

ANTH 2517 2023 FA
Introduction to Ethnography
Syllabus

Meetings: Mondays, Wednesdays 1 – 2:30 pm
RB 1044

WELCOME TO ANTHROPOLOGY 2517!

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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 focus on ethnography.

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

1. Guelke, Karoline. 2021. *The Living Inca Town*. Toronto: University of Toronto Press.
<https://utorontopress.com/9781487525668/the-living-inca-town/>
2. Dyck, Noel, 2012. *Fields of Play: An Ethnography of Children's Sports*. Toronto: University of Toronto Press.
3. Other readings and homework questions will be posted on D2L
4. 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.

Schedule

Date	
1. Sept 6	In class: Introductions, interview methods Homework for next class: Ethics certification, order Guelke and Dyck, view posted YouTube Videos on ethnography
2. Sept 11	<u>Section 1: What is Ethnography and How Do You Do It?</u> 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) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zjCMOpnx6r8 Strangers Abroad series: "Off the Veranda" 52 min
3. Sept 13	DUE: Submit Ethics Certification before class In Class: Participant Observation Exercise for marks Homework: Read Geertz, Deep Play. Focus your note taking on the fieldwork challenges
4. Sept 18	Report on Part. Ob. Exercise, 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 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f22VsAlOwbc&list=PLD00AA5F940FCCA89 2. Reading for social exchange discussion
5. Sept 20	Section 2: Comparisons Between Ethnographies (ethnology) DUE: Participant Observation write-up (10%) Discussion: Social Exchange Homework: Alcohol reading
6. Sept 25	DUE: Methodology Thought Paper (10%) Discussion: Alcohol Homework: Joking reading
7. Sept 27	Discussion: Joking; Group Project Discussion Homework: Gossip reading
8. Oct 2	Discussion: Gossip; Group Project Discussion Homework: Guelke Ch 1
9. Oct 6	DUE: Draft Interview Questions and Permission Form for Group Project Discuss Guelke 2, 3; Group Project Discussion Homework over reading week: Finish Guelke (take notes in case of quiz!) Interview someone on the university experience
Oct 9-13	Reading Week!
10. Oct 16	Section 3: Reflections of Anthropology and Ourselves Discuss Guelke Informal presentation on your interview – What style did you use? What did you learn?
11. Oct 18	DUE: Formal Submission of Interview (10%) Homework: Richardson, How it Works in the Global World
12. Oct 23	Discussion: Richardson Homework: Salzman, Reflexivity article
13. Oct 25	Discuss Salzman
14. Oct 30	DUE: Draft Background and Outline for Group Project (5%) Homework: Canadian Anthropology
15. Nov 1 (drop date)	Discuss Canadian Anthropology Homework: Female circumcision
16. Nov 6	Meetings for Group Projects Discussion: Female circumcision Homework: Male circumcision

17. Nov 8	Discussion: Male circumcision
18. Nov 13	DUE: Term Project Draft Report (10%) Homework: Dyck 1,2
19. Nov 15	Discuss: Dyck 1,2 Homework: Dyck 3, 4
20. Nov 20	Discuss Dyck 3,4
21. Nov 22	DUE: Thought Paper #2 (15%) Homework: Dyck 5,6
22. Nov 27	Discuss Dyck 5,6 Homework Dyck 7,8
23. Nov 29	Group Project Presentations
24. Dec 4	Group Project Presentations Final Group Project Submission and Peer Assessment

Learning Evaluations

Ethics certification	submit as pre-condition of course work
Methodological Thought Paper (#1)	10%
Cultural Reflection Thought Paper (#2)	15%
Participant Observation Write up	10%
Interview Write up	10%
Homework discussions, notes, quizzes	20%
<u>Term Group Project</u>	
Draft Background and Outline	5%
Draft Report	10%
Final Report and Presentation	20%

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.”

After completion, download the certificate and submit a copy to the professor via the course web site with your name in the subject line within one week. Keep an electronic copy for yourself for future use as well.

Thought Paper 1 Methodology

Using the material covered in class/readings, as well as suggestions at the end of textbook chapters, or citations from other readings, discuss 3 key challenges in fieldwork and how different anthropologists overcame them (4-5 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/text books). Use between 4-6 references total for this paper. Your paper should be 6-8 pages double spaced.

