

Office Hours: Th 2-3/ or by appointment
King Hall Room 1022 (lab), 993-1378
sdenham@gmu.edu

Syllabus

1. Bakeman, R., & Gottman, I. M. *Observing interaction: An introduction to sequential analysis*. Cambridge University Press. (BG)
2. Sackett, G. *Observing behavior, Vol 2. Data collection and analysis methods*. Baltimore: University Park Press, 1978. (S; on WebCT)
3. Suen, Li, K., & Ary, D. (1989). *Analvzing quantitative behavioral observation data*. Hillsdale, NJ: Erlbaum. (SA)
4. Other material on WebCT. (X)

| DATE | LECTURE/DISCUSSION TOPIC | READINGS | IN-CLASS DEMOS & PROJECTS |
|---------|---|--|---|
| 8/29/06 | Why Study Naturalistic Methods? | Chapter 1 BG, Chapter I SA From this day on, all readings are due to by <u>done by the date under which you find them</u> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Small groups – what methods would we choose? |
| 8/31/06 | What Naturalistic Methods are available? | Introduction (S) Rosenblum, L. A The creation of a behavioral taxonomy. (S) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction to Colin and Phoebe |
| 9/5/06 | Introduction (continued) | Chapters 2,3 BG, Chapters 2, 3 SA | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beginning Videotape One – <u>Noldus course on Behavioural Observation</u> |
| 9/7/06 | Introduction (continued) | Sackett, O. P. Measurement in observational research. (S) Parke, R. D. Interactional designs (X). | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finishing Videotape One – <u>Noldus course on Behavioural Observation</u> • Project 1 Assigned |
| 9/12/06 | Qualitative Approaches: Anecdotal Records, Running Records, Specimen Descriptions | Denham’s Guide to Anecdotal Records; Guidelines for Running Records, Specimen Descriptions (X) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstration of narrative recording computerized system • Recording Colin & Phoebe |
| 9/14/06 | Qualitative Approaches: Ethnography | Readings from <u>Zero to Three</u> on Ethnography (X) Case Study Guidelines (X) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstration of ethnographic analysis computerized system • Small groups – how could we use narrative methods? • Project 1 Due; Project 2 assigned |

| DATE | LECTURE/DISCUSSION TOPIC | READINGS | IN-CLASS DEMOS & PROJECTS |
|----------|--|--|--|
| 9/19/06 | Qualitative Methods: Single Subject Designs | -- | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Examples of several single subject studies and their analyses |
| 9/21/06 | Integrating and Moving Forward | -- | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Your questions and reactions to methods covered so far • Project 2 Due |
| 9/26/06 | Time Sampling: What is it? | Chapter 5 BG | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Time Sampling with Colin & Phoebe • Small groups – How could we use time sampling? |
| 9/28/06 | Time Sampling: How do you do it? | Denham's Guidelines for Time Sampling, Advantages and Disadvantages of Time Sampling (X) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beginning Videotape Two– <u>Noldus course on Behavioural Observation</u> |
| 10/03/06 | Time Sampling (continued) | Altmann, J. Observational study of behavior: Sampling Methods (X) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finishing Videotape Two – <u>Noldus course on Behavioural Observation</u> |
| 10/05/06 | Event Sampling: What is it? | Chapter 4 SA | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Event sampling with Colin & Phoebe • Introduce FOCAL program • Project 3 Assigned • Exam 1 Handed Out |
| 10/12/06 | Event Sampling: How do you do it? | Denham's Guidelines for Event Sampling (X) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Small groups – how could we use event sampling? • Beginning Videotape 3 – <u>Noldus Course on Behavioural Observation</u> |
| 10/17/06 | Event Sampling (Continued) | Bakeman (X) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finishing Videotape 3 – <u>Noldus Course on Behavioural Observation</u> • Project 3 Due; Project 4 Assigned |
| 10/19/06 | Sequential Analysis of Sampled Data: What is it? | Chapters 6, 7 BG | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exam 1 Due |

