

ANTH 3345: Introduction to Ethnographic Methods

Professor:

Dr. Maryann R. Cairns

Office hours Monday 2-3 and 5-6 and by appointment, Heroy Hall 402

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Course Location & Time:

Harold Simmons Hall 117 M/W from 3:00PM-4:50PM

Brief Course Description:

This course is a hands-on introduction to the methods anthropologists use to collect ethnographic data. We examine a variety of research strategies ranging from interviewing to the use of visual materials and participant observation. The course will take up the question of who and what is the subject of anthropological research. Furthermore, it will ask us to reflect on the ethical questions that arise from the way anthropologists insert themselves in the lives of others and represent them.

By the end of the course, students will have learned:

- 1 How to ask a research question
- 2 How to design a feasible project
- 3 How to collect data
- 4 How to turn that data into ethnographic writing

What to expect: In-person sessions consist of lectures and in-class workshops. Films and other media are often shown/utilized during the main class to reinforce course themes. Lectures are meant to offer depth and breadth to your readings—they are NOT summaries. Attendance is tracked and graded.

Student Learning Objectives:

Information Literacy Student Learning Outcomes:

1. Students will select and use the appropriate research methods and search tools for needed information.
2. Students will evaluate sources for quality of information for a given information need.

Writing Student Learning Outcome:

1. Through multiple opportunities supervised and/or directed by a professor, an editor or other authority, students will demonstrate proper use of language through completion of a substantial amount of purposeful writing appropriate for a specific or targeted audience.

Required Texts and Readings:

Cohen, Jeffrey. 2015. Eating Soup without a Spoon: Anthropological Theory and Method in the Real World. University of Texas Press. "ESS" in Calendar
Bernard, Russell et al. 2017. Research Methods in Anthropology. Rowman and Littlefield. *"RMA" in Calendar



Gmelch, George and Sharon Bhon Gmelch. 2018. In the Field: Life and Work in Anthropology. University of California Press. "ITF" in Calendar

*Other readings assigned on CANVAS

For your convenience, the texts have been ordered through the SMU Bookstore and will be available through Fondren Library Reserves. The books are also available at many other retailers. It is the student's responsibility to acquire the texts. Students should have their books in hand by no later than the 2nd week of class.

Assignment Summary and Grading Scale:

Assignment Summary:

Assignments (6)	60 percent
Final Proposal	25 percent
Attendance and Participation	15 percent
	100 percent

Grading Scale:

A: 92.50-100

A-: 90-92.49

B+: 87.50-89.99

B: 82.50-87.49

B-: 80-82.49

C+: 77.50-79.99

C: 72.50-77.49

C-: 70-72.49

D+: 67.50-69.99

D: 62.50-67.49

D-: 60-62.49

F: 00-59.99

Grading scale is non-negotiable. Do not ask for a change in your grade.

Brief Requirement Overviews (*Students are responsible for reading and understanding all assignment details in Canvas, as well as following the course schedule*).

1. **Assignments** (60%) (6 at 10% Each) are given throughout the semester to offer experiential learning to students related to course themes. Prompts will be on canvas, and the assignments are due via canvas by the start of class on the day they are due.

2. **Attendance and Participation** (15%) –both are key to this course. Attendance & participation is graded as pass/fail (10%), and additional engagement is graded through pop facilitation (5%). Pop facilitators will be chosen at random (# of days facilitating per student will vary based on final course enrollment). For attendance & general participation, a passing grade requires true engagement, participation, and the student's sharing of critical insights on the material. For a reference guide on critical thinking visit: <https://www.criticalthinking.org/store/products/the-miniature-guide-to-critical-thinking-concepts-amp-tools-7th-edition/156>. Pop facilitators will work with me to ensure that we have a successful course period, and will be particularly responsible for the day's material. All students must come to class with an outside example, a particularly insightful question or short set of questions, or other "extra" component to be ready for pop facilitation and will submit their content if they are called that day (get creative—drawing, podcast, blog post, etc.) If you have questions about how to improve your participation grade, speak to Dr. Cairns. If you are concerned about your ability to verbally participate in course discussions contact DASS or the Dean of Students to discuss resources available to you and/or options for trainings improve your oral presentation skills. Note that this course follows the **Dedman College Attendance Policy**: "If you have more than three unexcused absences in a MWF section or two in a TTH section, your grade will suffer a penalty of up to a full letter grade. And if you have more than six unexcused MWF absences or four in a TTH class, you should expect to fail the course."