Thought Paper 2 Cultural Reflection

More details later....4-6 references. 4-5 pages double spaced.

Discussions

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 or 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

Group Presentation

Each group must give a full presentation of their research project. Include background/motivation for study, literature review, fieldwork plan and execution, challenges of fieldwork, data (present in an organized way), analysis, conclusion. Submit 2 pages of notes for distribution to the class, include reference list (4-6 references).

University Statements

Lakehead University respectfully acknowledges its campuses are located on the traditional lands of Indigenous peoples.

Lakehead Thunder Bay is located on the traditional lands of the Fort William First Nation, Signatory to the Robinson Superior Treaty of 1850. Lakehead Orillia is located on the traditional territory of the Anishinaabeg. The Anishinaabeg include the Ojibwe, Odawa, and Pottawatomi nations, collectively known as the Three Fires Confederacy.

Lakehead University acknowledges the history that many nations hold in the areas around our campuses, and is committed to a relationship with First Nations, Métis, and Inuit peoples based on the principles of mutual trust, respect, reciprocity, and collaboration in the spirit of reconciliation.

Academic Integrity

A breach of Academic Integrity is a serious offence. The principle of Academic Integrity, particularly of doing one's own work, documenting properly (including use of quotation marks, appropriate paraphrasing and referencing/citation), collaborating appropriately, and avoiding misrepresentation, is a core principle in university study. Students are strongly advised to familiarize themselves with the Student Code of Conduct - Academic Integrity ("The Code") - and, in particular, sections 26 and 83 through 85. Non-compliance with the Code will NOT be tolerated in this course and the Code will be adhered to in terms of disciplinary action. The Code provides a full description of academic offences, procedures when Academic Integrity breaches are suspected and sanctions for breaches of Academic Integrity.

Copyright Compliance

I understand and agree that all instructional, reference, and administrative materials to which I am given access in this course (the "course materials"), whether they consist of text, still or kinetic images, or sound, whether they are in digital or hard copy formats, and in whatever media they are offered, are protected in their entirety by copyright, and that to comply with this copyright and the law.

(a) I may access and download the course materials only for my own personal and non-commercial use for this course; and

(b) I am not permitted to download, copy, store (in any medium), forward or share, transmit, broadcast, show, post or play in public, adapt, or change in any way any text, image, or sound component of the course materials for any other purpose whatsoever except as expressly authorized, and only to the extent authorized, in writing, by the course instructor.

I further understand and agree that, if I infringe the copyright of the course materials in any way, I may be prosecuted under the Lakehead University Student Code of Conduct – Academic Integrity, which requires students to act ethically and with integrity in academic matters and to demonstrate behaviours that support the University's academic values.

Exam/Assignment Integrity

I understand and agree that:

(a) Unless otherwise allowed by the course instructor, I must complete the assignments in this course without the assistance of anyone else.

(b) Unless otherwise allowed by the course instructor, I must not access any sources or materials (in print, online, or in any other way) to complete any course exam.

I further understand and agree that, if I violate either of these two rules, or if I provide any false or misleading information about my completion of course assignments or exams, I may be prosecuted under the Lakehead University Student Code of Conduct – Academic Integrity, which requires students to act ethically and with integrity in academic matters and to demonstrate behaviours that support the University's academic values.

GenAI Use is Prohibited

Generative artificial intelligence (Generative AI or GenAI) is a category of AI systems capable of generating text, images, or other media in response to prompts. These systems include ChatGPT and its variant Bing (built by OpenAI) and Bard (built by Google) among several others. Other Generative AI models include artificial intelligence art systems such as Stable Diffusion, Midjourney, and DALL-E.

Any use of GenAI systems to produce assignments for this course is not permitted. All work submitted for evaluation in this course must be the student's original work. The submission of any work containing AI generated content will be considered a violation of academic integrity ("Use of Unauthorized Materials").

Student Accommodations

Lakehead University is committed to achieving full accessibility for persons with disabilities/medical conditions. Part of this commitment includes arranging academic accommodations for students with

disabilities/medical conditions to ensure they have an equitable opportunity to participate in all of their academic activities. If you are a student with a disability/medical condition and think you may need accommodations, you are strongly encouraged to contact Student Accessibility Services (SAS) and register as early as possible. For more information, please email sas@lakeheadu.ca or visit <https://www.lakeheadu.ca/faculty-and-staff/departments/services/sas>