

Questions and Answers in Social Interaction

This course focuses on a common, yet complex action in everyday social life: answering a question.

How does a next action become recognizable as an answer in the first place? What does form and placement of an answer reveal about the question? How can an answer be designed to accomplish very different things: to agree, confirm, acquiesce; to evade, resist, reject a question?

We will read research on different languages and study video recordings and transcripts of spontaneous interaction to answer these questions empirically. Finding ‘hidden’ patterns in how we answer questions shows how we make sense *with* and *of* one other in real time and can reveal what is important to us in managing social relationships.

Prereq.: coursework in ling.; ling. anth.; lang. studies; ethnomethodology; or comm. Interest in language detail and in empirical work, readiness to do joint projects.

Materials: requ. text: Stivers (2022), *The book of answers*, [UW Porter e-copy](#)
recomm. text: Sidnell (2010), *Conversation Analysis*, [UW Porter hard copy](#)
recomm. preparatory text: Enfield (2017), *How we talk*, [Porter e-copy](#)

