# ANTH 2517 WA Exploring Ethnography Course Syllabus 1-2:30, Tuesday/Thursday

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Welcome to ANTH 2517! In this course, we are going to be developing anthropological fieldwork skills and understandings of how socio-cultural anthropologists gather data and write about culture while linking it to theory in the discipline. Ethnography is the study of one culture, while ethnology is the comparison of different cultures and the theory that is developed from such comparisons. We will touch on both in this course, but our focus is how socio-cultural anthropology is conducted, and thus we will discuss ethnography more.

#### **Learning Objectives**

- 1. Be able to discuss common and particular challenges of anthropological fieldwork
- 2. Recognize the contributions of several anthropologists to the development of ethnography as a research method as well as to the theoretical development of anthropology
- 3. Develop a greater understanding of, and engagement with, anthropological research and thought
- 4. Reflect on your position as an anthropologist and an encultured person
- 5. Gain anthropological research experiences through practising aspects of the ethnographic method including ethnographic content analysis, observation, interviewing, taking field notes, discussing, and presenting informally and formally

#### **Course Resources**

- 1. Barker, John. 2016. *Ancestral Lines*. Toronto: University of Toronto Press. Available at: <u>https://utorontopress.com/us/ancestral-lines-4</u>
- 2. Other readings and homework questions will be posted on mycourselink
- 3. Peers perhaps the best resource will be your peers. Our conversations will be greatly enriched by diversity. Respect each other and participate! It will help you in your learning evaluations and enrich your experience immensely.

#### **Learning Evaluations**

Ethics certification	submit as pre-condit	ion of course work
Discussion Posts		
Methods Reflection post and 2	2 responses	10%
Cultural Reflection post and 2	responses	10%
2 Other posts and 4 other responses 20%		20%
Participation in class		25%

Group Ethnography of digital communications

Progress meeting	10%
Report	15%
Peer assessment	5%
Presentation	5%

### **Ethics Certification**

All research involving human subjects is governed by a set of ethics. In Canada the Tri-Council Policy Statement on Ethical Conduct for Research involving humans is used (TCPS2).

35%

Review the presentation entitled "TCPS2...what does it mean for you" under internal resources on the LU research ethics and integrity website: <u>https://www.lakeheadu.ca/research-and-innovation/ethics/human-subjects/resources</u>.

Then follow the link to the Federal Government's TCPS2 tutorials

(<u>http://www.pre.ethics.gc.ca/eng/education/tutorial-didacticiel/</u>) and complete the tutorial. Download the certificate and submit a copy to the GA: <u>lgosse@lakeheadu.ca</u>, with your name in the subject line. Keep an electronic copy for yourself for future use as well.

### **Discussion Posts**

You will be graded on making 4 thoughtful contributions to the discussion board. Each must be 10-12 sentences long and reference at least 2 readings from class (full reference list won't be required, just the short in-text reference ie. Jones, 2020). The specific topics are given in more detail below.

You will be expected to make a response to 2 other posts by your classmates related to <u>each</u> of the first topics, as well as 4 more responses on 'free choice' topics (8 responses in total). These responses must be 4-6 sentences long and include at least 1 reference to a class reading that is <u>different</u> from the original post.

Posts should be up by Thursday at midnight and responses by Tuesday before class starts (at 1pm). The specific weeks these are to be posted are given in the calendar.

### 1. Methods Reflection Post (10%)

Using the material covered in class or homework, videos from Youtube or citations from readings, <u>discuss 3 key challenges in fieldwork and how different anthropologists overcame them</u>. For Youtube videos, cite the title, the url and the time so we can watch the same video. As a student of anthropology, what 2-3 things are you most concerned about regarding in-person field work? How might you overcome your anxiety? Do you have experience working or visiting another culture? What issues arose and how did you deal with them?

### 2 and 3 Discussion Posts (10% each)

Select two of the discussion topics from class for your post (either Gossip or Social Exchange and either Joking or Alcohol). Find another paper on the topic, provide the full reference at the top of your post and attach the paper as a pdf with the first author and year as the file name. Write your post (10-12 sentences) linking the new paper with the materials from class. Link your discussion to **2** of the other readings from class for top marks (can just reference as Author, year).

