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 AUs

Contact Hours : 52 Hours

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
(Week 3) : 20%

1. CA2 Critical analysis of texts on a public issue
(Week 5) : 20%

2. CA3 Data collection and Analysis 1
(Week 8)
(Note: Team to collect
data together and present
prelim analyses to class)
: 20%

3. CA4 Data Collection & Analysis 2
(Week 11-12)
(Note: Individual to write up a
more in-depth analysis on a chosen
piece of data, to present it in class
and get feedback from instructor
and other students,
: 40%

Total
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100%