



## **DEPARTMENT OF ANTHROPOLOGY**

### **ETHNOGRAPHIC FIELD METHODS**

**ANTH3015**

**WINTER 2017**

#### **GENERAL INFORMATION**

Course Instructor: Saul Cohen  
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Lecture: TBD, OA 2010  
Office: OA 3008x, Desk 5  
Office Hours: TBD, or by appointment  
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#### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

Anthropology, in its unique attempt to make sense of the human condition, requires a unique research methodology. This methodology is the ethnographic approach in which the anthropologist immerses herself in the social space under study. These spaces (or fieldsites) are the locations in which people interact and can be as diverse as a village, a corporation, a slum, a hospital, an on-line community or a university. The seeming straightforward nature of ethnographic research is complicated by the unpredictable and multifaceted nature of the fieldsite and the people under study and the ongoing ethical and methodological complications of the process. It takes preparation, planning, patience, flexibility and resilience.

This course builds on the concepts and skills taught in ANTH2517 Engaging Ethnography by asking students to conduct their own research study. Students will choose a topic, obtain ethics approval, write a research proposal, conduct research and write-up and present their findings to the current ANTH2517 Engaging Ethnography class. Students will also participate in their classmate's ethnographic process by peer-reviewing their work throughout the ethnographic process. By the end of the course: students will have strong a good grasp of the theoretical foundations of ethnographic research; better understand anthropological methods; have experience conducting fieldwork, analyzing results and writing up their findings; and experience first-hand the reward, promise and limitations of ethnography to better understand humanity and our worlds.

#### **COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING**

1. Fieldsite proposal (10% = 6% + 4% peer review of classmates' fieldsite proposals)
2. Research proposal (15% = 9% + 6% peer review of classmates' research proposals)
3. Ethics proposal (10% = 6% + 4% peer review of classmates' ethics proposals)
4. Ongoing literature review (15%)
5. Fieldwork notes and analysis (10%)
6. Presentation (10% = 6% + 4% peer review of classmates presentation outline and practice session)
7. Write-up (30%)

## COURSE POLICIES

### 1. Course Conduct

The sensitive nature of ethnographic research requires that the student is held to the highest professional and ethical standards. While conducting fieldwork and presenting their findings students are not only representing themselves but also the professor, the Department of Anthropology and Lakehead University. Therefore, students need to be consistent in their effort throughout the semester, meet with the professor throughout, and take the process seriously. Students that are unable to commit to the course in this manner or are unable to complete all aspects of the process outlined above should not enroll. As there are no tests, exams or other assignments and most of the course readings are specific to your project, students are expected to commit a significant amount of time to completing their ethnographic studies.

### 2. Assignment submission and late penalties

There are no late marks in this class as students are expected to keep to the schedule outlined below. Due to the short nature of the semester falling behind on one aspect will seriously compromise your ability to complete the rest. Students that have not conducted sufficient fieldwork will not be able to pass the course.

### 3. Mandatory Meeting with Prof

Throughout the semester you are free to meet with the professor as often as you like but students are **required to** meet with the professor every two weeks so he can assist you and ensure your efficient and effective progress.

## COURSE WEBPAGE

Throughout the academic year, information pertaining to the course will be posted by the instructor on the course website (Desire2Learn). Course announcements, syllabi, assignment guidelines, exam information and supplementary readings will be available on the course webpage. Any important announcements, including changes in due dates will be announced in-class and posted on Desire2Learn. **Please set D2L so you are notified via email when an announcement is posted.**

## STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Student Accessibility Services (SAS) (Thunder Bay) and Student Affairs (Orillia) coordinate services and facilitates reasonable academic accommodations for students with disabilities. Academic accommodations are provided on the basis of documentation of a disability. Additional information is available at the following campus websites: Orillia: <http://orillia.lakeheadu.ca/about-us--orillia-student-affairs/>

## ACADEMIC DISHONESTY

The University takes a most serious view of offences against academic honesty such as plagiarism, cheating and impersonation. Penalties for dealing with such offences will be strictly enforced. A copy of the "Code of Student Behaviour and Disciplinary Procedures" including sections on plagiarism and other forms of misconduct may be obtained from the Office of the Registrar.

The following rules shall govern the treatment of candidates who have been found guilty of attempting to obtain academic credit dishonestly.

- (a) The minimum penalty for a candidate found guilty of plagiarism, or of cheating on any part of a course will be a zero for the work concerned.
- (b) A candidate found guilty of cheating on a formal examination or a test, or of serious or repeated plagiarism, or of unofficially obtaining a copy of an examination paper before the examination is scheduled to be written, will receive zero for the course and may be expelled from the University.

Students disciplined under the Code of Student Behaviour and Disciplinary Procedures may appeal their case through the Judicial Panel.

Note: "Plagiarism" shall be deemed to include:

1. Plagiarism of ideas as where an idea of an author or speaker is incorporated into the body of an assignment as though it were the writer's idea, i.e. no credit is given the person through referencing or footnoting or endnoting.
2. Plagiarism of words occurs when phrases, sentences, tables or illustrations of an author or speaker are incorporated into the body of a writer's own, i.e. no quotations or indentations (depending on the format followed) are present but referencing or footnoting or endnoting is given.
3. Plagiarism of ideas and words as where words and an idea(s) of an author or speaker are incorporated into the body of a written assignment as though they were the writer's own words and ideas, i.e. no quotations or indentations (depending on format followed) are present and no referencing or footnoting or endnoting is given. A listing of University Regulations can be found at:

<http://calendar.lakeheadu.ca/current/contents/regulations/univregsintro.html>

The code of student behaviour and disciplinary procedures: <http://policies.lakeheadu.ca/policy.php?pid=60>

#### **MISSED EXAMS**

Make-up examinations will only be given with written documentation from a healthcare practitioner using the official Student Health Certificate, available at

<http://registrar.lakeheadu.ca/uploads/docs/F.HealthCertificate.pdf>.

