

ANTH 4011: Anthropological Field Methods

T/TH 12:30-1:50

Remote Delivery

Anthropological Field Methods is a course in how anthropologists “do” anthropology. Every discipline approaches the search for knowledge in a distinct way. For example, psychologists find knowledge through statistics while biologists test 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 critical for *creating* the very knowledge they are purported to discover. This course explores the research methods of the anthropologist by engaging with how the anthropologist thinks and how the relationship between the ethnographer and their/her/his informants informs how they/she/he “sees” and wrestles with culture.

Instructor

Professor Nelson

melissa.nelson@unt.edu

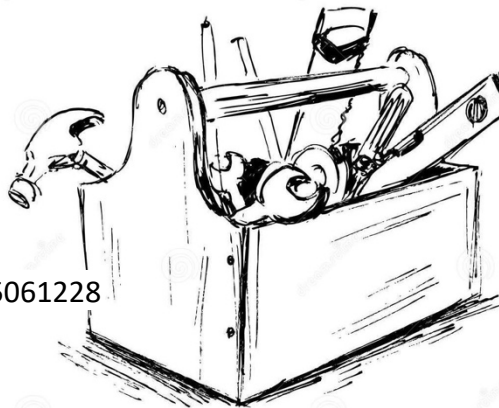
940-369-8449

Office Hours

ZOOM:

<https://unt.zoom.us/j/8065061228>

Thursdays After Class
or By Appointment



Grade Breakdown

Attendance 10%

Discussions 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 12:30-1:50

CANVAS

View Recorded Lecture & Participate in **SYNCHRONOUS** discussion forum.

Thursdays 12:30-1:50

ZOOM

Sign on to **SYNCHRONOUS** class sessions.

*In the second half of the semester we will be focusing on your preliminary research. Therefore, each week may look different in terms of delivery. Some weeks may substitute-in *asynchronous* group work while others might have synchronous ZOOM sessions on both class days. Delivery mode is subject to change so make sure to check each module for details on how classes will be delivered for each week.

Assessments

Attendance 10%

Attendance will be taken during all **SYNCHRONOUS ZOOM** sessions. Your final attendance grade will be based on your number of unexcused absences according to the table below.

Points	# of Unexcused Absences
100	0
90	1-2
80	3-4
70	5-6
60	7-8
50	9-10
40	11-12
30	13-14
0	15

Excused absences will not count against you. An absence is excused if it is 1) pre-approved by me at least 48 hours prior to the ZOOM session you are planning to miss or 2) supported by proper documentation stating the date & reason why you were absent.

Proper Documentation must be emailed to me by the first ZOOM session you are able to re-join. The following are examples of proper documentation:

- a. *medical documentation* (doctor's note, hospitalization paperwork, COVID test appt.)
- b. *unforeseen emergency* (car accident, family emergency, etc.)
- c. *official government business* (jury duty, VISA/DACA appointment, voting, etc.)

Accommodations to documentation of absences will be considered for ODA recommendations. I will also take into account additional reasons to the ones listed above if the student emails me within 24 hours of the missed ZOOM session.

Discussions 10%

Weekly posts will not receive letter grades. Rather, each student will be assessed as to whether their participation in each discussion forum meets "completion". Completion is judged according to quality rather than quantity; therefore, there is not a set number of posts a student must submit. In order for your participation to meet "completion" requirements, your post(s) must contribute in a meaningful and novel way to the conversation AND must engage with the posts of your fellow forum participants. Discussion Forums occur SYNCHRONOUSLY during the first half of the semester every Tuesday between 12:30 and 1:50pm on CANVAS.

Your final discussion grade will be based on the number of forums where your participation/posts received “completion”. Please refer to the following table:

<i>Points</i>	<i># of “Completions”</i>
100	6
90	5
80	4
70	3
60	2
50	1
0	0

Papers 20%

You will be asked to submit six **300-500 word** essays 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.