3. **Research Proposal** (25%): You will submit a research proposal toward the end of class for an ethnographic research project of your own design, based on your own interests. The proposal will consist of the following (all single-spaced):

1. a project summary (1/2 pg.)
2. a project description (5 pgs. inclusive of figures, 2 figures/tables max)
3. a budget and budget justification (1 pg.)
4. a data management plan (1 pg.)
5. a bibliography (no pg. limit, 10 academic sources minimum)
6. a Curriculum Vitae (1 pg.)
7. an appendix with sample questions for the research you're conducting (1 pg.)

Proposals that exceed the page requirements will not be accepted. All of the above documents will be submitted as a single PDF document. See canvas for full details.

*You are required to complete a peer-review of a fellow student's project, and there will be a workshop day in class to address this. You will need to submit full comments via Canvas.

More Important Information:

Powerpoints will not be shared unless there is a clear need that is communicated through DASS (shared in whatever way requested by the DASS office) or in the case of an excused absence, at which point they will only be shared in office hours or by appointment.

Readings assigned should always be completed before class meetings.

Canvas: this course relies on your use of Canvas. The professor will communicate with you through Canvas and/or email. You will be responsible for any and all information communicated

to you through canvas and email. You will need to access canvas for readings, assignments, etc. All registered students have access to Canvas.

Tips for doing well in this course:

1. Come to every class.
2. Always do the readings.
3. Make use of interactions with your fellow students—discussion, study group participation, and cooperation is encouraged.
4. Ask questions.
5. Come by the professor's office hours.

Course Policies:

Policy for late, makeup, or missed work: Assignments and Proposals will be marked down 25% for each day that they are late (0.01-24 hrs late = 75% credit, 24.01-48 hrs late= 50% credit, 48.01-72 hrs late = 25% credit). If the assignment is more than 72 hrs late it will not be graded (students will receive a 0 (zero)). Makeup work will be given at the discretion of the instructor and only if the absence is excused.

Missed Classes: Students are expected to self-start and gather notes and materials from classmates for any missed classes, excused or unexcused. The professor will offer assistance during office hours (review of Powerpoints, etc.) in the event that a student has an excused absence.

Back-up copies: It is the student's responsibility to maintain: (1) a backup copy, and (2) a printout or screenshot of the 'Properties' page which shows the production date and size of any document. In the event of lost documents, the student can produce these to avoid late penalties.

Southern Methodist University Code on Academic Integrity:

Cheating, plagiarism, academic sabotage, fabrication, and facilitating academic dishonesty are violations of the SMU Honor Code

(http://smu.edu/studentlife/studenthandbook/PCL_05_HC.asp) and will not be tolerated. Any detected case of plagiarism or of cheating on any assignment or exam will result in a score of zero for that grade category, and will automatically result in the submission of a Faculty Disposition form to the Honor Council. The instructor may utilize plagiarism detection software through Canvas and request students submit their assignments through that software.

Disability Accommodations: Students needing academic accommodations for a disability must first register with Disability Accommodations & Success Strategies (DASS). Students can call 214-768-1470 or visit <http://www.smu.edu/Provost/ALEC/DASS> to begin the process. Once registered, students should then schedule an appointment with the professor as early in the semester as possible, present a DASS Accommodation Letter, and make appropriate arrangements. Please note that accommodations are not retroactive and require advance notice to implement.

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Religious Observance: Religiously observant students wishing to be absent on holidays that require missing class should notify their professors in writing at the beginning of the semester, and should discuss with them, in advance, acceptable ways of making up any work missed because of the absence. ([See University Policy No. 1.9](#))

Excused Absences for University Extracurricular Activities: Students participating in an officially sanctioned, scheduled University extracurricular activity should be given the opportunity to make up class assignments or other graded assignments missed as a result of their participation. It is the responsibility of the student to make arrangements with the instructor prior to any missed scheduled examination or other missed assignment for making up the work. (See [2018-2019 University Undergraduate Catalogue](#))

Other Excused Absences: Excused absences require a doctor's note or notice from the Dean of Students. Please provide these electronically (scan/photo via email) to the instructor, Ccing your TA for your discussion section.

