

**ANTH 2517 2022 FA**

**Syllabus**

Meetings: Tuesdays, Thursdays 1 – 2:30 pm  
AT 1007

Prof: Dr. Martha Dowsley; Office: RC 2006H; [mdowsley@lakeheadu.ca](mailto:mdowsley@lakeheadu.ca)

GA: Asha Nurse [anurse@lakeheadu.ca](mailto:anurse@lakeheadu.ca)

Date	What are We Doing, and What's Due?
1. Sept 6th	In class: Introductions, interview methods Homework: Ethics certification, order 2 books, posted YouTube Videos on ethnography
2. Sept 8th	<u>Section 1:</u> What is Ethnography and how do you do it? Class discussion of Youtube videos about ethnography In Class: Participant Observation Activity 1 Homework: 1. Read Fedorak Ch 4 complete qu 1,2,3. 2. Watch on Youtube video on Malinowski (qu posted) <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ziCMOpnx6r8">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ziCMOpnx6r8</a> Strangers Abroad series: "Off the Veranda" 52 min
3. Sept 13	<b>DUE: Submit Ethics Certification before class</b> In Class: Participant Observation Activity 2 Homework: Read Geertz, Deep Play. Focus your note taking on the fieldwork challenges
4. Sept 15	Report on PO Activity 2, take notes and write it up formally for submission next class Homework: 1. Youtube video on Malinowski (6 x 10 min segments) Tales from the Jungle: Malinowski <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f22VsAlOwbc&amp;list=PLD00AA5F940FCCA89">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f22VsAlOwbc&amp;list=PLD00AA5F940FCCA89</a> 2. Reading for social exchange discussion
5. Sept 20	<u>Section 2:</u> Comparisons between ethnographies (ethnology) <b>DUE: Participant Observation write-up</b> Discussion: Social Exchange Homework: Alcohol reading
6. Sept 22	Discussion: Alcohol Homework: Joking reading
7. Sept 27	Discussion: Joking Homework: Gossip reading
8. Sept 29	Discussion: Gossip Homework: Barker Ch 1,2 and questions posted <b>DUE: Methodology Thought Paper</b>
9. Oct 3	Homework: Barker Ch 3,4,5
10. Oct 6	Homework for after break: Finish Barker, Conduct an Interview on the university experience
Oct 11-14	<b>Reading Week!</b>
11. Oct 18	<u>Section 3:</u> Reflections of Anthropology and Ourselves Discuss Barker ch 6, 7

Commented [MD1]: Give them ppt from web site stored in class 3, and maybe short in class quiz?

	Informal presentation on your interview – What style did you use? What did you learn? Homework: Richardson, How it Works in the Global World
12. Oct 20	<b>DUE: Formal submission of interview</b> <b>Term Project meetings</b> Homework: Salzman, Reflexivity article
13. Oct 25	<b>Term Project meetings</b> Homework: Canadian Anthropology
14. Oct 27	TBA
15. Nov 1	<b>Term Project meetings</b> <b>DUE: Draft Interview questions and permission form</b>
16. Nov 3	Homework: Female circumcision
17. Nov 8	Discussion: Female circumcision Homework: Male circumcision
18. Nov 10	Discussion: Male circumcision Homework: An Example Ethnography about Us: Dyck 1 and 2
19. Nov 15	<b>DUE: Term Project Progress Report</b>
20. Nov 17	Dyck 3 and 4
21. Nov 22	Dyck 5 and 6
22. Nov 24	Dyck 7 and 8
23. Nov 29	<b>Due: Thought Paper 2</b>
24. Dec 1	<b>Group Project Presentations</b>
25. Dec 6	<b>Group Project Presentations</b> <b>Project Report and Peer Assessment</b>

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.

### 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 participant observation, interviewing, taking field notes, discussing, and presenting informally and formally

## Course Resources

### Required:

1. Barker, John. 2010. *Ancestral Lines*. Toronto: University of Toronto Press.
2. Dyck, Noel, 2012. *Fields of Play: An Ethnography of Children's Sports*. Toronto: University of Toronto Press.

**Recommended** (maybe check it out in the library for assignment ideas, more background if you need it)

3. Fedorak, S.A. 2013. *Anthropology Matters!* Toronto: University of Toronto Press.

**Other readings will be posted on the course web site**

### Learning Evaluations

Ethics certification	submit as pre-condition of course work
Methodological Thought paper	15%
Cultural Reflection Thought Paper	15%
Participation	15%
Submission of Homework, homework quizzes	30%
Term Project	25%

### 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). As researchers, we need to complete a national tutorial on this topic to make ourselves aware of some of the issues.

To do your tutorial, click on this link to the LU research ethics and integrity website:

<https://www.lakeheadu.ca/research-and-innovation/ethics/human-subjects/resources>. Under External Resources select the second bullet "on-line tutorial for the Tri-Council Policy Statement: Ethical conduct for research involving humans. Complete within the week, download the certificate and submit a copy to the professor: [mdowsley@lakeheadu.ca](mailto:mdowsley@lakeheadu.ca), with your name in the subject line. Keep an electronic copy for yourself for future use as well.

### Methodological Thought Paper (15%)

Using the material covered in class/readings, as well as looking in some anthropology text books in the library, discuss 3 key challenges in fieldwork and how different anthropologists overcame them (3-4 pages double spaced,). As a student of anthropology, what 2-3 things are you most concerned about regarding field work in a foreign culture? How might you overcome your anxiety? (2-3 pages double spaced). Please provide personal ideas as well as cite some solutions mentioned in the course or peer-reviewed literature/textbooks). Use between 5 and 7 references total for this paper. Your paper should be 6-8 pages double spaced.

### **Cultural Reflection Thought Paper (15%)**

More details later....5-7 references. 6-8 pages double spaced.

### **In-Class Discussions**

We will have several class discussions and peer teaching opportunities. These are listed as discussions on the syllabus. Students will be assigned a study group to complete a reading, discuss it and then share with others.

1. You will be assigned a reading with your Study Group. Read it and answer these questions:
  1. Determine whether the paper is ethnographic or ethnological.
  2. If ethnographic,
    - a. Describe the study group, geographic location and social situation/reason for the study
    - b. What methods did the authors use? What ethical/social/other challenges did they face?
  3. What does the paper say about the researcher/s? Who are they (might need to search for them on internet)? What motivated them to study this topic?
  4. Summarize the data, discussion and conclusions of the paper (what did it contribute to anthropological theory?)
2. Briefly meet with your Study Group in the next class to review
3. Break up and form new Discussion Groups, teach each other about your Study Group's paper
4. In the Discussion Group, compare the various papers presented
  1. What links do you see between the papers?
  2. Compare the methods and challenges of the research
  3. How do the papers build theory?
  4. What should be studied next to continue to build the theoretical area?
  5. You may be assigned another question specific to the topic...
5. Take notes! Material can appear on tests and can help you in your thought papers...
6. Informally present to the class what you discussed.

### **Term Project**

Each student or group of up to 4 students must select an anthropological question and use participant observation and interviews to explore it. Draft permission forms and interview question lists must be submitted to the professor before interview field work occurs.

Each group must give a full presentation of their research project. Include background/motivation for study, literature review (min 6 academic references), fieldwork plan and execution, challenges of fieldwork, data (present in an organized way), analysis (link to literature), conclusion and recommendations for further study. Submit 2 pages of notes for distribution to the class, include reference list.

Submit to the professor a written report (4-8 pages, with interview transcripts and field notes appended) using the parts of the presentation as the headings.