

MELISSA FORBIS
WEDNESDAYS
4:00 - 6:50 PM
HUMANITIES 2052

fall 2018
WST 610

Advanced Topics in Women's Studies

"Theory, Method, and Politics of Ethnography"

What is good social science research?
And what is social science research good for?

These will be central questions of our inquiry in this seminar. We will examine ethnography as a qualitative research methodology within in the social sciences, drawing from feminist and gender studies, anthropology, and sociology in particular.



The course will also briefly consider the relationship of other genres of writing to ethnography, asking "what counts as evidence"? In addition to learning and practicing traditional and alternative research methods, seminar participants will be expected to design their own ethnographic pilot project.

Readings TBA depending on student interests.

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Participants in the course will take part in ongoing theoretical debates around the questions of interdisciplinarity, the ethics of field research, the politics of ethnographic representation, and the practice of community engaged research. We will read and discuss a wide range of recent ethnographies, as well as critical contemporary assessments of scholarship and methods.