Final examinations run from April 10-13, 15, 18-23, 2017 (Easter Weekend is not included) Exam Contingency Date is Monday, April 24, 2017 There will be no rescheduling of examinations to accommodate holiday travel.

Week	Lecture/Seminar Topic (Friday)	Fieldwork Activity (Wednesday)	Weekly Assignment	On-Line Activity
1	<u>Course Introduction and Overview</u>		<u>Fieldsite Proposal</u>  <i>Students brainstorm 2 -3 potential fieldsites on which to base their research proposal.</i>	<u>Fieldsite Proposal Peer Review</u>  <i>Students are required to read and comment on their peers' fieldsite proposal.</i>
2	<u>Writing a Research Proposal</u>	<u>Research Consultation</u>  <i>Students will attend a specially designed library research consultation with the Chris Tomasini to assist them in the literature review section of their research proposal.</i>  <u>Ethics Training</u>  <i>Students are required to complete ethics training available through the online TCPS:</i> <a href="http://tcps2core.ca/welcome">http://tcps2core.ca/welcome</a>	<u>Research proposal (Draft 1)</u>  <i>This assignment gives the student the opportunity to imagine the technical requirements of a research project (how they will conduct an ethnographic study) and its complications (what might happen). It is a draft, therefore they do not have to have everything worked out. It can be somewhat messy and open-ended.</i>  <u>Ethics proposal (Draft 1)</u>  <i>Students submit a draft of the Research Ethics Board to the class.</i>	<u>Research Proposal Peer Review</u>  <i>Students are required to read, comment on, and edit their peers' research proposal drafts.</i>  <u>Ethics Peer Review</u>  <i>Students are required to read and comment on their peers' ethics proposal drafts.</i>

3	<u>Writing an Ethics proposal</u>  <i>(Potential in-class or on-line visit by member of the Research Ethics Board)</i>	<u>One-on-One Meeting with Prof</u>  <i>Students will each meet individually with the professor to discuss their first drafts of their research proposal and REB application.</i>	<u>Research Proposal (Final Draft)</u>  <u>REB Ethics Application (Final Draft)</u>	
4	<u>Conducting Participant Observation and Notetaking</u>	<u>Site Visits</u>  <i>Students will make a preliminary visit to their prospective field site.</i>  <u>One-on-One Meeting with Prof</u>  <i>Students will each meet individually with the professor to discuss their fieldsite visits.</i>		<u>Site Visit Peer Review</u>  <i>Students are required to read and edit their peers' site visit description and commentary.</i>
5	<u>Conducting Interviews</u>	<u>Practice Interview</u>  <i>Students will conduct a practice interview with a friend/family member.</i>		<u>Interview Peer Review</u>  <i>Students are required to read and edit their peers' transcription of their interview and discuss their respective experiences.</i>
6	<u>Transcribing Fieldnotes</u>	<u>Fieldwork</u>  <i>Students being their fieldwork.</i>		

Reading Week		<u>Fieldwork/Interviews</u>  <i>Students continue their fieldwork and begin interviews.</i>	<u>Transcribed Fieldnotes and Interviews (Set #1)</u>  <i>Students transcribe all fieldnotes to date and submit them to the professor.</i>	
7	<u>Analysing Fieldnotes</u>	<u>Fieldwork/Interviews</u>  <u>One-on-One Meeting with Prof</u>  <i>Students meet with the professor to discuss fieldwork process.</i>		<u>Fieldwork Experience Peer Review</u>  <i>Students are required to read and comment on their peers' fieldwork experiences.</i>
8	<u>Writing up</u>	<u>Fieldwork/Interviews</u>  <u>Exercise Library training</u>  <i>Students will attend a specially designed library research consultation with the Chris Tomasini to assist them in the literature review section of their ethnography.</i>	<u>Transcribed Fieldnotes and Interviews (Set #2)</u>	
9	<u>Presenting Your Findings</u>	<u>Fieldwork/Interviews</u>	<u>Ethnography (Draft #1)</u>	<u>Ethnography Peer Review</u>  <i>Students are required to read, comment on, and edit their peers' ethnographies.</i>

10	<u>In-Class Peer Editing and Writing</u>	<u>One-on-One Meeting with Prof</u>  <i>Students will each meet individually with the professor to discuss their first drafts of their ethnographies.</i>  <u>Transcribe/Analysis/Write-Up</u>  <u>Writing Centre Appointment</u>  <i>All students are required to book an appointment with a Writing Coach from the Academic Support Zone</i> <i>(haley.doherty@lakeheadu.ca)</i>		
11	<u>In-Class Peer Editing and Writing</u>	<u>Write-Up</u>  <u>One-on-One Meeting with Prof</u>  <i>Students will each meet individually with the professor to discuss their presentations.</i>	<u>Ethnography (Final Draft)</u>	<u>Presentation Peer Review</u>  <i>Students are required to read, comment on, and edit their peers' ethnographies.</i>
12	<u>Final Presentation of Ethnography</u>  <i>Students will present their findings to the department or to the ANTH2517 Engaging Ethnography class.</i>			