Select 4 posts to respond to as well. They don't need to be the same as the ones you posted about.

# 4. Cultural Reflection Discussion Post (10%)

The goal of this assignment is to recognize that we live in a culture that has a particular history, point of view and its own biases. More details will be given in class.

# **Class participation**

Students are expected to attend class and contribute to discussions. Marks will be awarded each class for contributions and attendance.

# **Digital Ethnography Group Project**

Part 1. <u>Choose an on-line discourse</u> (could be political discourse such as democracy in Hong Kong, the Arab Spring, Black Lives Matter, Idle No More, Anti-Vaxxers, Involuntary Celibates; or something less controversial, such as how social media is affecting tourism)

Part 2. <u>Create a plan to explore the discourse</u> in a systematic fashion – use papers provided in-class to guide your methodological development. Examine the development, the cultural boundaries and evolution of the discourse. How have people, governments and mainstream media responded to it? How is it linked to other discourses? What does it tell you about popular culture more generally? How have the discussants

Part 3. Explore the discourse, compile the work of each group member

### Part 4. Submit your <u>report and present</u> to the class

The report must include background/motivation for study (1 paragraph), literature review (3-4 pp), fieldwork plan and execution (2-3 pp), challenges of fieldwork (1-2 pp), data (present in an organized way) (4-5 pp), analysis with links to theory (2-3 pp), conclusion (1p). Submit a written report, include reference list (4-6 references). The presentation will be 20-25 minutes and cover the same topics with visuals. All group members must speak for about the same amount of time.

Date	What's Due?
1. Jan 12	Introduction to course
2. Jan 14	Ethics certification
	Youtube videos about ethnography
3. Jan 19	ТВА

