

ANTH 5031.001
ETHNOGRAPHIC AND QUALITATIVE METHODS
Fall 2015 Tuesday 6:00 - 8:50pm Wooten 117

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Jamie Johnson

OFFICE HOURS: Weds 6:00pm – 8:50pm Chilton 330-J, or by appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course will teach students anthropological fieldwork methods, building on any prior experience they may have. Students will learn through readings and discussion, and by conducting a semester-long fieldwork project. They will become familiar with both traditional long-term fieldwork approaches and rapid assessment techniques used in applied anthropology. Topics covered include: the relationship of research to theory; designing a project; ethics; data collection; analysis of data; and presentation of findings. The class will focus on the following fieldwork approaches: observation, interviewing, and focus groups. With regard to data analysis, students will learn about software and engage in collaborative teamwork.

NOTIFICATION OF ABSENCE DUE TO RELIGIOUS HOLY DAY(S)

Students desiring to observe a religious holy day, which will result in a class absence, must notify the instructor in writing, for each class, no later than the 12th class day. The student is required to complete any assignments or take any examinations, within a reasonable time, which may have been missed as a result of the absence.

REQUIRED TEXTS

LeCompte, Margaret D. and Jean J. Schensul.

2010 Designing and Conducting Ethnographic Research: An Introduction. Ethnographer's Toolkit, Volume 1, 2nd edition. Walnut Creek: Altamira Press. (Referred to in Course Schedule as TKV1)

Schensul, Stephen L, Jean J. Schensul and Margaret D. LeCompte.

2012 Essential Ethnographic Methods: A Mixed Methods Approach. Ethnographer's Toolkit, Volume 3, 2nd edition. Walnut Creek: Altamira Press. (Referred to in Course Schedule as TK V3)

LeCompte, Margaret D. and Jean J. Schensul.

2012 Analysis and Interpretation of Ethnographic Data: A Mixed Methods Approach. Ethnographer's Toolkit, Volume 5, 2nd edition. Walnut Creek: Altamira Press. (Referred to in Course Schedule as TK V5)

RECOMMENDED TEXTS:

Bernard, H. Russell.

2011 Research Methods in Anthropology: Qualitative and Quantitative Approaches. 5th edition. Walnut Creek: Altamira Press.

Emerson, Robert M., Fretz, Rachel I., and Shaw, Linda L.

2011 Writing Ethnographic Fieldnotes. 2nd edition. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

REQUIRED SOFTWARE

We will be using Dedoose as our qualitative analysis software. <http://www.dedoose.com/> My understanding is that users are charged roughly \$10/month for using it. Please budget for this. There are other software for analyzing qualitative data (AtlasTI, NVivo, etc. – and these cost a great deal more), but since this is a collaborative project, my instruction will focus on Dedoose.

Note about textbooks: The 3 primary textbooks are part of a 5-volume set called The Ethnographer's Toolkit, 2nd edition series. I have made them available through the library course page, but several are single-user access which means only one person may access them at a time. I recommend you purchase them from the UNT bookstore. If you find them cheaper online, make sure to buy the 2nd editions. The 1st

edition series was published in 1999. Some of the books in the 1st edition series are a different from the 2nd edition series. It can get confusing if you are trying to work from the 1st edition series. The H. Bernard Russell is available on Amazon or Alibris for around \$50 and is an excellent reference book. The Emerson, Fretz, and Shaw is also available on Amazon or Alibris for next to nothing.

Readings: Make sure you keep up and complete all of the readings. We may not go over every word in the readings, but this does not make them any less important than what is discussed in class. Since you are in a graduate course, I expect you to take initiative and read what has been assigned. This, of course, will benefit your career as an anthropologist! After all, you are paying to be trained as a practicing anthropologist and this course is one of the foundations of that training.

