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ANTY 402.01: Quantitative Ethnographic Field Methods

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Quantitative Ethnographic Field Methods

Anthropology 402
Monday 1:10 - 4:00
Fall 2013

Kimber Haddix McKay, Professor

213 Social Sciences
Office hours: Tues 9:10-12:00
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Community Mapping and Ranking Exercises

Course Description:

Anthropology 402 is a course designed to enhance the participants' understanding of important field methods that generate quantitative data describing human behavior. The toolkit of a student completing this course will include knowledge of basic methods that will get you from observing behavior to discussing your research and findings in a professional manner in oral or written formats. You will study how to derive questions from existing literature, how to aim for specific professional outcomes such as the generation of a professional talk, poster, or paper, and the steps required along the way to get you to those outcomes. Survey design, identification of critical variables to define, predicting required analyses of those variables, identifying the statistical tests you will have to use, and making sure your data are measured appropriately for those tests will be taught in this class.

The class will include components on fieldnote organization, designing and managing databases, measuring socio-economic status in traditional (not income-based) settings, conducting censuses, recording genealogies, mapping communities, anthropometric methods, basic GIS methods and applications, standard participatory rural appraisal tools including mapping, pile sorting, ranking exercises, tools to help recall of past events in non literate societies, organizing community meetings, and triangulating data sources, survey of available statistical and database management software.

Readings:

Bernard, R. Research Methods in Anthropology: Qualitative and Quantitative Approaches, Fifth Edition, Altamira Press, 2011.

Papers and chapters posted on Moodle.

Requirements:

- Class participation (and thus attendance) is mandatory. I expect you to have read the assigned readings prior to the class for which they are assigned, and to be prepared to discuss them with your peers. Making a few notes to yourself before class about points you find interesting in the readings will help tremendously. Several times during the semester, your participation and preparation for class will be evaluated with discussions, problem solving activities, or data collecting or analysis. Keep in mind that if you miss a class, you may not make up missed class work or attendance, which ultimately lowers your grade.
- There will be three non-cumulative midterm exams and a cumulative final exam. These will be take-home in format, 5-7 pages in length, and will be reviewed in class by your peers. Based on self- and peer-review in class, you will revise your essay before turning in the final draft. Your exams will be evaluated on the following basis:
 - Extent of documentation of your argument, proper citation of sources (using a citation format consistent with a professional academic journal of your choosing).
 - Quality of your thesis statement and relevance to the assigned question.
 - Clarity of the argument you present supporting your thesis statement.
 - Relevance of your argument to assigned readings, methodological needs in anthropological research, and your assessment of the utility and usage of particular methods in the readings you cite.
- Your final grade will be calculated on the basis of attendance, class participation in discussions, your presentation of at least one assignment of extra material that you find via google scholar, jstor or another relevant academic search engine, and your grades **on three of the four essay exams**. If you are satisfied with your grades on the three midterms, you can skip the final exam.
- Distribution of course grade:

| | |
|--|------------|
| Three essay exams | 75% |
| Attendance, participation, in-class presentations/work | <u>25%</u> |
| Total | 100% |
- Additional information:
 - Please feel free to come to my office hours, or to catch me before or after class with questions. You can also schedule an appointment to meet outside of office hours.
 - Make-up essay exams – only with a documented health issue or with prior permission. If you cannot turn in either draft of an exam on time, you must tell me before the due date that you will be absent, and (in the case of a first draft due date) what your alternative arrangement with your grading partner is.
 - If you're taking this class pass/no pass, a pass > 69%.
- Graduate students will produce the methods section of their thesis or grant proposal in this class, as one of the three primary writing assignments/exams.

Schedule:

| Week/Date | Topic | Reading/Notes |
|----------------------------|---|--|
| 1 Aug 26 | Introduction | |
| 2 Sept 2 | Labor Day | |
| 3 Sept 9 | Posing the right questions | Bernard 2005: Chpts 1-3 |
| 4 Sept 16 | Cross sectional, longitudinal, retrospective & prospective projects and other concerns | Readings on Moodle |
| 5 Sept 23 | Identifying independent and dependent variables, predicting analyses and statistical tests required, survey design First essay exam due for review in class | Bernard 2005: Chpts 4-5 |
| 6 Sept 30 | Organizing your fieldnotes before they are written, management of databases in the field Turn revised first essay exam in to KHM | Bernard 2005: Chpt 14 Readings on Moodle |
| 7 Oct 7 | Censuses and Genealogies | Readings on Moodle |
| 8 Oct 14 | Mapping villages and fields and GIS applications | Readings on Moodle |
| 9 Oct 21 | Measuring SES Second essay exam due for review in class | Bernard 2005: Chpt 8, 11 Readings on Moodle |
| 10 Oct 28 | Anthropometry | Readings on Moodle |

Turn revised second essay exam in to KHM

11
Nov 4 Anthropometry Readings on Moodle

12
Nov 11 Veterans Day

13
Nov 18 PRA – Participatory Rural Appraisal Methods Readings on Moodle

Third essay exam due for review in class
(Grad students: This will be a draft of the methods chapter of your thesis)

Revised third essay exam due this week.

14
Nov 25 PRA – Participatory Rural Appraisal Methods Readings on Moodle

15
Dec 2 Database management and stats software packages Readings on Moodle

16
Dec 9 Tuesday: Optional in-class final exam 1:10-3:10 Evaluations and catch-up

DRAFT/ SUBJECT TO CHANGE