This course will address qualitative methods and methodologies with an emphasis on fieldwork in the Humanities. We will explore the three foundations of qualitative methods: field observations, interviews and interpretive modes of analysis. Students will learn how to design and conduct a qualitative research project and will be introduced to analytic strategies and evaluative criteria.

**Required texts:**

**Recommended:**

This course is designed around getting out into the field and doing research. At the same time, we will tap into the theories and conceptual histories of qualitative research. The goal is to develop your awareness and sophistication of field relationships (self and other) and your strategies for conducting and presenting your research.

Qualitative analysis is addressed to the task of delineating forms, kinds and types of social phenomena; of documenting in loving detail the things that exist (Lofland, 1971, p. 13).

**Schedule & Readings**

**Week one: Introduction**

Tuesday: Overviews: what is qualitative research? 
Thursday: Doing it - what you can and can’t do with qualitative research

**Week two: Designing a study**

Tuesday: What to consider: topics, theories, sites 
Thursday: Informed consent & Human Subjects Review (at MTU & beyond)

**Week three: Observation & Fieldnotes**

Tuesday: Into the field: the researcher as eye/l 
Thursday: Field relationships
Week four: Theoretical Perspectives and Traditions  
Tuesday: Overviews of theoretical traditions (phenomenology, symbolic interactionism, hermeneutics, constructivism, poststructuralism)  
Thursday: How traditions are used in research (reading research)  

Week five: Interviewing  
Tuesday: Designing an interview study (social/anthropological conventions & a phenomenological structure)  
Thursday: Issues & Perspectives on interviewees, venues, & the interview event  

Week six: Interviewing Issues  
Tuesday: Reading (about) interviews  
Thursday: Reporting on interviews  

Week seven: Coding & Interpretation  
Tuesday: Transcription & Analysis  
Thursday: Moving from data to analysis (Dr. Brady)  

Week eight: Coding schemas  
Tuesday: Themes, metaphors, and signs  
Thursday: Grounded Theory  

Week nine: Issues of Quality & CMC Research & Visual Analysis  
Tuesday: Issues of Quality (criteria for qualitative research)  
Thursday: Visual data and analysis  

Week ten: Archival Research & Narrative  
Tuesday: Archival research  
Thursday: Narrative as data and analytic approach  

Week twelve: Feminist Research & Autoethnography  
Tuesday: Feminist research methodologies  
Thursday: Autoethnography  

Week eleven: Issues of Writing  
Tuesday: Writing as a method of inquiry  
Thursday: Tales of the Field  

Week twelve: Alternative approaches to ethnographic research  
Tuesday: Critical & Post-Colonial  
Thursday: Postmodern modes of research
Week thirteen: Performances
Tuesday: Performative
Thursday: Sharing our tales

Week fourteen: Proposals Redux (12/6 & 12/8)
Film: Kitchen Stories

Assignments:
Paper #1: Proposal
Draft a proposal for observational work including issues of access and consent forms. Your proposal should be based on your initial reconnaissance work in a particular field site.

Paper #2: Book review
Choose a full-length qualitative or ethnographic study and write a 3-page review that focuses on how this study frames the inquiry and the type and quality of the research conducted.

Paper #3: Interviews
Write up your analysis of your interviews, describing both your analysis and your experiences in designing and conducting your interview study. Include your transcript as an Appendix.

Paper #4: Issues in Qualitative Research
Identify and elaborate on an issue of qualitative research. This should emerge from our readings and be centered around a story about your own field experiences. Your task is to show your understanding of the issue and to make an argument of your own about it, citing the readings and your own experiences.

Paper #5: Tales
Write a story from your fieldnotes in three different voices: a journalistic voice, a theoretical voice, and an autoethnographic voice. Each format should be no longer than 2-3 pages and the relevant details should be maintained across these forms.

Paper #6: Final paper
Rewrite your initial prospectus, drawing on our readings and your fieldwork to flesh out your plan for a qualitative field-based project. Revisit your informed consent forms and your IRB application and annotate any revisions you make. Turn in your fieldwork portfolio and interview transcripts as well.
Fieldwork journal
Keep a portfolio with your in-field notes, written fieldnotes, a field diary, initial coding and analytic notes, and your reflections on your field experiences.

Interview transcript
Transcribe at least one of your interviews verbatim. You should indicate long pauses and nonfluencies but you need not indicate inflections or turns.