"Campus Carry": In accordance with Texas Senate Bill 11, also known as the "campus carry" law, following consultation with entire University community SMU determined to remain a weapons-free campus. Specifically, SMU prohibits possession of weapons (either openly or in a concealed manner) on campus. For more information, please see: http://www.smu.edu/BusinessFinance/Police/Weapons_Policy."

Questions regarding graded tasks: Students are expected to communicate with the instructor/TA if there are any questions or comments about graded discussions, assignments, activities, or expectations at least 1 week before the assignment/task is due. Do not leave these questions to the last minute.

Missing class for an excused or unexcused reason?: Email you professor as soon as you are able to alert her to the absence.

Email etiquette: Do not expect the instructor to email responses to student questions outside of the work week or day (M-F 9-5). Please leave at least 48 hours for a response via email from the professor (exception: see above for questions regarding graded tasks, which should be emailed at least 1 week ahead). If after 48 hours (occurring during the work week) you have not yet heard back, please feel free to send follow-up email as your request may have been missed.

Cell Phones/Computers: Can be used for course purposes. Please silence phones. If you are distracting others from their work/hearing the lecture because of your devices, you may be asked to leave the classroom with impact to the day's attendance grade.

Assignment Format: Most assignments will be submitted electronically. The student's name, the title of the assignment, a word count, and the date should appear at the top of the page.

Changes to Syllabus: Your instructor reserves the right to change, add to, and/or edit the syllabus and course schedule as needed.

Extra Credit: Is not offered in this course.

Further (Courtesy) Information on Some Key University Resources:

Confidential Resources on Campus:

Counseling Center: **SMU Counseling Services** provides confidential counseling and assistance from counselors. Call 214-768-2277; an emergency contact number is provided at all hours.

<https://www.smu.edu/StudentAffairs/HealthCenter/Counseling>

Chaplain's Office: The **SMU Chaplain's Office** also provides confidential counseling; call 214-768-4502. <https://www.smu.edu/StudentAffairs/chaplain>

*Note, your professor is not a confidential resource.

Title IX:

For questions or concerns regarding Title IX and sexual violence, please contact Samantha Thomas, the [Title IX Coordinator](#) in IAE. To file a complaint or make a report of Title IX harassment including all forms of sexual misconduct and sexual violence, please complete the [Title IX Harassment Complaint Form](#) and submit it to IAE at accessequity@smu.edu or in Perkins Administration Building, Room 204.

General website for Title IX: <https://www.smu.edu/iae>

How to Get Help: <https://www.smu.edu/SexualMisconduct/Get-Help>

A-LEC Tutoring:

The A-LEC's tutoring program provides interactive tutoring in a dynamic and comfortable environment. At SMU, students see tutoring as a resource for all students, not just for those who find themselves in academic trouble. A-LEC tutoring is designed to complement and support students' direct contact with their professors. <https://www.smu.edu/Provost/ALEC/Tutoring>

Writing Center:

The Writing Center is a resource for all SMU undergraduates who need help with a writing—or reading—project of any kind. <https://www.smu.edu/Provost/ALEC/WritingCenter>

Dean of Students Office:

The Office of the Dean of Students is one of the primary areas within the Division of Student Affairs at SMU. This office oversees departments that provide essential services, support and programs to students, faculty, staff, and the University as a whole.

<https://www.smu.edu/StudentAffairs/studentlife>

*Many more resources can be found at SMU. This list of resources is not meant to be exhaustive, nor can the professor promise the most up-to-date information about SMU services/resources as this syllabus is only updated when necessary for course content. The list is simply a courtesy meant to help students become more aware of the services available to them.

Course Schedule:

