Anthropological Field Methods
ANTH 4011.003
WH 310.Tu/Th 9:30-10:50am

Anthropologists “think” and “see” the world very differently than the average person. Perhaps it is both our pride and our curse that we are so “awake” to culture. When one begins to see things through the eyes of an anthropologist it’s as if a switch gets turned on…and stays stuck there. It’s when culture goes beyond our National Geographic imaginations and ventures into the minutiae of people’s everyday routines. This class is a workshop…this syllabus, a living document…where we will walk the footsteps of the anthropologist’s mind and train not only to see but to wrestle with culture. We begin with the most difficult culture to face, our own…

Attendance
Everyone starts out with 100 points. 5 point deduction for unexcused absences. Excused absences are accompanied by a doctor’s note or at the instructor’s discretion if notified prior to the missed lecture. Two consecutive tardies = 1 absence.

Concept Papers (5 papers)
Take home essay questions designed to help you think through some of the themes of fieldwork and ethnography. 200-300 words.

Fieldnote Reflections (4 reflections)
Take home essay questions following each fieldwork exercise (4x). These assignments are practice in analyzing your experiential work in terms of the concepts 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.

“Those who are able to see beyond the shadows and lies of their culture will never be understood, let alone believed, by the masses.”

-Plato
**Unit 1: Methodology**

1/24-1/26


---

**Concept Paper #1: Methodology**

---

**Unit 2: Ethnography**

1/31-2/16

**Training Exercise #1: Kulture Club Infiltration**


**Finding culture in the field**


**Participant-Observation**


Unit 3: Making the Familiar Foreign
2/21-2/23

Training Exercise #2: An Extra-Ordinary Day

“Body Ritual among the Nacirema.”

“Studying at Home: What you don’t expect” in Starting Fieldwork: Methods and Experiences.

“How Native is a ‘Native' Anthropologist?”

Unit 4: Positionality
2/28-3/7

“The Perceiver and the Perceived” in Starting Fieldwork: Methods and Experiences.

Autoethnography” in Starting Fieldwork: Methods and Experiences.

“The Limits of Auto-Ethnography”.

*****Spring Break 3/9-3/21*****

Midterm Exam Due March 23rd

Unit 5: In the Field
3/23-5/4

Training Exercise #3: Finding a Fieldsite

“Breaking Anthropologists’ Taboos” in Starting Fieldwork: Methods and Experiences.

Relationships
“How Should I Act in the Field” in Starting Fieldwork: Methods and Experiences.
On Ethnographic Authority

“Field Relations” in Ethnography.

“Coming Home” in Starting Fieldwork: Methods and Experiences.

“Lovers in the Field: Sex, Dominance and the Female Anthropologist”.

---

Concept Paper #3: Relationships

Interviews
“Interviews” in Starting Fieldwork: Methods and Experiences.

Madden, R. Sage Publications. pp. 64-75.

Fieldnotes
“Jottings” in Starting Fieldwork: Methods and Experiences.


“Notes on (Field)notes” in Fieldnotes.

Access
“Access” in Ethnography.

Developing a Research Question

TRAINING EXERCISE #4: WHERE IS MY QUESTION?

Research Question Workshopping & Invited Guest Speakers

---

Concept Paper #4: Research Questions
Concept Paper #5: Peer Reviews


---

Final Exam Due May 11th by 10am