The Class: The purpose of this course is to introduce students to a range of research designs found in the social sciences. We will work on ways to ask and operationalize research questions as well as examine appropriate research designs and strategies. We begin the course with the problem of developing informed research questions, the accompanying hypotheses and developing them around a so-called scientific method. In the course of our readings we concern ourselves with understanding the (1) role and importance of literature reviews, (2) examine types and sources of data, and (3) a number of different research strategies by studying cases that use them: ethnography, historical methodology, and quantitative approaches. Finally, there are a number of applied exercises doing (1) observations, (2) content analysis of texts, and (3) analysis of visual data in the forms of photographs and film.

Grading: Grades are based on completion of four take-home written assignments and in-class participation (assessed in part by participation in in-class exercises). Three written assignments are worth 20% each, the final assignment is 30% and class participation is worth 10%. The three semester assignments relate to a particular method. The final assignment is a literature review and research strategy for your research project.

Office Information: Office Hours: Wed. 2-3:30 and by appointment.  
Office: Seigle Hall, Room 250. Office Phone: 935-3462. 
E-mail: adarnell@wustl.edu

Readings: Books for the course can be found in the bookstore. Articles are generally on ARes.

All written work turned in for grades must be the work of the student of record and no other. Any deviation will be considered an act of plagiarism or other form of cheating. If you are unclear on the concept ask me for further clarification.

**All materials should be read for the day of class on which they are referenced.**

**Week 1: August 30-Sept 1**
Tuesday: No Assignment.

**Week 2: September 6-8: What is a Case?**

**Week 3: September 13-15: On the Question of Theory in Research Design**

**Week 4: September 20-22: Historical Research Strategies.**

**Week 5: September 27-29: Arriving at an Interesting & Informed Question**
Thursday: In class exercise and discussion of YOUR [anticipated?] Research Projects.

**Week 6: October 4-6: Ethnography**
Tuesday: Laude Humphreys, *The Tea House Trade*, pages to be assigned
Thursday: Humphreys, continued, pages to be assigned.
Week 7: October 11-13
Tuesday: Humphrey's concluded, pages to be assigned.
Thursday: On Ethics and research oversight at universities. Exercise on ethnography handed out.

Week 8: Oct 18-20: A Practicum
Tuesday: Individual &/or group meetings with me.
Thursday: Assignment on ethnography due and class discussion of findings.

Week 9: October 25-27: Dealing with Texts
Tuesday: Riessman, Narrative Analysis, pp. v.-53
Thursday: Riessman con't, pp. 54-70. (Hand out assignment for Nov 2)

Week 10: Nov. 1-3: How To
Tuesday: Learning about software for narrative analysis: YoshiKoder
Thursday: Exercise on doing computer narrative analysis.

Week 11: November 8-10
Tuesday: Consolidating YoshiKoder dictionaries.
Thursday: Individual Meetings on final assignment.

Week 12: November 15-17: Dealing with Visual Data
Tuesday: Ball & Smith, Analyzing Visual Data, pp. 5-54. Hand out Nov 17 assignment
Thursday: In class discussion and analysis of photographs handed out
November 15 + discuss analyzing visual data and film.

Week 13: November 22-24
Tuesday: Take home assignment on film as a medium for analysis.
Thursday: Thanksgiving Break

Week 14: November 30-Dec 2: Big N Methodologies:
Tuesday: Turn in and discuss film assignment. Begin Big N's
Thursday: Surveys and Pre-existing data sets. James Gibson, “Truth and Reconciliation in South Africa,” on ARes

Week 15: December 7-9
Tuesday: Exercise on Surveys—Question Writing
Thursday: Exercise on Surveys, con’t.--Execution

Week 16: Dec 14
Tuesday: Tutorials
Final Exams December 15-22. Final Projects Due on later than December 21, 5:30 p.m.