



University of North Texas  
College of Liberal Arts & Sciences  
Anthropology Department  
ANTH 4011.001: Field Methods  
T/R 2p-320p, WH 114  
Spring 2019

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## COURSE INFORMATION

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**Welcome!** Field methods are the “how to” in anthropology, and I’m so excited to work with you this semester to develop a finished mini-ethnography with you. We will have a tight schedule, so work on time management, and stay in contact, check Canvas often, and ask lots of questions! Let’s have fun!

**Course Description:** \*Prerequisite(s): ANTH 1010 or 2250 or consent of department.

\*Recommended for students with Junior or Senior standing only.

Anthropological Field Methods. 3 hours. Dynamic introduction to field methods of anthropology, through: exploration and discussion of essential readings that explain various data gathering techniques and methods of analysis, as well as interactive workshops and practical experience with field techniques of "participant observation." Students will not only gain practical skills, but will also begin to develop problem-solving techniques for approaches to anthropological research through fieldwork.

### Learning Objectives:

- Formulate a clearly defined ethnographic research problem with clearly defined measurable and testable variables.
- Generate an ethical and feasible qualitative, quantitative or mixed methods research design.
- Organize and complete appropriate field work to address the research problem based on the research design.
- Incorporate appropriate elements of literature review, anthropological theory, and field work data into an ethnographic representation of the research problem.

### Teaching team:

Instructor: **Dr. April Bass**

Office: Anthropology Dept, 330E Chilton Hall

Phone: 940-565-7913

Email: [april.bass@unt.edu](mailto:april.bass@unt.edu)

Office hours: **M/W 11a-1230p** (and by appointment)

IA:

Email:

Office hours: (and by appointment)

IA Office: Anthropology Dept, 308 Chilton Hall  
(behind Front Desk to the right)

**Contacting your teaching team:**

If you want to:

Ask questions about an assignment	Email your IA
Ask questions about grades	Email your IA, cc Dr. Bass
Discuss a missed assignment/exam	Email your IA, cc Dr. Bass
Ask about the structure of the course	Email your IA, cc Dr. Bass
Discuss course material	Contact your IA or Dr. Bass
Discuss personal information (e.g., ODA, life issues)	Contact Dr. Bass
Figure out technical problems with email or Canvas	Contact UIT Student Help Desk: <a href="http://it.unt.edu/helpdesk">http://it.unt.edu/helpdesk</a> or 940-565-2324

**REQUIRED MATERIALS**

We do not have a single textbook for this course. **Course readings will be posted on Canvas.**

**Canvas:** you will need to check Canvas regularly for class announcements, course updates, required readings, and fun supplemental material!

- **Trouble-shooting:** If you run into technical issues with Canvas, visit the UIT Help Desk: <http://www.unt.edu/helpdesk/index.htm>
- **Navigating Canvas:** If you're just learning Canvas, no worries! Contact your IA with questions.

**CLASSROOM STANDARDS**

**Expectations:**

- **Be Engaged.** Asking questions is a great way to learn! If you have a question, you won't be the only person with that same question, so help me support you by asking questions in class, after class, through email – whatever you're most comfortable with.
- **Be Prepared.** Stay on top of course work, readings, announcements, so that when we're discussing intriguing topics, you're ready to jump in! *P.S. no one likes pop quizzes*
- **Be Civil.** Thought-provoking discussions are essential at every stage in life. So is mutual respect for our fellow humans in our classroom and for the cultures we will be exploring.
- **Be Considerate.** Technology is great! Please just don't let yours disrupt your classmates.
- **Be Professional.** College is practice for your future career. Work hard, be curious, *earn* your grade, and take responsibility for it at the end of the semester.

**How to succeed:** UNT endeavors to offer you a high-quality education and to provide a supportive environment to help you learn and grow. And, as a faculty member, I am committed to helping you be successful as a student. Here’s how to succeed at UNT: *Show up. Find support. Get advised. Be prepared. Get involved. Stay focused.*

- For specific tips about success in this class, I have prepared a **Student Success Guide** for you, which you can access on our **Canvas** site.

**Teaching Philosophy:** I view college classrooms as practice for your future career. I am interested in learning about you - what your career plans are, how I can support you in your pursuits, and how I can incorporate tools in the classroom that will give you practical application in the future.

One of my goals is to emphasize the strengths of collaborative learning between all of you, your IA, and me. In the real world, there isn't a monopoly on knowledge, but collaboration, dedication to life-long learning/innovation, and mutual encouragement. If this isn't the reality you've experienced so far, I think it's the most effective. What are your thoughts?

I understand working full-time while supporting yourself through college. I understand the first-generation college experience. I am here to offer and/or find support for any of you who chooses to seek it out. What I ask from all of you is early and genuine communication throughout the semester - the same that will be required of you in your careers - so that our course will run smoothly.

**ASSESSMENT & GRADING**

For information about attendance & participation, late work, extra credit opportunities, early exams, and instructor feedback, see the **Student Success Guide on Canvas**.

