ANG6801-18Fall 0001

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ANG 6801: Ethnographic Field Methods

Department of Anthropology, College of Sciences

3 Credit Hours

Instructor Information

- Instructor: Beatriz M. Reyes-Foster
- Office Location: HPH 409I
- Office Hours: Date and time (include virtual hours)
- Phone: (407) 823-2207
- Digital Contact: Webcourses or beatriz.reyes-foster@ucf.edu

Course Information

- Term: Fall 2018
- Course Number: ANG 6801
- Course Name: Ethnographic Field Methods
- Credit Hours: 3
- Class Meeting Days: Thursdays
- Class Meeting Time: Time
- Class Location: HPH 409 M

Enrollment Requirements

Course Prerequisites: Admission to MA or PhD program or permission from instructor.

Course Description

Ethnography is the backbone of cultural anthropology. It is both our primary research method and a genre of writing. This course is about what it means to engage in ethnographic fieldwork and produce ethnographic texts. We will examine the main methods used in ethnographic research, such as participation observation and interviewing, in order to understand how cultural anthropologists practice their craft. Course material will cover a range of topics, issues, and concepts that address ethnographic practice, including research design, research ethics, data collection and analysis, and ethnographic representation. Finally, students will engage with course material to complete several exercises to practice their ethnographic skills and work toward their own research goals.

Course Objectives/Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

- Design and execute an ethnographic field study by writing a proposal, carrying out the research, and writing a final paper.
- Apply the major methodological techniques of ethnography by collecting field data in the form of participant observation and interviews and transcribing and coding data.
- Craft an appropriate IRB Protocol and know how to submit a protocol to UCF's IRB system.
- Explain the major issues surrounding ethnographic fieldwork as evidenced in weekly reading response papers and the final paper.

Course Materials and Resources

Required Materials/Resources

- DeWalt, Kathleen and Billie DeWalt. *Participant Observation: A Guide for Fieldworkers*. Altamira Press. ISBN 9780759119277.
- Davis, Dána-Ain and Christa Craven. *Feminist Ethnography.* Rowman & Littlefield. ISBN 978759122451.
- Supplementary readings will be available on Webcourses.

Optional Materials/Resources

- Gobo, Giampreto. *Doing Ethnography (*this is just a really good ethnographic methods book. You do not need to buy it).

Course Activities

Reading and Participation

Because this course is structured as a seminar, both reading course materials and active participation are essential and required. Students are expected to attend class having read the required readings as well as the other students' reading responses (see below). Both the readings and reading responses will serve as the basis for class discussions and activities. Doing well in the course will depend not only on keeping up with weekly readings, but also diligently participating in discussions and activities every week. Your participation will be evaluated after each class.

The discussion leader(s) (assigned the first week of class) will facilitate each class discussion. Each discussion leader is expected to create a plan to encourage thoughtful and engaging in-class discussion. If there are two discussion leaders, they should meet ahead of time and work together to create a discussion plan. These discussions can take many forms; you may introduce additional information obtained from websites or print media, or prepare interesting or provocative questions for the purpose of generating discussion. But, the discussion leader(s) should allow space for the discussion to develop and change

direction during the course of the conversation. There will be one week in the semester where each of you will report on an ethnography of your own choosing. During that week, you will present the ethnography to the class and there will no one designated presenter. More information will be provided later on this term.

Reading Responses

Beginning in Week 2, you will write short responses to the required readings for each week (500-600 words, singled-spaced, bibliography, Chicago Style citations). Your responses must be posted in the Discussion section of the course Webcourses page by 11:59pm on the evening prior to class. You are expected to read your fellow students' responses before coming to class the following day. Reading responses are meant to be just that, responses to all of the weeks' readings and not just summaries. To receive full credit, responses must be critical, insightful reflections on the readings that comment on the texts and draw connections between the texts. Reading responses are graded as "Complete/Incomplete." **"Incomplete" grades will be given for responses that do not include a critical reflection on the readings**. Failure to post your response by the 11:59pm deadline will result in no credit given for the response. You will write 13 reading responses, but your lowest reading response grade will be dropped.

