

## **Anthropology 2517-WA: Exploring Ethnography**

TTh, 2:30-4:00 pm

AT 2005

Instructor: Dr. Clara Sacchetti-Dufresne

Office hours are by appointment via ZOOM

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Term: Jan 10-Apr 8, 2022; Study Week: Feb 21-24; Study Days: April 9th and 10th

### **Course Description:**

One of the most important features of cultural anthropology is the doing and writing of ethnography. Ethnography is a research method, an ethical obligation, and a representational practice. Cultural anthropologists had, up until the last decades of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, believed they understood what ethnography entailed, who could do it, and who had the authority to practice it. In the 1980s, this belief was widely critiqued due to post-structural, postcolonial, and feminist work in the discipline. In the wake of these critiques, cultural anthropologists have had to grapple with, as Lieba Faier and Lisa Rofel put it, “ethnographies of encounter.” This course is centrally about ethnographies of encounter. To this end, we will look at some of the key issues that define ethnography today, which include questions of power, transculturalism (space and place), and experimental ethnography. Students will read, and critically analyze, works by cultural anthropologists in light of the key issues that frame 21<sup>st</sup> century ethnographic research, ethical obligations, and representational practices. **ALL course materials are provided on D2L.**

### **Course Evaluation: Submit all work to the required drop boxes in D2L**

1. 10%: Presentation, “Encounters” article (**DUE dates indicated in course syllabus; include Jan 25, Jan 27, Feb 1, Feb 3**)
2. 25%: Realist Tale Ethnographic Vignette: **DUE March 1, 2022**
3. 20%: Confessional Tale Ethnographic Vignette: **DUE March 10, 2022**
4. 25%: Impressionistic Tale Ethnographic Vignette: **DUE: April 5, 2022**
5. 20%: Summary Chart of Ways of Writing and Connections to Encounter article (this is your final exam and the date and time is scheduled by the Registrar’s Office)

### **Course Materials:**

Provided on our D2L course site.

## Course Syllabus:

Week 1a: Introduction to the Course, Jan 11

Week 1b: Read: Chapter 1 from “Tales,” Jan 13

Week 2a and 2b: Read: Chapter 2 from “Tales,” Jan 18 and Jan 20

Weeks 3 and 4: Student presentations on the Encounters article; students must sign up in teams of 2-3 (10% of course grade), **Jan 25, Jan 27, Feb 1, Feb 3**

### Ethnographies of Encounter

Lieba Faier<sup>1</sup> and Lisa Rofel<sup>2</sup>

3a: Introduction: Clara

3a: **IMPRINTS OF COLONIAL ENCOUNTERS**

3b: **ENCOUNTERS IN THE MAKING OF TRANSNATIONAL CAPITALISM**

4a: **ENCOUNTERS AND THE PRODUCTION OF PLACE**

4b: **HUMANNESS IN HUMAN-NONHUMAN ENCOUNTERS**

4b: Conclusion: Clara

Week 5a, 5b: Read: Realist Tales from “Tales,” Feb 8 and Feb 10

Week 6a: Read: Dunk, Feb 15

Week 6b and 7a: Realist Tale, research and write-up (25% of course grade), Feb 17 and **Mar 1**

**Study Week: Feb 21-25, 2022: Schedule ZOOM meetings with Clara to discuss Realist Tale write-up**

Week 7b, 8a: Read: Confessional Tales from “Tales,” Mar 3 and Mar 8

Week 8b: Confessional Tale, research and write-up (20% of course grade), **Mar 10**

Week 9a, 9b: Read: Impressionistic Tale from “Tales,” Mar 15 and Mar 17

Week 10a, 10b: Read: Stewart, Mar 22 and Mar 24

Week 11a: Read: Sacchetti, Mar 29

Week 11b and 12a: Impressionistic Tale, research and write up (25% of course grade), Mar 31 and **April 5**

Week 12b: Review for Final Exam assignment, April 7

Final Exam Date: Scheduled by LU, Exam Assignment (20% of course grade)