**Syllabus changes:** assignments, schedule, and points outlined below may change to meet the needs of our class and the semester. *Come to class and stay tuned to Canvas for any updates.*

Assignment	Pts	%
Attendance & Participation	100	10%
Unit 1: Consider This	100	10%
Unit 2: Research design concept map & reflection	100	10%
Unit 3: Field work IRA	100	10%
Unit quizzes (2@50pts each)	100	10%
Ethnography Slam!	200	20%
Final ethnographic project	300	30%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1000</b>	<b>100%</b>

Point conversion to letter grade
1000-900 Points (90-100%) = A
899-800 Points (80-89%) = B
799-700 Points (70-79%) = C
699-600 Points (60-69%) = D
599-0 Points (Under 59%) = F

Schedule		
Wk	Date	Topic
<b>Unit 1: Defining your research problem</b>		
1	1.15 & 1.17	Introductions & Intro to qualitative v. quantitative measurement
2	1.22 & 1.24	How to define research problems
		Choose research topic by 1.22 (classtime)
3	1.29 & 1.31	How to define variables; <b>Unit 1 quiz DUE 1.31 at 11:59pm</b>
<b>Unit 2: Research design</b>		
4	2.5 & 2.7	Ethics in anthropological research & <b>Lit Review workshop</b>
		Start lit review by 2.7
5	2.12 & 2.14	Qualitative, quantitative, and mixed-methods design
		Choose type of mini-ethnography by 2.14
6	2.19 & 2.21	Sampling & selection
		Choose field site by 2.19
7	2.26 & 2.28	Validity & Reliability; <b>Unit 2 quiz DUE 2.28 at 11:59pm</b>
<b>Unit 3: In the field</b>		
8	3.5 & 3.7	What to expect in the field <i>***check Canvas for more***</i>
		Start field work by 3.7
9	<b>3.12 &amp; 3.14</b>	<b>Spring Break - catch up and get in the field!</b>
		Finish lit review by 3.12
10	3.19 & 3.21	<i>Active field work &amp; problem-solving</i>
11	3.26 & 3.28	Processing & analyzing field notes
<b>Unit 4: Preparing your mini-ethnography</b>		
12	4.2 & 4.4	Data analysis
		Finish field work by 4.4
13	4.9 & 4.11	Argumentation & organization
14	4.16 & 4.18	<b>Ethnographic workshop week</b>
15	4.23 & 4.25	Ethnographic workshop; <b>Final mini-ethnographies due 4.25 at 11:59pm</b>
16	4.30 & 5.2	Preparing your ethnography Slam!
<b>FINAL EXAM TIME: Thursday, May 9 from 130p-330p *Note: this class will have final presentations.</b>		

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**COURSE POLICIES**

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**Personal Distress:** Excerpts from <http://studentaffairs.unt.edu/care> “The University of North Texas cares about our students' success, not only academically, but emotionally and physically.... Because of our commitment, we provide literally hundreds of departments and services across campus that respond to our students' unique needs.” UNT believes it is important to foster an environment that encourages students to maintain a standard of responsibility for self-care which includes the ability to respond adequately to one's emotional, physical, and educational needs. If you are experiencing physical or emotional distress which adversely affects your ability to succeed in class, please see me as soon as possible. Together, we will point you towards the appropriate resources.

**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 at [disability.unt.edu](http://disability.unt.edu).

- **Course-specific addition:** For anyone seeking ADA accommodations, please bring me your official “request” letter during the first week of class. In addition, let's meet early during the semester and often to make sure that this course is offering all possible steps to maximize your learning and engagement with the material.

**Sexual Assault Prevention:** UNT is committed to providing a safe learning environment free of all forms of sexual misconduct, including sexual harassment sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking. Federal laws (Title IX and the Violence Against Women Act) and UNT policies prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex, and therefore prohibit sexual misconduct. If you or someone you know is experiencing sexual harassment, relationship violence, stalking, and/or sexual assault, there are campus resources available to provide support and assistance. UNT's Survivor Advocates can assist a student who has been impacted by violence by filing protective orders, completing crime victim's compensation applications, contacting professors for absences related to an assault, working with housing to facilitate a room change where appropriate, and connecting students to other resources available both on and off campus. The Survivor Advocates can be reached at [SurvivorAdvocate@unt.edu](mailto:SurvivorAdvocate@unt.edu) or by calling the Dean of Students Office at 940-565- 2648. Additionally, alleged sexual misconduct can be non-confidentially reported to the Title IX Coordinator at [oeo@unt.edu](mailto:oeo@unt.edu) or at (940) 565 2759.

- **Course-specific addition:** UNT's Dean of Students' website offers a range of on-campus and off-campus resources to help support survivors, depending on their unique needs: [http://deanofstudents.unt.edu/resources\\_0](http://deanofstudents.unt.edu/resources_0). Renee LeClaire McNamara is UNT's Student Advocate and she can be reached through e-mail at [SurvivorAdvocate@unt.edu](mailto:SurvivorAdvocate@unt.edu) or by calling the Dean of Students' office at 940-565-2648. *You are not alone. We are here to help.*

**Religious Observances:** Absences due to religious observance are considered University-excused absences, but it is your responsibility to make me aware of the absence *in advance*. Please submit to me **in-writing, in-person, or via-email** any pre-scheduled religious absences by **the second week of class**.

**Academic Integrity:** 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.

- **Course-specific sanctions for plagiarism:** Using someone else's thoughts or words without giving them credit is not acceptable in either the college or professional world. If you have questions about what constitutes plagiarism (many students do), please ask and/or seek out writing resources (Student Success Guide on Canvas) *before* your work is graded and considered plagiarized. *Plagiarized work is subject to a re-write, a grade of zero for the assignment, or reporting to the Office of Academic Integrity as appropriate.*
- **Course-specific sanctions for cheating: *You are Scholars. Do not cheat.*** I reserve the right to *fail students from the course* for academic dishonesty including, but not limited to, sharing or receiving shared course resources outside the parameters explicitly allowed in directions/instructions for assignments/assessments, or using course colleague's answers or work as their own. This and other similar behavior outlined in the University's policies on academic integrity (<https://policy.unt.edu/sites/default/files/06.003.pdf>) are not Scholarly and will not help you accomplish your goals.

**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 Blackboard for contingency plans for covering course materials.