Week/Day	Date	Content	Reading Assignments	Due
Module 1	1.22.20	Welcome/Introductory Lecture What is Anthropology?	[Purchase Textbooks]	-
Module 2	1.27.20	Science/Humanism Qualitative/Quantitative Inductive/Deductive	<i>Optional:</i> RMA Ch. 1	
Module 3	1.29.20	Ethnographic Beginnings	ITF Chs 1 and 2 ESS Ch 1 <i>Optional: Geertz "Notes on Balinese"</i>	Pop Facilitators Begin...
Module 4	02.3.20	Participant Observation & Fieldnotes	RMA Ch 12 pgs. 272-280 (stop at "Rapid Assessment), and pgs. 286-301 (stop at "stages of participant observation heading) RMA Ch 13 pgs. 308-316 ESS Ch 4 pgs. 90-95 (Section on Participant Observation)	
Module 5	2.05.20	Ethnographic Fieldwork	- ESS Ch 2 Akhil et al. "The Field" <i>Optional:</i> Geertz "From the native's point of view" and Passaro's "You can't take the subway",	
Module 6	2.10.20	Workshop: Participant Observation, Fieldnotes, and how to think like an Anthropologist		Assignment 1: Participant Observation
Module 7	2.12.20	Ethics & Human Subjects/Data Management	AAA Statement on Ethics ITF Ch. 6 Bourgois 2007 "Confronting"	
Module 8	2.17.20	Workshop: Ethical Quandaries in Anthro, Considering Who, What and How	Guest Speaker: Laura Hamilton	Assignment 2: CITI Training & Reflection
Module 9	2.19.20	Interviews	RMA Ch 8 pgs. 163-179 (stop at "Focus Groups" subheading) ESS Ch 4	-

Module 10	2.24.20	Focus Groups, Life Histories, Kinship	RMA Ch 8 pgs. 179-194, Kath "Families we Choose"	-
Module 10B	2.26.20	More on Interviewing, Transcription	Pre-Workshop Discussion	
Module 11	3.2.20	Workshop: Interviews	-	Assignment 3: Interview
Module 12	3.4.20	Coding & Qualitative Analysis	RMA Ch. 19 pg. 459-476 ESS Ch 5	
Module 13	3.09.20	Space & Place/Mapping	*TBD Tailored to Class Interests	
Module 14	3.11.20	Workshop: Mapping, Hacking and Data	*TBD Tailored to Class Interests	Assignment 4: Participatory Map
Module 15	3.16.20	NO CLASS	SPRING BREAK	-
Module 16	3.18.20	NO CLASS	SPRING BREAK	-
Module 17	3.23.20	A deep dive into Self, Research, and Critical inquiry	ITF Ch 10 ITF Ch 12	Final Proposal Topics <i>Tentative</i>
Module 18	3.25.20	Images & Film	ITF Ch. 9	-
Module 20	3.30.20	Workshop: Photovoice and Visual Methods	-	Assignment 5: Photovoice
Module 21	4.01.20	Ethnographic Writing	Behar "The Vulnerable Observer" ESS Ch. 7	-
Module 22	4.06.20	Surveys	RMA Ch 9 pgs. 195-217 (stop at "The Response Rate Problem" subheading)	
Module 23	4.08.20	Virtual Ethnography	Boellsdorff "Coming of Age" and "Ethnography and Virtual Worlds" + Links on CANVAS	
Module 24	4.13.20	NO IN-CLASS SESSION: Virtual Ethnography Virtual Workshop (Discussion Board)	*Think through your own Virtual Interactions*	Assignment 6: Ethnography of online Worlds
Module 25	4.15.20	Project, Theory, Literature	ITF Ch 7 RMA Ch. 3 pgs. 54-62 (Stop at "Theory" subheading) and pgs. 76-82 (full section on literature review)	(lit review prep in class) *Final Proposal Topics SOLID
Module 26	4.20.20	Sampling & Budgeting	RMA Ch. 5 pgs. 115-125 (stop at "Maximizing Between-group" subheading) and RMA Ch. 7	(study design/budget prep in class)
Module 27	4.22.20	Reaching your Audience/	AAAS Communication Strategies Link	(project summary &

		Communication	*TBD Tailored to Class Interests	<i>individual bio prep in class)</i>
Module 28	4.27.20	NO IN-CLASS SESSION	Optional consultations on research proposal available by appointment during course period.	Proposal Due for Peer-Review
Module 29	4.29.20	Peer-Review Workshop	Peer-Review In-Class	Peer-Review Due Back to your Colleagues
Module 30	5.04.20	Wrap-up/Applying Anthropology/What is life as an anthropologist like?	ITF Ch 5 Links on CANVAS	Final Proposal Due
FINAL EXAM	5.14.19	NO FINAL EXAM	Appointments to discuss proposal available by appointment.	

*all TBD/current events readings will be approximately the same length as your usual reading loads.

NOTE: this calendar is subject to change, students are responsible for keeping apprised of any changes through CANVAS