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ANTY 431.01: Ethnographic Field Methods

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Anthropology 431: Ethnographic Field Methods

G.G. Weix

Office hours: TR 2:00-3:30 p.m. and by appointment

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Description

Socio-cultural anthropological methods, including observation, interviewing and narrative techniques and analysis of qualitative data. Students will be introduced to a range of ethnographic research skills and experiences by actively participating in data collection, management and analysis activities of an ethnographic project. The course provides training in ethics and research in a university context.

Goals and Learning Outcomes After successfully completing this course the student should be able to:

1. Conduct professional ethnographic research data collection procedures.
2. Recognize, evaluate and address ethical issues in anthropological research.
3. Perform primary data management procedures.
4. Conduct fundamental anthropological analyses.
5. Utilize basic field work technologies in data collection and analysis activities.

Learning Outcomes for Advanced Writing in the Major are:

- Identify and pursue more sophisticated questions for academic inquiry
- Find, evaluate, analyze, and synthesize information effectively from diverse sources
- Manage multiple perspectives as appropriate
- Recognize the purposes and needs of discipline-specific audiences and adopt the academic voice necessary for the chosen discipline
- Use multiple drafts, revision, and editing in conducting inquiry and preparing written work
- Follow the conventions of citation, documentation, and formal presentation appropriate to that discipline
- Develop competence in information technology and digital literacy

Prerequisites; ANTY 220S: Culture and Society, OR ANTY 401: Anthropological Data Analysis.

Students must provide documentation that they have successfully completed a web-based ethics training course. Go to the CITI: Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative

<https://www.citiprogram.org/> and create a username/password. If this is a new profile, one of the required fields asks about your "Role in human subjects research." Select the blank line at the top of the pick list. Respond to the appropriate discipline (social and behavioral science) under Question 5 regarding RCR. We will begin these training activities in class.

Requirements

Undergraduates Assignments, Homework writing activities & field exercises (600 points) Portfolio (400 points).

Graduates Assignments, activities & field exercises (60%)_Portfolio (20%)_Methodology paper (20%)

Final cumulative grades will be based upon the point totals for each of the requirements outlined above. Plus/minus grades for this course may be given at the discretion of the instructor.

Assignments, activities & field exercises

Over the course of the semester students will complete activities and field exercises that focus on developing specific ethnographic research skills. These assignments will form the basis of undergraduate student portfolios. Students are expected to attend class on a regular basis and to participate in class activities and discussions.

Portfolio Students will complete a portfolio that documents their learning process. This portfolio will consist of two primary components: 1) a written reflective analysis or narrative that describes the student's learning; and

2) evidence or documentation of learning in the form of short assignments, activities and field exercises from the course that the student determines best exemplify this process. The portfolio narrative should explicitly address course goals and learning outcomes. Portfolios should be submitted bound in a folder or three-ring binder. Note: Please keep copies of all of your assignments so that you can use them to create your portfolio.

UG Graduate Supplement Graduate students will be required to complete a 12-15 page long (3000-3750 words) methodology paper. More detailed guidelines for this paper will be provided.

Policies Hard copies and paper formats. Unless explicitly noted, all written assignments must be turned in as hard copies – electronic submissions will not be accepted. All written assignments should be typed, double-spaced in 12-point Arial or Times font with 1 inch margins.

Adds, drops, grade changes University policies on drops, adds, changes of grade option, or change to audit status will be strictly enforced. These policies are described in the current catalog. This is a traditional letter grade course. No Pass\Fail option is allowed.

Electronic devices Cell phones and electronic devices should be turned off for the duration of class.

Professional courtesy Please be on time for class. Tardiness and/or irregular attendance will result in a lower grade.

Extra credit There are no extra credit assignments offered in this course.

Accessibility University policy states that it is the responsibility of students with documented disabilities to contact instructors during the first week of the semester to discuss appropriate accommodations to ensure equity in grading, classroom experiences, and outside assignments. The instructor will work with the student and the staff of the Disability Services for Students (DSS) to make accommodations. Please contact DSS (243.2373) for more information.

Email Please conduct any email communications with me through your UM account.

Late assignments Late assignments are generally not accepted.

Code of conduct All students need to be familiar with the Student Conduct Code. The code is available for review online at http://www.umt.edu/vpsa/policies/student_conduct.php.

Return of course materials Course assignments including research papers and portfolios will not be returned. If you want copies of these materials please make yourself duplicates.

Class Format Lecture & discussion In general, the first portion of each class period will be devoted to presentation and in-class discussion. Students are expected to have completed the reading assignments prior to class and to be prepared to discuss them.

Required Textbooks Fieldworking (third edition) Bonnie Stone Sunstein and Elizabeth Chiseri Stater

Course Supplement A web-based supplement for this class is available on Moodle:

<http://umonline.umt.edu/>.

Technical support is provided at: <http://umonline.umt.edu/techsupport/helpdesk.aspx>.