Substance of the Course: This course is concerned with the structure and patterning of language and social interaction: how do people talk to one another, and perform social actions of various kinds in everyday life? How does social organization manifest itself in our talking and acting? We will work on answers to these questions during this course. The main orientation in this course on Language and Social Interaction derives from a sociological subfield called Conversation Analysis (CA). CA is related to Ethnomethodology.

For information on both Ethnomethodology and Conversation Analysis as international fields of inquiry, go to this website (maintained by Paul ten Have, University of Amsterdam): Ethno/CA News: Information on Ethnomethodology and Conversation Analysis.

More information is also found here: International Institute on Ethnomethodology and Conversation Analysis.

Also you can visit the homepage for the Ethnomethodology and Conversation Analysis section of the American Sociological Association.

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

Course Requirements and grading. You can earn a total of 100 points for this class, as follows:

1. Do all the readings as listed below. Articles are available online. Go to Learn@UW:

   - Soc. 535, Language & Social Interaction

If you want more background reading on CA, there are textbooks:


Each week, there is at least one required article for you to read. Each summary is worth 2 points. Approximately 24% of grade is from reading summaries (12 summaries x 2 points each).
2. There will be two quizzes for the semester. The quizzes will be multiple choice & short answer. These are each worth 15 points for a total of 30 points from both quizzes or 30% of your final grade. **To get a passing or grade or higher for the course, you must take BOTH quizzes, in addition to the other requirements.**

3. There will be two written Exercises for the course. These will be posted on the web; one Exercise is worth 15 points and the other is worth 16 for a total of 31 points for both and 31% of your final grade. The instructions for each these exercises and the sound and/or video file is or will be on the class website. You will be working together on these exercises, but when you hand in an assignment, it must represent your own thinking and effort. **To get a passing grade or higher for the course, you must complete BOTH Exercises, in addition to the other requirements.**

4. Class attendance and participation 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 possible. Attendance is worth 15 points, which is 15% of your final grade. On some days there will be short written assignments that are due and to get credit for attendance, you must hand in the assignment, which otherwise won't be graded. You also must attend the full class session to earn attendance credit for the day. **Arrive at class on time and do not leave early. If you need a restroom or water break, take care of these needs before or after class rather than interrupting class by leaving and returning.**

**Week 1: Conversation Analysis as a Perspective**


Transcription and Observation Practice is due: Wednesday, Jan. 25

**Week 2: Conversational Sequencing: How to Form Actions Tacitly**


**Week 3: Turn-taking in Conversation**


**Week 4: Adjacency Pairs**

Quiz 1 (on Sequencing, Turn-taking, and Adjacency Pairs)

**Week 5: Single Case Analysis**


**Week 6: Phone Call Openings**


**Week 7: Methodological Issues**


**Week 8: Topic Organization & News Delivery**


**Week 9: Preference Structure**


Exercise 1 (Openings, Adjacency Pairs, Preference Structure) is due.

**Week 10: Extensions from Preference Structure**


**Week 11: Ordinary Life**

Week 12: Disability & Conversation Analysis


Quiz 2 (on single case analysis, openings, methodological issues, topic & news, doing ordinariness)

Week 13: What Do You Do When ... ?


Week 14: Directive Response Sequences in the Context of Disability


Week 15: Disability in the Context of Competence; Wrapping up


Exercise 2 is due on the last day of class, at the beginning of class.