

# ANTH 4011: Anthropological Field Methods

T/TH 9:30-10:50

LANG 302

*Anthropological Field Methods* is a course in how anthropologists “do” anthropology. Every discipline is defined according to their own distinct search for knowledge. For example, psychologists may find knowledge through statistics while biologists test out hypotheses. However, the manner in which a researcher investigates, in terms of their/her/his research methods, is not just about the way they/she/he gathers data and information. Rather, research methods are instrumental in *creating* the very knowledge they are often purported only to discover. This course engages with the methods of anthropological thinking, especially in terms of how the ethnographer/informant relationship informs how questions over “culture” are both found and framed.

## Instructor

Professor Nelson

[melissa.nelson@unt.edu](mailto:melissa.nelson@unt.edu)

940.369.8449

## Office Hours

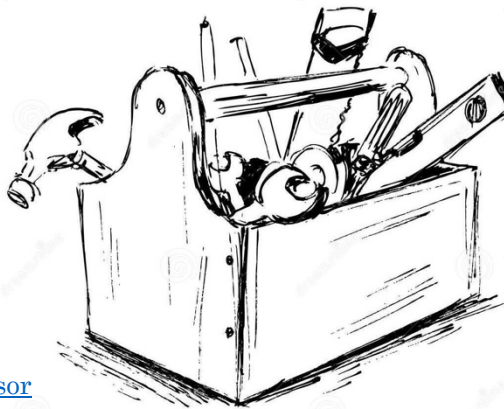
After Class

(In-Person / Outdoors)

or

ZOOM (by appt.):

<https://unt.zoom.us/my/anthadvisor>



## Grade Breakdown

Flipgrid 10%  
 Synthesis 10%  
 Papers 20%  
 Midterm 30%  
 Final 30%

## Grading Scale

A 90-100 D 60-69  
 B 80-89 F <60  
 C 70-79

## Course Delivery

Tuesdays

Recitation

Small Groups

Thursdays

Discussion

Full Class

## Learning Schedule

	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
1/18 - 3/3	CANVAS module released	HW	Flipgrid Post Due	HW	Recitation Synthesis Due	HW	Class Discussion
3/8 - 5/5	CANVAS module released	PART/OBS	PART/OBS	PART/OBS	*	PART/OBS	*

\* The content of our class meetings in the second half of the semester will vary. Refer to the semester schedule on page 5 for details.  
 PART/OBS: Independent Participant-Observation experiences with informant groups outside of class. Refer to page 4 for details.  
 HW: Work through learning resources in the CANVAS modules (readings/webinars/Nelson Talks, etc.).

## Attendance

Students are expected to attend class meetings regularly and to abide by the attendance policy established for the course. It is important that you communicate with the professor prior to being absent, so you and the professor can discuss and mitigate the impact of the absence on your attainment of course learning goals. Please inform the professor if you are unable to attend class meetings because you are ill, in mindfulness of the health and safety of everyone in our community.

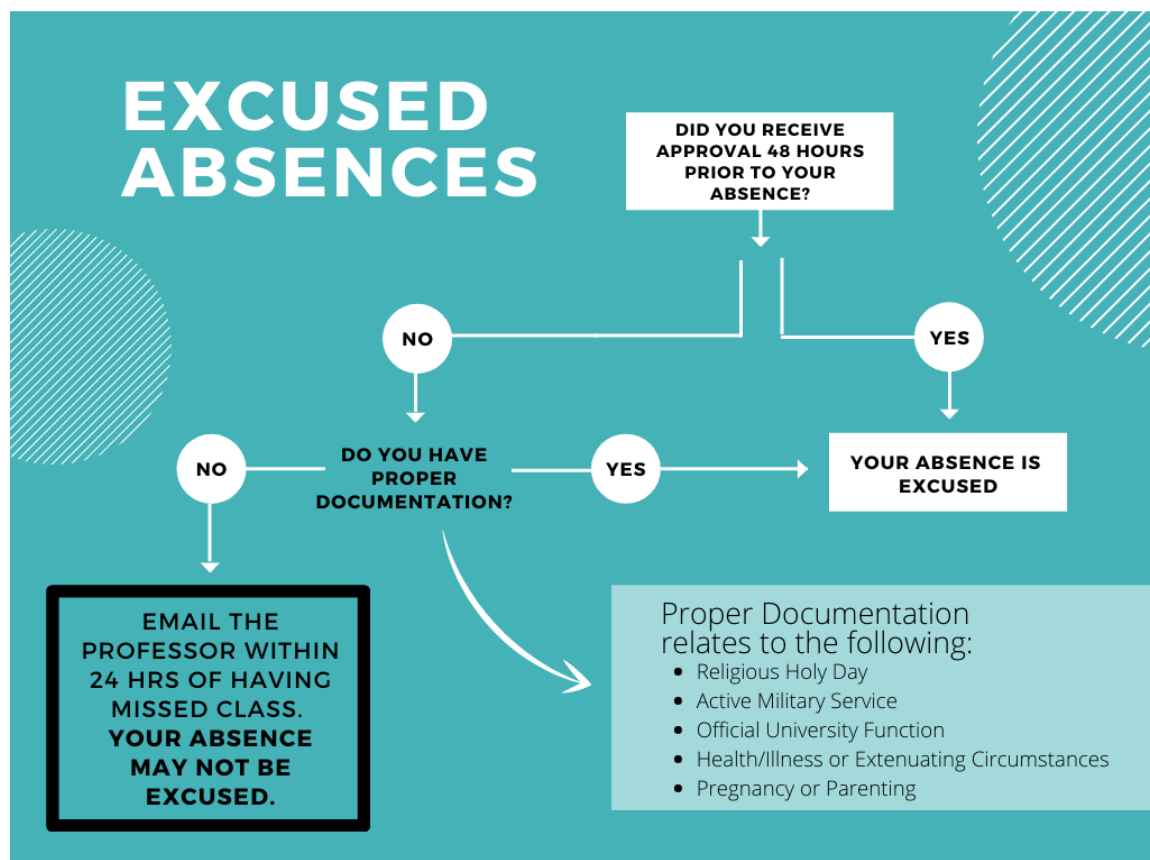
If you are experiencing any symptoms of COVID-19

