

Exploring Ethnography ANTH 2517
M/W 8:30-10 OA 2014

Instructor: Melinda Vandenberg Giles
Email: mvanden1@lakeheadu.ca

Expanded Course Description: This course will explore the various elements of doing ethnographic fieldwork beginning with a discussion of what ethnographic fieldwork is and what it involves. We will continue to explore the various dimensions and issues that arise while doing fieldwork (relationships in the field, positionality of researcher, ethics) in addition to different fieldwork methods (multi-sited, narrative/visual/virtual ethnography, applied). This is a seminar-based and participatory class where learning will occur through workshops and in-class assignments in addition to bi-weekly reading discussions.

Course Requirements:

Lissa: A Story about Medical Promise, Friendships, and Revolution

In-Class Essay: 25% **Feb. 5**

Midterm Exam: 30% **March 18**

Fieldwork journal and observations: 30% **March 23 (hard copy in lecture)**

Presentation: 15% **Final 2 weeks**

Evaluation:

All written assignments are to be double-spaced in 12 point Times New Roman font.

In-Class Essay: Essay question based on the Ethnographic graphic novel Lissa: A Story about Medical Promise, Friendships, and Revolution to be written during lecture on **Feb 5th**.

Midterm Exam: Cumulative midterm exam to be written during lecture on **March 18th**.

Fieldwork journal and observations: Part of doing fieldwork means learning how to observe, ask questions and listen. The first part of this assignment involves doing in-class interviews with your fellow students (and taking field notes of the process including your thoughts and observations). The second part involves doing an initial observation during lecture (again taking notes in your field journal). The third part involves doing a minimum of two more observational visits outside of lecture time and at a location of your choice. You will be expected to write notes for each observational visit and at the end of your observations, compile your field notes into a **5-7 page written report**. You are expected to submit both your fieldwork journal and the end

report. Keep in mind that the report must be positioned within the type of fieldwork you conducted, thereby providing the appropriate referenced literature (applied, multi-sited, narrative etc.). A minimum of 3 related academic references are required and please use AAA (American Anthropological Association) style. A hard copy of the journal and report are due in lecture on **March 23rd**.

Presentation: There will only be 2 group presentations (3 students per group) each class, giving each student approximately 10 minutes to present with some extra time for discussion and questions. Your groups will be based on the type of fieldwork you have chosen. Although each presentation will be a sharing of knowledge about your fieldwork experience and observations in your journal, you will be presenting the larger theoretical framework as a group. The presentation is worth 15%. **The presentation schedule will be determined during lecture on Jan 29th and posted on D2L.**

Required Texts:

Practicing Ethnography: A Student Guide to Method and Methodology. Edited by Lynda Mannik and Karen McKarry.

Lissa: A Story about Medical Promise, Friendships, and Revolution. Illustrated by Sarula Bao and Caroline Brewer and written by Sherine Hamdy and Coleman Nye.

Schedule of Topics and Readings:

WEEK 1: What Is Ethnographic Fieldwork?

Jan. 6 Introductions and Course Expectations
“Introduction”

Jan. 8 “The Origins and Development of Sociocultural Anthropological Fieldwork in North America”

WEEK 2: Participant Observation and Interviews

Jan. 13 “Participant Observation”

Jan. 15 In-Class Interviews

“Connecting with Others: Interviewing, Conversations, and Life Histories.”

WEEK 3: Ethics and Observations

Jan. 20 “Ethics and the Politics of Fieldwork”

Jan. 22 In-Class Observational Report

“How to Create Field Notes”

WEEK 4: Writing, Analyzing and the Politics of Representation

Jan 27 “After Fieldwork—Analyzing Data”

Jan 29 Establish Groups for Final Group Presentations

“Writing Up and the Politics of Representation”

WEEK 5: Medical Ethnography as Graphic Novel

Feb 3 Class Discussion of Lissa: A Story about Medical Promise, Friendships, and Revolution

Feb 5 **IN-CLASS ESSAY (25%):** Lissa: A Story about Medical Promise, Friendships, and Revolution

WEEK 6: Applied Anthropology and Autoethnography

Feb 10 “Applied Anthropology”

Feb 12 “Autoethnography: The Self and Other Revisited”

WEEK 7:	Visual and Virtual Ethnography
Feb 24	“Photo-Elicitation: Collaboration, Memory, and Emotion”
Feb 26	“Doing Research with and in Virtual Communities: Culture, Community, and the Internet”
WEEK 8:	Ethnographic Film
March 2	“Ethnographic Film as Ethnographic Method.”
March 4	Film: Cannibal Tours
WEEK 9	Narrative Ethnography
March 9	PDF “Narrative Ethnography”
March 11	PDF “Toronto Motels as Field Site: An Ethnographic Narrative Exploration.”
WEEK 10	Midterm Review
March 16	Class Time to Prepare Group Presentations and Midterm Review
March 18	MIDTERM (30%) Essay questions and short-answer based on all course material (lectures, film, and weekly readings including textbook and PDFs)
WEEK 11	Group Presentations (15%)
March 23	FIELDWORK JOURNAL DUE (30%) Hard Copy Due in Lecture Groups A and B
March 25	Groups C and D
WEEK 12	Group Presentations (15%)
March 30	Groups E and F
April 1	Groups G and H

Class Policies

D2L

I will be using D2L to post PDFs of course readings and announcements.

Missed Classes

Please do not email me regarding missed classes with the exception of the in-class essay and/or midterm exam in which case alternate arrangements can be made in emergency situations with appropriate documentation. It is your responsibility to arrange for notes to be taken by a fellow student for any missed lectures since the midterm is cumulative.

Policy on Extensions

Extensions will only be granted in emergency situations with appropriate documentation. Late assignments will be penalized 5% per day and you will receive 0% after 7 days unless prior arrangements have been made.

Academic Integrity

Academic dishonesty (for instance, plagiarism) is a serious offence. Please see the web site: <https://www.lakeheadu.ca/faculty-and-staff/policies/student-related/code-of-student-behaviour-and-disciplinary-procedures/node/1046>. Please keep in mind that I have zero tolerance for any forms of plagiarism.