
Anthropological Field Methods

ANTH 4011

Peb 219. T/TH 12:30-1:50

Anthropological Field Methods is a course in how anthropologists "do" anthropology. Every discipline approaches the search for knowledge in a distinct way. For example, psychologists find knowledge through statistics while biologists test hypotheses. However, the manner in which a researcher investigates, in terms of his or her research methods, is not just the way they gather data and information. Rather, research methods are critical for creating the very knowledge they are purported to discover. This course explores the research methods of the anthropologist by engaging with how the anthropologist thinks and how the way that an ethnographer approaches his/her informants informs how he/she "sees" and wrestles with culture.

Instructor

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Office Hours

Department of Anthropology
Chilton Hall 308K
T/TH 10:00-12:00



Grade Breakdown

Attendance 10%
Concept Papers 5%
Reflections 15%
Midterm 30%
Final 40%

Attendance

10 Point Deduction for unexcused absences. Excused absences are accompanied by a doctor's note or at the professor's discretion if requested prior to the missed lecture. 3 Point Deduction per tardy.

Concept Papers (5X)

In-class quick-response questions designed to help you think through some of the themes of fieldwork and ethnography. No make-ups. 200-300 words

Reflections (4X)

Take home essay questions following each training exercise. These assignments are practice in analyzing your experiential work in terms of the concepts and readings we are discussing in class. 300-500 words.

Midterm Exam

A take home essay targeting a concept based question. 500-700 words.

Final Exam

A take home essay that develops an original research question based on preliminary research encounters. 1000-1500 words.

The Small Print...

Time Commitment

This course is heavily discussion based. Therefore, students are encouraged to attend lectures through a strict attendance policy. The concepts you will engage with are cumulative with increasing complexity. This is not a class you can just “catch up” with on your own. There is also a significant time commitment outside of class required for methods exercises and preliminary research. With little exception, your final grade will be a reflection of the work and time you have dedicated to this course beginning with Day 1.

Academic Honesty Policy

The Department of Anthropology does not tolerate plagiarism, cheating, or helping others to cheat. Students suspected of any of these will be provided the opportunity for a hearing; a guilty finding will merit an automatic “F” in the course. For information on the University’s policies regarding academic integrity and dishonesty, see the UNT Center for Student Rights and Responsibilities,

<http://www.unt.edu/csrr/>.

ADA Policy

The University of North Texas makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Accommodation (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide you with an accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding your specific needs in a course. You may request accommodations at any time, however, ODA notices of accommodation should be provided as early as possible in the semester to avoid any delay in implementation. Note that students must obtain a new letter of accommodation for every semester and must meet with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class. For additional information see the Office of Disability Accommodation website at <http://disability.unt.edu/>. You may also contact them by phone at 940-565-4323.

	Tuesday	Thursday
What are Methods?		
8.28/8.30	"The Ethnographer" by Borges (334-335)	"Preface: For the Student" by Marti (xi-xii) "Methods: What Are Methods?" by Madden (24-34)
9.4/9.6	"Fieldwork as Art?" by Wolcott (15-24) "Chapter 2: Understanding and Studying Culture" by Eller (20-41)	"Anthropology and the Inchoate Intimacies of Power" by Herzfeld (18-32) Concept Paper 1
How do anthropologists DO ethnography?		
9.11/9.13	"Participant-Observation" by Marti (45-56) **Guest Lecture: Briana Payne** Training Exercise 1	"Serendipitous Sculpture" by Herzfeld (3-9)
9.18/9.20	"A Dispute in Donggo" by Monaghan & Just (13-33)	**Pohl Field Exercise** "A Brief Encounter: Society" by Monaghan & Just (53-74) Reflection 1 Due
The "truth" effect.		
9.25/9.27	"Body Ritual Among the Nacirema" by Miner (503-507) Notes & Queries Training Exercise 2	"On Ethnographic Authority" by Clifford (118-146) "How Native is a 'Native' Anthropologist" by Narayan (671-686)
10.2/10.4	"Bee Larvae and Onion Soup" by Monaghan & Just (34-52) Concept Paper 2	"Chapter 1: The Assumption of Culture" by Wagner (1-16) Reflection 2 Due
How do I do ethnography?		
10.9/10.11	"How Should I Act in the Field?" by Marti (17-25) "Access" by Hammersley and Atkinson (54-79) "10 Tips" BLOG Midterm Released	"The Perceiver and the Perceived" by Marti (27-37) "The Cultural Politics of Gesture" by Herzfeld (131-152) Training Exercise 3

10.16/10.18	"The Interview: Talking Partnership" by Rapport (53-68) "Finding and Mining the Talk" by Josephides (89-106) "Difficult Moments in the Ethnographic Interview" by Montgomery (143-162)	**Guest Lecture: John Sarmiento**
		Midterm Due Concept Paper 3
10.23/10.25	"Jottings" by Marti (57-65) "Notes on (Field)notes" by Clifford (47-70)	"Yo, Bitch..." and other Challenges" by Tourigny (111-126) "Doing Ethnography in One's Own Ethnic Community" by Colic-Peisker (82-94) "Taboo" by Kulick (1-21)
	Reflection 3 Due: Informant Group Proposal	
10.30/11.1	"Imagining Anthropology, Encountering America" by Ntarangwi (1-23)	"A Diary in the Strict Sense of the Term" by Malinowski
		Concept Paper 4
11.6/11.8	TBD	TBD
	Training Exercise 4	Concept Paper 5
11.13/11.15	TBD	**Guest Lecture: TBD**
		Reflection 4 Due: Research Question Proposal
11.20/11.22	Thanksgiving Break	
11.27/11.29	Research Presentations	Research Presentations
12.4/12.6	Research Presentations	Research Presentations
12.13	Final Exam Due at Noon	