(<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html>) please seek medical attention from the Student Health and Wellness Center (940-565-2333 or [askSHWC@unt.edu](mailto:askSHWC@unt.edu)) or your health care provider **PRIOR** to coming to campus. UNT also requires you to contact the UNT COVID Team at [COVID@unt.edu](mailto:COVID@unt.edu) for guidance on actions to take due to symptoms, pending or positive test results, or potential exposure.

## Credit Make-Up Policy

Missing assessments, or those submitted late, as a result of an **unexcused** absence will result in a **0**. *Excused* absences will be granted varying accommodations with regards to the following assessments:

- **Flipgrid Video Posts:** The assignment will be excused and no grade will be given.
- **Synthesis:** The student will be given the option of either joining recitation through ZOOM or submitting an individual synthesis due at the professor's discretion.
- **Papers:** An extension will be given at the professor's discretion.
- **Midterm/Final:** An extension will be given at the professor's discretion.



## Face Coverings

UNT encourages everyone to wear a face covering when indoors, regardless of vaccination status, to protect yourself and others from COVID infection, as recommended by current CDC guidelines. Face covering guidelines could change based on community health conditions.

## Assessments

### Flipgrid Video Posts

10%

*This course employs video capture technology via the external application, Flipgrid, to record individual commentaries ahead of group recitations.*

*(Flipgrid responses/comments will be deleted at the end of term.)*

Throughout the first half of the semester, students will be required to submit weekly video commentaries prior to our Tuesday recitations. Flipgrid posts will be graded on a standard of non/completion based on the following criteria: (1) on-time submission by **Sunday at midnight**; (2) 5-minute duration; and 3) meaningful comments that engage with the prompt in a novel way. **Any student that is uncomfortable with recording themselves should reach out to the instructor during their first week of the semester so that accommodations can be reached.** Your final Flipgrid grade will be calculated out of a possible 60 points based on the number of posts receiving completion.

### Synthesis

10%

During recitations, small groups will be assessed on a group synthesis assignment that will be due by the end of class through CANVAS. This grade will be based on non/completion. Students with **pre**-excused absences may join their group recitations via ZOOM to receive credit. Your final synthesis grade will be calculated out of a possible 60 points based on the number of submissions receiving completion.

### Flipgrid & Synthesis Assessments Table

Use this table to determine your individual grade for Flipgrid posts or Synthesis assessments based on how many of each assignment was awarded completion.

Grade	Percentage	Points	# of Completions
A	100%	60	6
B	88%	53	5
B	83%	50	4
C	75%	45	3
D	67%	40	2
F	58%	35	1
F	0%	0	0

### Papers

20%

You will be asked to submit seven **300-500 word** essays/worksheets through CANVAS at the end of key units. All essays will be due by **Sunday at midnight**. These essays should be informed by lectures, discussions, and readings. I will be looking for a polished writing sample with a clear thesis, argument, and properly cited references. Your argument needs to offer something more than a summary. Also, remember that I am happier to give you an extension than I am to accept a late paper. **A before E = Analyze, don't Editorialize!**

**Midterm**

30%

The midterm is a comprehensive and conceptual analysis of the first half of the semester. I will be looking for how well you are able to **understand** the idea of what it means to be an anthropologist by **engaging** with the complexity/ambiguity of what it is to *do* anthropology. Your polished midterm essay will consist of **1,000-1,500 words** and must be supported by your readings.