E-journals: You will also sign up for articles which will constitute your Abstract assignments (see below). The articles are available through e-journals to which the library subscribes. To access e-journals, go to <http://www.library.unt.edu/>, click on e-journals, and then type the name of the journal for which you are looking. You then must locate the volume # and issue # to find the specific article you need. There is also a direct link to articles on course homepage: <http://guides.library.unt.edu/home>). Articles that are not available through e-journals will be scanned and added directly to Blackboard. You should be able to click the link and access the article immediately.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. Attendance and Participation (10%).

- **Class Participation:** Class participation makes up 10% of your final grade. Since this course is a graduate seminar which meets only once a week, participation is essential. Obviously, if you are absent you cannot contribute to discussions, so a high level of attendance is required for a passing grade. Students are responsible for all materials and announcements presented in class, whether or not they were there.
- **Attendance/participation for Outside Exercises:** Students will also be assigned observations, interviews and focus group exercises which will take place outside of the classroom. These exercises will be executed in teams, so coordination and equal participation is mandatory. Students will be expected to arrive on-time and to conduct themselves in a professional manner. Unexcused absence from any of these exercises will count against your total attendance and participation grade.
- If you have more than one unexcused absence in *either* the classroom *or* an outside exercise, your grade will go down one full letter grade for each consecutive absence (thus: 2 unexcused absences = automatic 'B', 3 unexcused absences = automatic C). After three absences, a failing grade will be assigned for the course.
- Information regarding university-excused absences can be found here: <https://deanofstudents.unt.edu>

2. Abstract assignment (20% each). For an abstract assignment you will be required to write an abstract on an outside article and present it to the rest of the class. The goals are to read scholarly articles about methods, enhance your writing skills and ability to explain something you've just read, and to foster class discussion. A model for abstracts will be handed out during the first class.

3. Fieldwork project (70%). Students will conduct a collaborative project over the course of the semester. Several assignments will be used to document and evaluate your fieldwork. These are the items and how much their grades are worth:

Item	% of Grade
Observation fieldnotes	10%
Interview 1 transcript	7%
Interview 1 fieldnotes & reflections	3%
Interview 2 transcript	7%
Interview 2 fieldnotes & reflections	3%
Focus group transcript	7%
Focus group fieldnotes & reflections	3%
Coding	10%
Analysis write up	10%
Client Presentation	5%
Misc. – question development, teamwork, communication	5%

Assignments and dates towards the end of class: The assignments and dates towards the end of the course may change from what is in the course right now. We are doing a live project for a client and dates at the end of this process are difficult to plan this far in advance. I will give you plenty of time and keep you posted along the way, but know that some of the dates may change.

WITHDRAWAL: If you are unable to complete this course you must withdraw. Withdrawing from a course is a formal procedure which **YOU** must initiate. I cannot do it for you. If you simply stop attending and do not withdraw, you will receive a performance grade, usually an “F.”

STATEMENT ON PLAGIARISM AND CHEATING: The department of anthropology considers graduate students to be new members of the community of professional anthropologists, who are thus held to the high ethical standards of practicing professionals. They are expected to follow the American Anthropological Association’s code of ethics: *“Anthropological researchers bear responsibility for the integrity and reputation of their discipline, of scholarship, and of science. Thus, anthropological researchers are subject to the general moral rules of scientific and scholarly conduct: they should not deceive or knowingly misrepresent (i.e., fabricate evidence, falsify, plagiarize), or attempt to prevent reporting of misconduct, or obstruct the scientific/scholarly research of others”* (<http://www.aaanet.org/committees/ethics/ethcode.htm>). Any work not meeting this standard will be evaluated in a hearing before the student; infractions will merit dismissal from the master’s program.

For more information on paper writing, including how to avoid plagiarism, and how to use citations, see <http://www.unt.edu/anthropology/writing.htm>. 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/>.

NOTE: The Anthropology Department does not discriminate on the basis of an individual’s disability as required by the Americans With Disabilities Act. Our program provides academic adjustments or help to individuals with disabilities in its programs and activities. Attempts will be made to meet all certified requirements.