| DATE | LECTURE/DISCUSSION TOPIC | READINGS | IN-CLASS DEMOS & PROJECTS |
|----------|---|---|---|
| 10/24/06 | Sequential Analysis of Sampled Data: What is it? | Chapter 8 SA | |
| 10/26/06 | Sequential Analysis of Sampled Data: How do you do it? | Chapter 8, 9 BG | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lag sequential analyses with FOCAL program • Project 4 Due |
| 10/31/06 | Sequential Analysis of Sampled Data: How do you do it? | Sackett, G. The lag sequential analysis of contingencies and cyclicity in behavior interaction research (X) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Small groups – how could we use sequential information? |
| 11/02/06 | Integrate and Move Forward | -- | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Your questions and reactions to time sampling, event sampling, and sequential analyses • Beginning Videotape 3 – <u>Noldus Course on Behavioural Observation</u> |
| 11/07/06 | Integrate and Move Forward | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finishing Videotape 3 – <u>Noldus Course on Behavioural Observation</u> |
| 11/09/06 | Rating Systems | Cairns, R., & Green, J. A. How to assess personality and social patterns: Observations or ratings? (X) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project 5 assigned • Rating Colin & Phoebe |
| 11/14/06 | Rating Systems | Denham's Types of Rating Scales; Advantages and Disadvantages of Rating Scales (X) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion of sociometrics • Beginning Videotape 4 – <u>Noldus Course on Behavioural Observation</u> |
| 11/16/06 | Rating Systems | -- | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finishing Videotape 4 – <u>Noldus Course on Behavioural Observation</u> • Project 5 Due |
| 11/21/06 | Rating Systems | Block J. The Q-sort method in personality assessment and psychiatric research (X) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In-class project: Perform a Q-Sort and Analyze the resultant Data • Small groups – how can we make use of rating systems? |

| DATE | LECTURE/DISCUSSION TOPIC | READINGS | IN-CLASS DEMOS & PROJECTS |
|----------|---|--|---|
| 11/28/06 | Reliability: Time And Event Sampling | Chapter 4 BG Chapter 5, 6 SA | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reliability with FOCAL program Project 6 assigned |
| 11/30/06 | Reliability (continued): Rating Scores | Hollenbeck, A. R. (1978). Problems of reliability in observational research (S) Finn, R. H. A note on estimating the reliability of category data (X) Whitehurst, G. Interrater agreement for journal manuscript reviews (X) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exam 2 Assigned; it is due by 3pm on December 12, 2006 in my King Hall mailbox (this is our official "Final Exam" date) |
| 12/05/06 | Validity of observational measurement | Chapter 7 SA | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project 6 Due |
| 12/07/06 | Nonsequential data analysis of observational data | Gottman, J. M. Nonsequential data analysis techniques in observational research. (S) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Examples from Denham's and others' research Small groups – how could we use nonsequential analyses? |

Purpose of this course: This course is designed to give you a thorough overview of quasi-experimental and naturalistic methods—how to apply them and use them appropriately. You will, at the end of the course, be able to select appropriate methodology and implement it in your own work, as well as being able to critique the choice and use of naturalistic methods in others' work.

Course Requirements:

Participation in class discussion 8 pts.
(i.e., is your brain engaged?)

Projects— Six 7-point projects 42 pts.

Take home exams—2 25-point take-home exams 50pts.

Projects and exams will be graded based on completeness and accuracy. They will be returned to you as soon as possible after they are collected, in order that you may obtain some measure of your success as you go along. Each project will be at least 2-4 pages; each exam question (you will usually choose two questions from several possibilities) will need to be three to five pages to be treated properly. In other words, do what is asked for well and completely, but you do not have to go further! All work is subject to the GMU Honor Code. In particular, projects may be performed, but not calculated/written, together. If you are a student with a disability and you need academic accommodations, please see me and contact the Disability Resource Center (DRC) at 703-993-2474. All academic accommodations must be arranged through that office. The last day to add this class is Tuesday, September 12; the last day to drop this class is Friday, September 29. Elective Withdrawal Period (Full-Semester Course) September 30 – October 27, 2006

Note. I will likely use many practical examples and projects, but be advised that they are likely to be related to developmental psychology, since this is my specialty. If you have another specialty, you are welcome and encouraged to bring in ideas from your area, and to perform projects using subjects related to it.