**Ethnographic Experience**

During the second half of the semester, students will be required to independently seek out an informant group that consents to engaging with them on an ethnographic experience. All informant groups must be approved by the instructor through review of an informant group proposal. Students are expected to practice participant-observation with their informants outside of class-time and are advised to dedicate an average of 2-3 days a week (4-6 hrs. a week) to spending time with their interlocutors.

**Final**

30%

Your final essay will be a **1,000-1,500 word** abstract of a research proposal based on your independent ethnographic experience. Your submission will propose a clear and detailed research question that is anthropological and original to your work with your informant group. It should be supported by thoughtful analysis of your preliminary ethnographic experience and illustrated with relevant ethnographic anecdotes from conversations with your informants.

**Course Organization**

Every conceptual unit is packaged into its own “module” on CANVAS. Modules may include up to two weeks of material. The following content may be found within unit modules:

- **“Good to Think” Questions** (to keep in mind as you work through the module)
- **Video “Nelson Talks”**
- **Required Reading for the Unit** (with Author Pics & Context)
- **Flipgrid Prompts**
- **Paper Prompts**

**Resources**

Please refer to our CANVAS course for more detailed information regarding:

- Technical Requirements & Skills
- Technical Assistance
- Student Support Services
- Academic Support Services

**Course Materials for Remote Instruction**

Remote instruction may be necessary if community health conditions change or you need to self-isolate or quarantine due to COVID-19. Students will need access to a computer, reliable internet connection, webcam, microphone, and dedicated space to participate in fully remote portions of the class. Additional required classroom materials for remote learning include: Microsoft Word, .pdf reader like Adobe, and other programming requirements akin to online learning. Information on how to be successful in a remote learning environment can be found at: <https://online.unt.edu/learn>.

## Semester Schedule\*

<b>Methods: You Are How You Research</b>		
1/18	Introduction to the Course	<b>Paper Due 1/23/22</b>
1/20	Class Discussion	
<b>Participant-Observation: How We Do What We Do</b>		
1/23	<b>Flipgrid Due</b>	<b>Paper Due 2/6/22</b>
1/25	Recitation & Synthesis Due	
1/27	Class Discussion	
1/30	<b>Flipgrid Due</b>	
2/1	Recitation & Synthesis Due	
2/3	Class Discussion	
<b>A Reckoning: Wrestling with Our Disciplinary Legacy</b>		
2/6	<b>Flipgrid Due</b>	<b>Paper Due 2/20/22</b>
2/8	Recitation & Synthesis Due	
2/10	Class Discussion	
2/13	<b>Flipgrid Due</b>	
2/15	Recitation & Synthesis Due	
2/17	Class Discussion	
<b>Pen and Paper: Practical Tips in the Field</b>		
2/20	<b>Flipgrid Due</b>	
2/22	Recitation & Synthesis Due	
2/24	Class Discussion	
2/27	<b>Flipgrid Due</b>	
3/1	Recitation & Synthesis Due	
3/3	Class Discussion	
<b>Midterm Essay due 3/11/22 by Midnight</b>		
<b>Informant Group Proposals</b>		
3/8	Class Discussion	<b>Paper Due 3/13/22</b>
3/10	Research Round Robin	
<b>Stories from the Field</b>		
3/22	*Guest Ethnographer*	<b>Paper Due 3/27/22</b>
3/24	*Guest Ethnographer*	
<b>Comment Maps</b>		
3/29	Ethnographic Practice	
3/31	Collaborative Groups	
<b>Themes</b>		
4/5	Collaborative Groups	<b>Paper Due 4/10/22</b>
4/7	Class Discussion	
<b>Workshopping Research Question</b>		
4/12	Collaborative Groups	<b>Paper Due 4/17/22</b>
4/14	Class Discussion	
<b>1:1</b>		
4/19	One-on-One ZOOM Sessions with Professor Nelson	
4/21	One-on-One ZOOM Sessions with Professor Nelson	
<b>Conferences</b>		
4/26	Project Proposal Panels	
4/28	Project Proposal Panels	
5/3	Project Proposal Panels	
5/5	Project Proposal Panels	
<b>Final Project Proposal Essay due 5/12/22 by Midnight</b>		

*\*Please access learning materials and submit all assessments via CANVAS.  
This schedule and its contents are subject to change. Check CANVAS for updates.*

## UNT Policies

### Academic Integrity Policy

Academic Integrity Standards and Consequences. According to UNT Policy 06.003, Student Academic Integrity, academic dishonesty occurs when students engage in behaviors including, but not limited to cheating, fabrication, facilitating academic dishonesty, forgery, plagiarism, and sabotage. A finding of academic dishonesty may result in a range of academic penalties or sanctions ranging from admonition to expulsion from the University. Any student suspected of cheating in this course will receive at the very least a 0 on the assignment or up to an F in the course. A report of academic integrity violation shall be filed against the student with UNT and the student will have an opportunity to appeal the decision according to UNT's appeal process.