Final 30%

Your final essay will be a **1,000-1,500 word** abstract of a research proposal. Your submission will propose a clear and detailed research question that is anthropological and original to your work. It should be supported by thoughtful analysis of your preliminary research 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. Every module will consist of the following:

- **Pre-Recorded Lecture(s)**
- **“Good to Think” Questions** (to keep in mind as you work through the module)
- **Required Reading for the Unit** (with Author Pics & Context)
- **Discussion Forum(s)**
- **Paper Prompt**

Semester Schedule*

Methods: You Are How You Research		
8/25	ZOOM: <i>Synchronous</i> Session	Paper Due 8/30
8/27	ZOOM: <i>Synchronous</i> Session	
Participant-Observation: How We Do What We Do		
9/1	CANVAS: Recorded Lecture + <i>Synchronous</i> Discussion	Paper Due 9/13
9/3	ZOOM: <i>Synchronous</i> Session	
9/8	CANVAS: Recorded Lecture + <i>Synchronous</i> Discussion	
9/10	ZOOM: <i>Synchronous</i> Session	
A Reckoning: Wrestling with Our Disciplinary Legacy		
9/15	CANVAS: Recorded Lecture + <i>Synchronous</i> Discussion	Paper Due 9/27
9/17	ZOOM: <i>Synchronous</i> Session	
9/22	CANVAS: Recorded Lecture + <i>Synchronous</i> Discussion	
9/24	ZOOM: <i>Synchronous</i> Session	
Pen and Paper: Practical Tips in the Field		
9/29	CANVAS: Recorded Lecture + <i>Synchronous</i> Discussion	
10/1	ZOOM: <i>Synchronous</i> Session	
10/6	CANVAS: Recorded Lecture + <i>Synchronous</i> Discussion	
10/8	ZOOM: <i>Synchronous</i> Session	
Midterm Essay due October 11th by NOON		
Informant Group Proposals		
10/13	CANVAS: Asynchronous Group Work	Paper Due 10/18
10/15	ZOOM: <i>Synchronous</i> Session	
Stories from the Field		
10/20	ZOOM: <i>Synchronous</i> Session *Guest Anthropologist*	Paper Due 10/25
10/22	ZOOM: <i>Synchronous</i> Session *Guest Anthropologist*	
Comment Maps		
10/27	CANVAS: Asynchronous Group Work	
10/29	CANVAS: Asynchronous Group Work	
Themes		
11/3	ZOOM: <i>Synchronous</i> Session	Paper Due 11/8
11/5	ZOOM: <i>Synchronous</i> Session	
Workshopping Research Question		
11/10	CANVAS: <i>Synchronous</i> Group Work	
11/12	ZOOM: <i>Synchronous</i> Session	
Peer Reviews		
11/17	CANVAS: Asynchronous Group Work	Paper Due 11/22
11/19	ZOOM: <i>Synchronous</i> Session	
11/24	<i>No Class</i>	
11/26	<i>No Class</i>	
Conferences		
12/1	ZOOM: <i>Synchronous</i> Session	
12/3	ZOOM: <i>Synchronous</i> Session	
Final Essay due December 10th by NOON		

*Asynchronous and Synchronous activity is subject to change with 48hours notice.
Refer to CANVAS modules for required readings.

Resources

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

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

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.

Example: This course employs lecture capture technology to record class sessions. Students may occasionally appear on video. The lecture recordings will be available to you for study purposes and may also be reused in future course offerings.

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.

Getting and Giving Support

Eagle Dreamers

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

Black Lives Matter

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

Pride Alliance

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

Food Pantry

<https://deanofstudents.unt.edu/resources/food-pantry>

Voting

votedenton.com

COVID

Mask Pick-Up Locations

<https://healthalerts.unt.edu/mask-locations?unttoday=081720>

COVID Hotline

844-366-5892

COVID@unt.edu

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