interaction

Pre-requisites : HS1001 Person and Society
HS2001 Classical Social Theory
HS2002 Doing Social Research
HS3001 Contemporary Social Theory
HS3002 Understanding Social Statistics

No. of AUs. : 4

Contact Hours : 52

Course Aims

This course aims to introduce students to Ethnomethodology and Conversation Analysis (EMCA), an approach to the study of language and social interaction based on systematic, in-depth and contextualized analyses of naturally occurring data. The course, taught through weekly reading classes and data sessions, is intended for senior level students (Year 3 or 4) who have a theoretical interest in human sociality and psychology. Through this course students will learn to appreciate a vision of society where language and interaction play a central and constitutive role, and to master a set of research skills for analysing talk-in-interaction.

Intended Learning Outcomes (ILO)

By the end of this course, you should be able to:

1. Reflect critically on your everyday life experiences and articulate the basis of their meaningfulness;
2. Take part in and contribute thoughtfully to public debates with an awareness of and sensitivity to relevant social and linguistic issues;
3. Analyse, systematically and in detail, samples of naturally occurring language and interaction in such a way as to reveal the sense-making processes involved;
4. Conduct research in the field of Ethnomethodology and Conversation Analysis if you wish to do so.

Course Content

1. Phenomenological precursors
2. Ethnomethodology – beginnings and developments
3. An Ethnomethodological perspective on the everyday life world
4. Conversation Analysis: a handle on language and interaction
5. Turn construction and sequence construction in everyday conversation
6. Membership categorization analysis

Course Assessment

CA1	Analysis of news headlines	: 20%
CA2	Critical analysis of texts on a public issue	: 20%
CA3	Data collection and Analysis 1	: 20%
CA4	Data Collection and Analysis 2	: 40%
Total		----- 100%