### ADA Policy

UNT 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 a student with an accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding one's specific course needs. Students 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 [ODA website \(https://disability.unt.edu/\)](https://disability.unt.edu/).

### Transmission and Recording of Student Images in Electronically-Delivered Courses

1. No permission is needed from a student for his or her image or voice to be transmitted live via videoconference or streaming media, but all students should be informed when courses are to be conducted using either method of delivery.
2. In the event an instructor records student presentations, he or she must obtain permission from the student using a signed release in order to use the recording for future classes in accordance with the Use of Student-Created Work guidelines above.
3. Instructors who video-record their class lectures with the intention of re-using some or all of recordings for future class offerings must notify students on the course syllabus if students' images may appear on video. Instructors are also advised to provide accommodation for students who do not wish to appear in class recordings.

No notification is needed if only audio and slide capture is used or if the video only records the instructor's image. However, the instructor is encouraged to let students know the recordings will be available to them for study purposes.

### Emergency Notification & Procedures

UNT uses a system called Eagle Alert to quickly notify students with critical information in the event of an emergency (i.e., severe weather, campus closing, and health and public safety emergencies like chemical spills, fires, or violence). In the event of a university closure, please refer to CANVAS for contingency plans for covering course materials.

## Community Support

### Eagle Dreamers

<https://www.unt.edu/daca>

Questions: [dacainfo@northtexasdreamteam.org](mailto:dacainfo@northtexasdreamteam.org)

Workshops: [immi.gr/dacaupdates](https://immi.gr/dacaupdates)

Opening Doors International Services: <https://www.odisinc.org/>

United We Dream: <https://unitedwedream.org/actions/upcoming-first-time-daca-renewal-preparation-sessions/?source=adsgoogle>

### First Generation Success Center

<https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/first-generation-success-center>

### UNT Student Legal Services

<https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/student-legal-services>

### Black Lives Matter

<https://ied.unt.edu/UNTBLM>

### Pride Alliance

<https://ied.unt.edu/pridealliance>

### Food Pantry presented by Kroger

<https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/food-pantry>

### Supply Pantry

<https://learningcenter.unt.edu/school-supply-pantry>

### Voting

[votedenton.com](https://votedenton.com)

## COVID

### Vaccination Information

[Student Health and Wellness Center Walk-In Vaccination Information](#)

### COVID Reporting & Alerts

To report a positive test/exposure or if you have questions: [COVID@unt.edu](mailto:COVID@unt.edu)

Updates: <https://healthalerts.unt.edu/>

COVID Dashboard: <https://healthalerts.unt.edu/return/cases>

### Testing Information

Testing Information for Students: <https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/student-health-and-wellness-center/services/laboratory/covid-testing>

Free COVID Testing by Curative in the Union: <https://curative.com/sites/24128>

## Department of Anthropology Statement on Anti-Racism

Education is transformative, and open intellectual inquiry is the foundation of a university education and a democratic society. In the spirit of shared humanity and concern for our community and world, the Department of Anthropology faculty celebrate diversity as central to our mission and affirm our solidarity with those individuals and groups most at risk. In line with our departmental goals, we disavow all racism, xenophobia, homophobia, sexism, Islamophobia, anti-Semitism, classism, ableism, and hate speech or actions that attempt to silence, threaten, and degrade others. In our classrooms, all students are welcome regardless of race/ethnicity, gender identities, gender expressions, sexual orientation, socio-economic status, age, disabilities, religion, regional background, Veteran status, citizenship status, nationality, and other diverse identities that we each bring to class. As educators, we affirm that language and texts, films, and stories help us understand the experiences of others whose lives are different from ours. We value critical reasoning, evidence-based arguments, self-reflection, and the imagination. Building on these capacities, we hope to inspire empathy, social and environmental justice, and an ethical framework for our actions. We advocate for a diverse campus, community, and nation inclusive of racial minorities, women, immigrants, the LGBTQ+ community, and people of all religious faiths. The Department of Anthropology is committed to supporting our students and fostering an environment free of bias, discrimination, and harassment, in the classroom and the broader university community. Any member of our community can report an issue to the department chair anonymously. <https://anthropology.unt.edu/resources/report-departmental-issue>