

ANTH 2517 Introducing Ethnography –FA 2014

Welcome to Introducing Ethnography, where we will explore how social-cultural anthropologists do ethnographic fieldwork. Most of the marks for the course are assigned to field projects to help you develop ethnographic skills. Tutorials are provided to discuss your projects with the professor and GA (graduate student assistant).

Remember: Problems are expected, and are an opportunity for learning. Ethnographic fieldwork is all about people, ourselves included. You will probably learn as much about yourself in this class as about the cultural scenes you will study. As a result, self-reflection is a part of some methods of evaluation. You have succeeded in this course if you learn about yourself and grow as a person.

Note: Your safety during field work is of primary concern. If you feel uncomfortable with an assignment, please approach the professor to discuss alternatives.

Professor: Dr. Martha Dowsley mdowsley@lakeheadu.ca

GA: Glenn Checkley

Time and location: Monday and Wednesday 10:00 – 11:30 am ATAC 1010

Office hours: by appointment –Email us to set up meetings

Marks

Research Ethics Tutorial	pass/fail
Field Assignment 1: Observation	5%
Field Assignment 2: Ethnographic Interview	10%
Field Assignment 3: Ritual	10%
Field Assignment 4: Big Ethnography	40%
Midterm	20%
Final Evaluation	10%
Class participation (completion of homework, participation in class)	5%

*Late assignments will be penalized at 10% a day. That's a lot! Don't be late. A day ends at 5 pm. Weekend days count too. Submit late assignments electronically or using the drop box outside of **Geography (not Anthropology)**. If using the drop box, be sure you get the paper date stamped at security.

Readings

Readings will be available on line on Dr. Dowsley's **Geography teaching website**. Go to the Geography Dept, Faculty, T Bay, Dowsley, Teaching, ANTH 2517.

Research Ethics

Your first job in your training as a social-cultural anthropologist is to get 'licensed' in Canada. You need to do an on-line tutorial with the Tri-Council (the major federal government research granting agencies –NSERC, SSHRC, and CIHR). It takes about 2-3 hours (you are able to save and go back to your work, if a break as needed). It can be found at <http://tcps2core.ca/welcome>. Go to the log in on the right hand side of the page. Lakehead University's research ethics policy is available on line at: <https://www.lakeheadu.ca/research-and-innovation/ethics>

Assignment 1 – Observation

The purposes of this assignment are to teach you to observe, to record your observations, and to begin some basic interpretation. This year, we are looking at Chinese restaurants (other Asian restaurants are also allowed. More details will be given once you do your ethics tutorial.

Assignment 2 – Ethnographic Interview

The purposes of this assignment are to teach you how to conduct a semi-structured interview, take notes and write an analysis of the interview. You may select anyone for this assignment, but should conduct your interview(s) so as to get an understanding of your participant's work life. In your write-up you will analyze the important turning points and motivations in his or her work (paid and/or unpaid work).

Assignment 3 – Ritual (Participant Observation)

The purposes of this assignment are to get you to participate in a cultural event. You may attend a religious service or other approved ritual or community celebration. You will be expected to make appropriate preparations, and conduct yourself appropriately during field work, not only out of respect for other participants, but because it will assist you in your understanding of participant observation as an ethnographic field method. Your write up should describe the ritual in detail, discuss your participation, and interpret the meaning of the ritual.

Assignment 4 – The Big Ethnography

The purposes of this assignment are to bring together the skills you have developed over the term in the other assignments (observing, interviewing and participating). You will explore a cultural scene in Thunder Bay related to work/volunteering. Details will be posted and discussed in class. Your progress presentation and draft notes are worth 5%, while the final presentation is worth 5% and the final write up (including completed diary and notes) is worth 30%.

Personal Journal

Keep a personal journal throughout the course to chart the path of your ideas, thoughts and how you change during the course. You will need to submit the information as part of assignments and the final exam.

Date	Topic	What's Due?
Sept 10	Introduction	
Sept 15	1 History	Nanda and Warms 58-81, 2 short internet tasks
Sept 17	2 Fieldwork I	Complete Tri-Council Ethics Tutorial -email GA the certificate (see above for URL); Nanda and Warms 64-67
Sept 22	3 Fieldwork II	Chinese Food Homework 1 and Fedorak Chapter 1
Sept 24	4 Ethnographic Structure	Chinese Food Homework 2 – Cho On the Menu Kutsche The Big Ethnography
Sept 29	5 Body Language	TBA
Oct 1	6 Self-Reflection and Interview skills	Agar 41-62 Who are you to do this? Topic selection due for Big Ethnography (Assignment 4)
Oct 6	Tutorial	Assignment 1 due Individual help– need to visit big ethnography site this week
Oct 8	7 Rituals	Schultz and Lavenda pp 48-84
Oct 13	Thanksgiving Holiday	
Oct 15	8 Writing	Emerson et al. 169-210 Writing an Ethnography
Oct 20	Tutorial	Midterm
Oct 22		One-on-one meetings for assignments
Oct 27	Tutorial	One-on-one meetings for assignments
Oct 29	9 Ethnographic Structure	Briggs Emotions have many faces Assignment 2 due, plus bring your fieldwork problems to class to discuss
Nov 3	Presentations	Informal progress presentations on big ethnography (submit diary and draft notes 5%)
Nov 5	Presentations	Informal progress presentations on big ethnography (submit diary and draft notes 5%)
Nov 10	10 Ethnographic Examples	Condry Japanese Hip hop and Globalization
Nov 12	Tutorial	
Nov 17	11 Ethnographic Examples	Assignment 3 due
Nov 19	Presentations	Assignment 4 Presentations (written part due the class <i>after</i> you present so you can incorporate any comments from your peers)
Nov 24	Presentations	Assignment 4 Presentations
Nov 26	Presentations	Assignment 4 Presentations
Dec 1		Final Quiz