

Exploring Ethnography ANTH 2517
M/W 5:30-7

Instructor: Melinda Vandenberg Giles
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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 Zoom workshops and virtual in-class assignments in addition to bi-weekly reading discussions.

Course Requirements:

Gringo Love

Take-Home Essay: 25%

Feb. 8

Midterm Exam: 35%

March 24

Fieldwork Journal and Report: 40%

March 31

Evaluation:

All written assignments are to be double-spaced in 12 point Times New Roman font AAA (American Anthropological Association) Style.

Take-Home Essay: Short-answer questions based on the Ethnographic graphic novel **Gringo Love: Stories of Sex Tourism in Brazil**. Questions will be posted on D2L on Feb. 1st to be completed at home and submitted by email by **midnight, Feb. 8th**.

Midterm Exam: Cumulative midterm exam posted just before lecture on March 24th to be written at home during lecture time and emailed by end of lecture at **7pm March 24th**.

Fieldwork Journal and Report: Part of doing fieldwork means learning how to observe, ask questions and listen.

Part I: The first part of this assignment involves doing virtual interviews with your fellow students (and taking field notes of the process including your thoughts and observations).

Part II: The second part involves doing an initial observation in your home/neighbourhood during the virtual lecture (again taking notes in your field journal).

Part III: The third part involves doing a minimum of **two** more observational visits outside of lecture time and at a location of your choice. Due to COVID, all fieldwork this year will be purely observational (local park, favorite walk, dog-walking, horseback riding etc. of outdoor spaces, within your own home, or at the university in places you would be going regardless, versus crowded indoor public spaces).

Part IV: 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. The **journal and report** must be emailed directly to me (mvanden1@lakeheadu.ca) by **midnight on March 31st**.

The **Fieldwork Report** includes:

A 5-7 page fieldwork report will be due by midnight on March 31st. The fieldwork report will be based on field notes written in your fieldwork journal throughout the term. The fieldwork report will be graded and worth 40% of your overall grade. I will be checking to ensure you completed all the required entries for the fieldwork journal but it will not be graded. However, a percentage will be docked for every missing entry. The fieldwork report must be in AAA Style, double-spaced, 12-point Times New Roman font. A minimum of 3 related academic references are required (pertaining to both your methodology and specific topic).

The fieldwork report must have a theoretical/methodological focus from the following options:

1. Auto-ethnography
2. Applied (Activist) Anthropology
3. Photo-essay
4. Virtual ethnography
5. Ethnographic film
6. Narrative ethnography
7. Multi-sited ethnography
8. Posthumanism

The **Fieldwork Journal** includes the following:

1. All responses to the in-class vignette exercises listed below:

Niki Thorne pg. 24

George Gmelch pg. 41

Jen Shannon pg. 58

Dianna Shandy pg. 77

Elizabeth Greenspan pg. 96

Karen McGarry pg. 114

Kathryn Dudley pg. 131

Caura Wood pg. 151

Jean Briggs pg. 167

Lynda Mannik pg. 187

Jennifer Cool pg. 204

H.J. Francois Dengah II pg. 221

2. The virtual in-class life history interview

3. Field notes from the observational exercise during virtual lecture time

4. Field notes from a minimum of 2 observational visits at your field site of choice

Required Texts:

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

Gringo Love: Stories of Sex Tourism in Brazil. Marie-Eve Carrier-Moisan, William Flynn and Débora Santos.

Schedule of Topics and Readings: All readings out of Practicing Ethnography unless otherwise indicated.

WEEK 1: What Is Ethnographic Fieldwork?

Jan. 4 Introductions and Course Expectations
“Introduction”

Jan. 6 “The Origins and Development of Sociocultural Anthropological Fieldwork in North America” (Chapter 1)

WEEK 2: Participant Observation and Interviews

Jan. 11 “Participant Observation” (Chapter 2)

Jan. 13 In-Class Interviews

“Connecting with Others: Interviewing, Conversations, and Life Histories.”
(Chapter 4)

WEEK 3: Ethics and Observations

Jan. 18 “Ethics and the Politics of Fieldwork” (Chapter 3)

Jan. 20 In-Class Observational Report

“How to Create Field Notes” (Chapter 5)

WEEK 4: Writing, Analyzing and the Politics of Representation

Jan 25 “After Fieldwork—Analyzing Data” (Chapter 6)

Jan 27 “Writing Up and the Politics of Representation” (Chapter 7)

WEEK 5: Graphic Novel

Feb 1 Class Discussion of Gringo Love

Feb 3 Informal discussion/questions about Gringo Love. Gringo Love Take-Home Essay due by email (mvanden1@lakeheadu.ca) at **midnight Feb 8th.**

WEEK 6: Ethnographic Fiction

Feb 8 **Gringo Love Take-Home Essay Due at Midnight**

“Not Quite Ethiopian, But Not At All English”: Ethnography, Hybridity, and Diaspora in Camilla Gibb’s Sweetness in the Belly.” **PDF**

Feb 10 Excerpt from Sweetness in the Belly by Camilla Gibb. **PDF.**

- WEEK 7**
Feb 22 **Narrative Ethnography**
 PDF “Narrative Ethnography”
- Feb 24** **PDF** “Toronto Motels as Field Site: An Ethnographic Narrative Exploration.”
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- WEEK 8**
March 1 **Applied Anthropology and Autoethnography**
 “Applied Anthropology” (Chapter 8)
- March 3** “Autoethnography: The Self and Other Revisited” (Chapter 9)
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- WEEK 9:**
March 8 **Visual and Virtual Ethnography**
 “Photo-Elicitation: Collaboration, Memory, and Emotion” (Chapter 10)
- March 10** “Doing Research with and in Virtual Communities: Culture, Community, and the Internet” (Chapter 12)
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- WEEK 10**
March 15 **Ethnographic Film**
 “Ethnographic Film as Ethnographic Method.” (Chapter 11) Discussion of short film links posted on D2L.
- March 17** Please come to class prepared to discuss the film Cannibal Tours (film link posted on D2L)
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- WEEK 11**
March 22 **Midterm Review**
 Midterm Review
- March 24** **MIDTERM (35%)** Essay questions and short-answer based on all course material (lectures, film, and weekly readings including textbook and PDFs). Midterm posted just before lecture on March 24th to be written at home during lecture time (open-book) and emailed (mvanden1@lakeheadu.ca) at the end of lecture **7pm March 24th**.

WEEK 12 Fieldwork Journal and Report

March 29 Discussion of Fieldwork Journal and Report. Available for questions.

March 31 Fieldwork Journal and Report due: to be emailed (mvanden1@lakeheadu.ca) by **midnight, March 31st**. Informal Zoom class for answering any remaining questions/concerns.

Class Policies

D2L

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

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.