

ANTH 220 - Fall 2006

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Office Hours: Tu 11-12, 1:30-2:30
Th 11-12, 1:30-2:30
F 11-12

Ethnographic Methods

The purpose of this class is for students to learn what ethnography is and how ethnographers work by conducting their own ethnographic research. Students will design a research project, carry it out, and write up the results. Students will learn a variety of ethnographic methods and dilemmas, and will give particular attention to the process of writing and using fieldnotes.

Course goals

1. Students will learn what ethnography is.
2. Students will learn how to construct a research design, conduct independent fieldwork, analyze data, and write a research paper.
3. Students will learn and use several ethnographic methods including participant-observation, interview, life history, photography, map-making, genealogy, folklore, and personal documentation.
4. Students will understand fieldwork ethics and the code of ethics of the American Anthropological Association.
5. Students will learn about the problems and challenges of conducting fieldwork, compiling fieldnotes and writing ethnography.

Required books

Crane, Julia G. and Michael V. Angrosino. 1992. Field Projects in Anthropology: A Student Handbook. Prospect Heights, IL: Waveland, third edition. (C&A)

Emerson, Robert M., Rachel I Fretz, and Linda L. Shaw. 1995. Writing Ethnographic Fieldnotes. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. (EF&S)

Course requirements

1. Attend class faithfully because much of the work of the course will be presented, discussed, and carried out in class. Class attendance, participation in the in-class exercises, and contributions to the regular progress reports are mandatory (**25 points**).
2. Carry out the several stages of the research project by the due dates. Ethnographic research is extremely time consuming and always takes longer than expected. Falling behind will have devastating consequences! The following is a list of projects and due dates.

- * fieldwork topics due Tues 9/12 -- discussed in class
- * revised fieldwork topics due Tues 9/19 -- discussed in class
- * research design due Tues 10/3
- * revised research design due Thurs 10/19
- * data report due Thurs 11/2
- * research paper due Tuesday 11/21
- * revised research paper and first draft with comments due, Fri, 12/15, 12:30

* The three critical methods papers will be 1-2 pages, typed double spaced. Papers will discuss one or more methods introduced in the readings for that week. They should describe the method and show its usefulness for your project based on your goals, the nature of your research, and your own research style. Describe in detail how you might use this method in your research project. Papers will be discussed and evaluated in class therefore you must bring the paper to class on the due date. **(10 points each, 30 points total)**.

- * one-page critical methods paper due Tues 9/5
- * one-page critical methods paper due Thurs 9/14
- * one-page critical methods paper due Thurs 9/21

* The research design should be 3-8 pages, word-processed, doubled spaced, in 12 pt font **(25 points)**.

- It describes the problem or topic that you are investigating and explains why it is important.
- It briefly discusses what others have done on this topic and cites two-three key scholarly sources.
- It describes the population you will study.
- It includes a sample consent form.
- It defines your methods in detail, which might include some or several of the following:
 - Participant-observation:** state who, where, when and what you will be observing
 - Life histories:** who will you interview? list the topics, and questions
 - Interviews:** who will you interview? include a list of interview questions.
 - Personal documentation:** what will you collect and from whom? recipes, photos, diaries, journals, memoirs...
 - Photos, maps, drawings:** of what and why?

* The data report should be a list and compilation of your data. If you are using tape-recorded interviews, include transcriptions. If you are using participant observation, include your fieldnotes. If you are using maps, genealogies or photographs, include them, and so on. Also include a short (100-300 words) discussion of how you will organize and analyze your data. **(10 points)**

* The research paper should be 10-20 pages, word-processed, double spaced, with at least 1” margins all around (**100 points**). It should include the following sections:

- Abstract: 100-200 word summary of your paper
- Acknowledgments: thanks to those who were helpful in your project
- Introduction: statement of the research question or problem
- Methodology: description of who and what you studied and the methods you used to gather data. (Include interview questions or other details in Appendix).
- Findings: organized description of what you found out
- Significance: discussion of what your findings mean and point to
- Problems: discussion of problems you encountered in either conceptualizing or conducting your research and how you would remedy them in the future; what you would do differently if you were to do this project over again
- Conclusion
- Appendices (optional): inclusion of information not in body of paper (e.g. list of informants, list of interview questions, glossary of key terms, list of recipes, etc.)
- Bibliography

* You must give an oral presentation of your research in the end of the semester. It should be 10 minutes long and be accompanied by powerpoint slides or other visual aids. (**10 points**).

<u>Summary of assignments</u>		<u>Grading scale</u>	
Class attendance	25	A	180-200 points
Critical methods papers	30	B	160-179
Research design	25	C	140-159
Data report	10	D	120-139
Research paper	100	F	below 120
Oral presentation	<u>10</u>		
TOTAL	200 points		

SYLLABUS

<u>date</u>	<u>topic</u>	<u>assignment</u>
8/29	introduction: ethnographic methods, the course	
8/31	the ethnographic enterprise	C&A v-22 EF&S preface
9/5	methods: interviews, life histories * one-page critical methods paper due	C&A 53-63, 75-88
9/7	literature review, doing fieldwork, proxemics, fieldnotes	C&A 23-30 EF&S Chap 1
9/12	methods: map-making, kinship * fieldwork topics due-- discussed in class	C&A 30-52
9/14	methods: participant observation, fieldnotes * one-page critical methods paper due	C&A 64-74 ES&F chap 2
9/19	methods: personal documentation, history, folklore * revised fieldwork topics due-- discussed in class	C&A 88-120
9/21	methods: survey & photography * one-page critical methods paper due	C&A 132-179
9/26	ethics and writing research designs	EF&S chap 3 AAA handout
9/28	writing fieldnotes	EF&S chap 4
10/3	progress reports on fieldwork projects * research design due	research design
10/5	“Pursuing members’ meanings”	EF&S chap 5
10/10	conferences	research project
10/12	conferences	research project
10/17	NO CLASS FALL BREAK	
10/19	challenges of fieldwork * revised research design due	research project
10/24	Processing fieldnotes	EF&S chap 6

10/26	Writing an ethnography	EF&S chap 7
10/31	Researching and writing ethnography: why and how?	EF&S conclusion
11/2	insider-outsider dilemmas * data report due *	data report
11/7	conferences	research project
11/9	conferences	research project
11/14	AMERICAN ANTHROPOLOGICAL ASS'N CONFERENCE	research project
11/16	AMERICAN ANTHROPOLOGICAL ASS'N CONFERENCE	research project
11/21	Research progress and problems Research papers due	research project
11/23	<u>No Class - Thanksgiving Break</u>	
11/28	student presentations	presentations & project
11/30	student presentations	presentations & project
12/2	student presentations	presentations & project
12/4	student presentations	presentations & project

*** Revised research papers attached to first draft with my comments are due** at the final exam period: Friday, December 15, 12:30-2:30 pm: student presentations will take place