

Sample Lectures

Materials available upon request: ndowling@uchicago.edu

"Social Sciences Methodologies 101" (Methods "mini-lectures")

Delivered Spring 2021 for CHD BA honors seminar

Overview

The CHD BA Honors Seminar is designed to provide 3rd year undergraduates the theoretical and practical background necessary to design and undertake an original, independent research project in their 4th year. This presentation was delivered as two brief, asynchronous mini-lectures, the first on qualitative methods (interviews, digital ethnography, and grounded theory) and the second on quantitative methods (experimental design, survey analysis, and simple statistics).

The primary goal of these lectures was to familiarize students with the most common methods they would encounter as they conducted their literature review, prepared their own research plan, and collaborated with classmates.

Materials

- Slide deck (PDF, slides only)
- Video

"That's interesting!"

Delivered Fall 2020 as invited speaker to Trial Research 2 & Spring 2021 in the BA Honors Seminar

Overview

This lecture is intended to be an informal, accessible, and relatable presentation for undergraduate and early graduate students as they design and carry out their first independent research projects. In this talk, inspired by the article "That's Interesting!" by Murray S. Davis (1971), I offer concrete questions students can ask themselves throughout the processes of research design, analysis, and dissemination. I reflect on the experience of writing my own Master's thesis and present my perspective in a form that assumes no prior knowledge of my area of research. Aside from giving students actionable strategies for moving forward in their research, I aim to encourage students developing a sense of ownership over their ideas, expertise, and work.

Materials

- Slide deck (PDF, slides only)
- Presentation (PowerPoint, slides and script)
- Video

“Coordination in Conversational Interaction”

Delivered Spring 2020 for Mind-3, social sciences core sequence

Overview

The “Mind” social sciences core sequence introduces undergraduates to a breadth of psychological topics. Each week, a different faculty member or instructor delivers a lecture to all 200 students enrolled in the sequence. My lecture for Mind introduced students to perspectives from psychology and linguistics that contextualize everyday conversation as exercises in coordinated interaction. The lecture was premised on foundational concepts from Herb Clark and Stephen Levinson, assuming some prior knowledge of developmental psychology but not of language development or linguistics.

This lecture was developed in the first quarter of remote learning during the COVID-19 pandemic. It was presented as three brief, recorded talks and included an interactive activity where students could asynchronously respond to a survey and interpret shifting results as more responses became available. The slides conclude with discussion questions connecting the lecture with weekly readings and with previous lectures.

Materials

- Slide deck (PDF, slides only)
- Presentation (PowerPoint, slides and script)
- Video