

ANTH 4011: Anthropological Field Methods

Spring 2017

Time: Tuesdays & Thursdays 2:00-3:20

Place: Language 311

Instructor: Andrew Nelson

Office: 330N Chilton Hall

Office Hours: Thursdays 10am-noon; or by appointment

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Course Description:

In this course students learn the methodology of cultural anthropology by both thinking about and doing ethnography. The course is structured to give students a working knowledge of research ethics, participant observation, qualitative methods, project design, interviewing skills, and ethnographic data analysis and writing. While reading and discussing different approaches to ethnography in the classroom, students will also conduct an ethnographic research project outside of the classroom. Students will work on their projects in class workshops and present their findings at the end of the course.



Kitchen Stories (2003, Norway)

Learning Objectives:

1. Students will gain an understanding for the central methods and concepts of ethnographic fieldwork.

2. Students will learn the methodological tools of participant observation by conducting ethnographic research.
3. Students will learn how to analyze ethnographic data and convert it into a written ethnography.
4. Students will conduct an applied ethnographic project for which they will deliver results to a client.

Required Texts:

1. Starting Fieldwork: Methods and Experiences. By Judith E. Marti. Waveland Press, Inc. (Noted as SF in schedule below)
2. All other course material can be downloaded from the course’s Blackboard webpage under the tab “Course Material”. (Noted as BB below)

Course Requirements & Grading:

I. Attendance & Participation

Students will be expected to attend every class and engage in class discussion. Attendance will be taken at the beginning of each class.

II. Exercises

Students will do several short exercises that will help the class design our research. These exercises will be brought to class and worked on during workshops: CITI ethics certificate, Survey questions, interview/focus group questions, report section draft.

III. Assignments

From the data collected, each student will write their analysis in short paper form: Observations, surveys, interviews/focus groups, and report section final.

IV. Final Report

Based on analysis of research data, students will write a section of the group’s final report and give a public presentation of their findings.

Grade Makeup

Attendance & Participation	25%
Exercises	20%
Assignments	40%

Report Presentation	15%
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All grades will be assigned based on the following scale:

90-100%	A
80-89%	B
70-79%	C
60-69%	D
59-under	F

COURSE POLICIES

1. Withdrawal: If you are unable to complete this course you must officially withdraw by the University-designated date (for a “W” with instructor approval). Withdrawing from a course is a formal procedure that 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.”

2. Acceptable Student Behavior: Student behavior that interferes with an instructor’s ability to conduct a class or other students' opportunity to learn is unacceptable and disruptive and will not be tolerated in any instructional forum at UNT. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior will be directed to leave the classroom and the instructor may refer the student to the Dean of Students to consider whether the student's conduct violated the Code of Student Conduct. The university's expectations for student conduct apply to all instructional forums, including university and electronic classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. The Code of Student Conduct can be found at www.deanofstudents.unt.edu.

In this classroom, “**acceptable student behavior**” specifically means:

A. No cell phone or computer usage. I will ask you to leave the classroom if I see you using your phone and ask you to turn off your computer if using it.

B. Maintain one classroom conversation. Sometimes topics in anthropology classes can get socially controversial and emotionally exciting, but please contribute only to the central conversation.

C. Always be respectful of other students’ thoughts, opinions, and perspectives.

D. Do not come to class late. If you arrive more than 5 minutes after the start of class (2:05), you will be considered absent.

3. Submitting Course Work: All coursework must be submitted physically in class. I will NOT accept work via email, so please do not send it. Late work will be accepted for reduced points. Late work will only be accepted for full credit if accompanied by a note from a medical professional. No other exceptions will be considered. If you cannot attend class on the due date, you can submit the work early.

4. Academic Misconduct: Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, forgery, fabrication, facilitating academic dishonesty, sabotage and any act designed to give unfair academic advantage to the student. Any suspected case of Academic Dishonesty will be handled in accordance with the University Policy and procedures. 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/>.

5. ADA: The Anthropology Department does not discriminate based on an individual's disability, as required by the Americans with Disabilities Act. Our program provides academic adjustments or help to individuals with disabilities, and attempts will be made to meet all certified requirements. Please see me if you have a documented disability so that appropriate arrangements can be made to help you get the most out of this class.

6. Extra Credit: There are two opportunities for extra credit. If over 67% of the class does the SPOT evaluation, the entire class will receive a 1% grade boost. Additionally, if you attend a *relevant* (which needs to receive the approval of the professor before you attend) event (lecture, film, seminar) and write a 200 word synopsis, you will gain one bonus percentage point.

7. Course Communication: I expect you to check your UNT email on a regular basis as this will be the only format for all course communication outside of the classroom. I require 24 hours to respond to any emails sent between Monday and Friday. Over the weekends and on holidays I require 48 hours to respond. Please include the name of the course you are taking with me in the body of your email. If you email me with a question that the syllabus answers, I will not reply to you. If you are writing an email from a mobile device, please remember to use a formal tone (salutations, full sentences, correct spelling and punctuation, signature).

8. Personal technology use in the classroom: During the class, I expect students to have computers and phones turned off. This is a small class and I expect everyone to engage with each other/not their digital devices!

Course Schedule and Reading Assignments

Unit One: Introduction to Ethnography and Project

Date	Topic	Reading	Work due
Jan 17	Course Introduction		
Jan 19	What is Ethnography?	BB: Lewis-Krauss, EEL2	
Jan 24	Ethics	BB: DC10	
Jan 26	Roles and Relationships	SF: chs. 1-4	Exc 1: NIH certificate
Jan 31	Dr. Smatresk Town Hall on Immigration, Union Ballroom 314C	BB: EEL8	

Unit Two: Entering the Field (Observations and Surveys)

Date	Topic	Reading	Work due
Feb 2	Observations	SF: chs. 6-7	
Feb 7	Workshop		Asn 1: Observations
Feb 9	Introduction to Project: city planner (our client), Jo Ann Wilkerson	Excerpts from Denton 2030 Plan	Flyers due
Feb 14	Surveys	BB: EEM9	
Feb 16	Workshop		Exc 2: Survey Qs
Feb 21	Class Cancelled		
Feb 23	Class Cancelled		
Feb 28	Review Survey Data		Asn 2: Survey Data

Unit Three: Immersion (Interviews, Participation, and Focus Groups)

Date	Topic	Reading	Work due
Mar 2	Interviews	Ch. 8	
Feb 7	Workshop		Exc 3.1: Interview Qs

Mar 9	Class Cancelled		
Mar 14	Spring Break!		DOING INTERVIEWS
March 16	Spring Break!		DOING INTERVIEWS
Mar 21	Review Interview Data		
Mar 23	Focus Groups	BB: EEM8	
Mar 28	Focus Groups	TBA	
Mar 30	Workshops		Exc 3.2: FG Qs
Apr 4	Class Cancelled		DOING FOCUS GROUPS
Apr 6	Class Cancelled		DOING FOCUS GROUPS
Apr 11	Review FG data		Asn 3: Interview/FG Data
Apr 13	Other Data	SF: chs. 9-12	

Unit Four: Data Analysis and Write-Up

Date	Topic	Reading	Work due
Apr 18	Coding	BB: DC7	
Apr 20	Workshop		
Apr 25	Ethnographic Writing	BB: EEL7/9	
Apr 27	Workshop		Exc 4: Report draft
May 2	Preparing Reports		Asn 4: Report final
May 4	Preparing Reports		Compiling Report

Finals Week: Report Presentation, TBA