# KISS211 ELITE INTERVIEWS

**Title:** KISS211 Elite Interviews  
**Leader:** Dr James Scott  
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**Department:** Department of Political Economy  
**Academic Year:** 2016/17  
**Term:** Spring  
**Type of Event:** Short Course  
**Location:** 1.14 Franklin Wilkins Building, Waterloo campus  
**Number of Sessions:** 1  
**Length of Session:** 3 hours  
**Time & Date:** 28 February 2017, 10am-1pm

**Description:** This course aims to provide students with the necessary knowledge and expertise in the methodology and practice of elite interviewing and the use and analysis of interview data. Drawing on the extensive experience of the co-convenors, it will cover the following:

- Using interviews as a source of data
- The ethics of interviewing
- How to select interview participants
- How to arrange an interview
- How to prepare for an interview
- How to get the most out of an interview
- What can go wrong in an interview
- For and against recording an interview
- Analysing interview data
- Incorporating interview data into your research
- Reliability and validity of interview data

**Course Outline:** Planning and preparation  
The session will introduce students to the use of interview data in research. It will explore the different methodological approaches surrounding interviews, the differences between structured, semi-structured and qualitative research interviews, the ethical considerations of interviewing, how to choose and design the appropriate method for research, and the strengths and weaknesses of relying on interview data. It will also provide more practically-focused advice on how to select interview participants, how to contact interviewees and arrange an interview, and the importance of reliability and validity of interview data.
of preparation. The class will be taught using a combination of lecture material and group-based exercises.

**Execution and analysis**
The session studies the practice of undertaking successful elite interviews. Students will learn how to structure and execute an interview, the potential opportunities and pitfalls, how to cope when things go wrong, and how to maximise the quality of the data retrieved. It will also address the pros and cons of recording and/or transcribing interviews. In addition we will consider how to analyse interview data systematically, ensure the reliability and validity of the data, incorporate interview material into research and publications, and store the data securely in line with ethical guidelines. This class will be taught using lecture material and exercises.

**READING LIST**
- Berry, J. (2002) 'Validity and reliability issues in elite interviewing' in *PS: Political Science and Politics*, 35(4)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ELIGIBILITY</th>
<th>Students planning to conduct interviews with elite individuals.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PREPARATION</td>
<td>None necessary.</td>
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<tr>
<td>NUMBER OF STUDENTS</td>
<td>25</td>
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