#### Schedule

	Zoom Observations due
	Film: Youtube video on Malinowski (52 min):
	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zjCMOpnx6r8
	Strangers Abroad series: "Off the Verandah" 52:54
4. Jan 21	Geertz, Deep Play. Focus your note taking on the fieldwork challenges
	Film: Youtube video on Malinowski (6 x 10 min segments)
	Tales from the Jungle:Malinowski
	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f22VsAIOwbc&list=PLD00AA5F940FCCA89
	Let us know if you have a preferred group/group member OR topic for Digital
	Ethnography
5. Jan 26	Discussion: Social Exchange
	Groups assigned for Digital Ethnography (group meeting time)
6. Jan 28	Discussion Post #1
	Digital Ethnography Readings
	Group meeting time -submit your topic by end of class
7. Feb 2	Richardson, How it Works in the Global World
	Qu: What are the critiques of Anthropology?
	What is the ultimate reason for continuing the study of anthro despite the criticism?
8. Feb 4	Discussion: Gossip
9. Feb 9	Barker ch 1,2 and homework questions posted
10. Feb 11	Group check in/questions
Feb 15-19	READING WEEK! YIPPEE!
	Discussion Post #2 (on either gossip or social exchange) on Thursday
11. Feb 23	Discussion Post #2 (on either gossip or social exchange) on Thursday Barker ch 3, 4, 5
11. Feb 23 12. Feb 25	
	Barker ch 3, 4, 5
12. Feb 25	Barker ch 3, 4, 5 Barker ch 6, 7
12. Feb 25 13. Mar 2	Barker ch 3, 4, 5 Barker ch 6, 7 Digital Ethnography Progress Meetings
12. Feb 25 13. Mar 2 14. Mar 4	Barker ch 3, 4, 5 Barker ch 6, 7 Digital Ethnography Progress Meetings Digital Ethnography Progress Meetings
12. Feb 25 13. Mar 2 14. Mar 4 15. Mar 9	Barker ch 3, 4, 5 Barker ch 6, 7 Digital Ethnography Progress Meetings Digital Ethnography Progress Meetings Discussion: Alcohol
12. Feb 25 13. Mar 2 14. Mar 4 15. Mar 9 16. Mar 11	Barker ch 3, 4, 5 Barker ch 6, 7 Digital Ethnography Progress Meetings Digital Ethnography Progress Meetings Discussion: Alcohol
12. Feb 25 13. Mar 2 14. Mar 4 15. Mar 9 16. Mar 11 (drop date is	Barker ch 3, 4, 5 Barker ch 6, 7 Digital Ethnography Progress Meetings Digital Ethnography Progress Meetings Discussion: Alcohol
12. Feb 25 13. Mar 2 14. Mar 4 15. Mar 9 16. Mar 11 (drop date is Mar 12 <sup>th</sup> )	Barker ch 3, 4, 5 Barker ch 6, 7 Digital Ethnography Progress Meetings Discussion: Alcohol Discussion: Joking
12. Feb 25 13. Mar 2 14. Mar 4 15. Mar 9 16. Mar 11 (drop date is Mar 12 <sup>th</sup> )	Barker ch 3, 4, 5 Barker ch 6, 7 Digital Ethnography Progress Meetings Discussion: Alcohol Discussion: Joking Discussion Post #3
12. Feb 25 13. Mar 2 14. Mar 4 15. Mar 9 16. Mar 11 (drop date is Mar 12 <sup>th</sup> ) 17. Mar 16	Barker ch 3, 4, 5 Barker ch 6, 7 Digital Ethnography Progress Meetings Discussion: Alcohol Discussion: Joking Discussion Post #3 Salzman Reflexivity article
12. Feb 25 13. Mar 2 14. Mar 4 15. Mar 9 16. Mar 11 (drop date is Mar 12 <sup>th</sup> ) 17. Mar 16 18. Mar 18	Barker ch 3, 4, 5 Barker ch 6, 7 Digital Ethnography Progress Meetings Discussion: Alcohol Discussion: Joking Discussion Post #3 Salzman Reflexivity article Fedorak Ch 7 Female Circumcision Qu 1,2,4,6, 7,8 for discussion, no need for extra work
12. Feb 25 13. Mar 2 14. Mar 4 15. Mar 9 16. Mar 11 (drop date is Mar 12 <sup>th</sup> ) 17. Mar 16 18. Mar 18 19. Mar 23	Barker ch 3, 4, 5   Barker ch 6, 7   Digital Ethnography Progress Meetings   Discussion: Alcohol   Discussion: Joking   Discussion Post #3   Salzman Reflexivity article   Fedorak Ch 7 Female Circumcision Qu 1,2,4,6, 7,8 for discussion, no need for extra work   Discuss female circumcision, homework read about male circumcision
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12. Feb 25 13. Mar 2 14. Mar 4 15. Mar 9 16. Mar 11 (drop date is Mar 12 <sup>th</sup> ) 17. Mar 16 18. Mar 18 19. Mar 23 20. Mar 25 21. Mar 30	Barker ch 3, 4, 5 Barker ch 6, 7 Digital Ethnography Progress Meetings Discussion: Alcohol Discussion: Joking Discussion Post #3 Salzman Reflexivity article Fedorak Ch 7 Female Circumcision Qu 1,2,4,6, 7,8 for discussion, no need for extra work Discuss female circumcision, homework read about male circumcision Discussion: Male circumcision Discussion Post #4 Your cultural perspective on genital cutting Class reflection
12. Feb 25 13. Mar 2 14. Mar 4 15. Mar 9 16. Mar 11 (drop date is Mar 12 <sup>th</sup> ) 17. Mar 16 18. Mar 18 19. Mar 23 20. Mar 25 21. Mar 30 22. Apr 1	Barker ch 3, 4, 5 Barker ch 6, 7 Digital Ethnography Progress Meetings Discussion: Alcohol Discussion: Joking Discussion Post #3 Salzman Reflexivity article Fedorak Ch 7 Female Circumcision Qu 1,2,4,6, 7,8 for discussion, no need for extra work Discuss female circumcision, homework read about male circumcision Discussion: Male circumcision Discussion Post #4 Your cultural perspective on genital cutting Class reflection Group Project Presentations