### INLS 691H, Fall 2014

### Sample Outline

### Methods Proposal for a Qualitative Study

### Introduction (adapted from Research question assignment)

What is the research question? What are the research hypotheses?  
Why do we care about the answer?

**The setting of the study**

In what setting will the study be conducted? Which aspects of that setting are of particular interest?

(The variables of interest often are not completely defined prior to the study, since their definition may be the purpose of the study; nevertheless, some aspects of a particular setting will be of particular interest, and those should be described.)

**The sample**

Who is in the population of users? Which sample from that population will participate in the study?

The population of users should be clearly defined

Size of sample; Sampling strategy

Recruiting methods

**Data collection**  
When and how will observations be made?   
How will the data be captured?

Is any pre-analysis manipulation of the data (e.g., transcribing of audio tapes) necessary?

**Data analysis**

How will the data be analyzed?

For content analysis: What is the unit of analysis?

**Implications**

What inferences can be made from the results?