Mini Project

You will design, conduct, analyze, and write up a mini project by drawing on the concepts and methods discussed in this course. The project will revolve around three 30-minute interviews and limited participant observation with a population of your choosing on any anthropological topic. This project can be modified to meet individual research needs, but you must discuss this with me before project commencement to ensure that you engage with course material and fulfill the project objectives. The project will have four parts: 1) Research Proposal, 2) IRB Protocol, 3) Data Collection and Analysis, and 4) Write Up. These parts will be graded and due at different points during the semester (see below). The final report will be 5000-6000 words, singled-spaced, 1" margins on all sides, Times New Roman 12-point font, including references and written using the Chicago (author-date) format).

Project Presentation

You will give an in-class 20-30 minute presentation on your mini project to your fellow students at the end of semester. There will be a few minutes after each presentation for questions and comments. I will provide more information on how to give an oral presentation on a research project as the semester progresses.

Activity Submissions

All assignments will be submitted through web courses. The final presentation will be made in class during the final exam period. All work must follow the Chicago Manual of Style.

Attendance/Participation

Attendance for this course is required and monitored. You are allowed one unexcused absence during the semester. You must let me know in advance of any extenuating circumstance (serious illness, personal/family tragedy, etc.) that may cause you to miss more than one class. If you are absent for more than one class without an excuse, you will lose attendance points.

Make-up Exams and Assignments

Per university policy, you are allowed to submit make-up work (or an equivalent, alternate assignment) for university-sponsored events, religious observances, or legal obligations (such as jury duty). If this participation conflicts with your course assignments, I will offer a reasonable opportunity for you to complete missed assignments and/or exams. The make-up assignment and grading scale will be equivalent to the missed assignment and its grading scale. Please contact me ahead of time to notify me of upcoming needs.

I allow a three-day grace period for all assignment submissions **except the reading response papers**. However, please note that there will be a grade reduction per day for each day an assignment is submitted late. With the exception of the conditions described above, I will not accept assignments beyond the three-day grace period,

Assessment and Grading Procedures

Assignment	Percentage of Grade
Reading Responses	10%
Research Proposal	20%
IRB Protocol	10%
Field notes and coding assignment	10%
Project write-up	20%
Project Presentation	10%
Attendance and Participation (10% for attendance, 10% for leading discussion)	20%
Total	100%

Letter Grade	Points
A	93 – 100 points
A-	90 – 92 points
B+	87 – 89 points
B	83 – 86 points
B-	80 – 82 points
C+	77 – 79 points
C	70 – 76 points
D	60 – 69 points
F	59 and below

Course Schedule

You can find the course schedule by **following this link**.

Policy Statements

Inclusive Classroom Statement

I am committed to fostering a climate of inclusion and acceptance in this course. It is my intent that students from all backgrounds and perspectives be well served by this course, that students' learning needs be addressed both in and out of class, and that the diversity that students bring to this class be viewed as a resource, strength and benefit. It is my intent to foster a learning environment respectful of gender identity, sexuality, disability, age, socioeconomic status, immigration status, ethnicity, race, and culture. Your suggestions are encouraged and appreciated. Please let me know ways to improve the effectiveness of the course for you personally or for other students or student groups. In addition, if any of our class activities conflict with your religious events, please let me know so that we can make arrangements for you. Please let me know if you would like me to use specific personal gender pronouns (PGPs) when communicating with you.

Academic Integrity

Students should familiarize themselves with **UCF's Rules of Conduct (http://osc.sdes.ucf.edu/process/roc)** . According to Section 1, "Academic Misconduct," students are prohibited from engaging in:

- *Unauthorized assistance*: Using or attempting to use unauthorized materials, information or study aids in any academic exercise unless specifically authorized by the instructor of record. The unauthorized possession of examination or course-related material also constitutes cheating.
- *Communication to another through written, visual, electronic, or oral means*: The presentation of material which has not been studied or learned, but rather was obtained through someone else's efforts and used as part of an examination, course assignment, or project.
- *Commercial Use of Academic Material*: Selling of course material to another person, student, and/or uploading course material to a third-party vendor without authorization or without the express written permission of the university and the instructor. Course materials include but are not limited to class notes, Instructor's PowerPoints, course syllabi, tests, quizzes, labs, instruction sheets, homework, study guides, handouts, etc.
- *Falsifying or misrepresenting* the student's own academic work.
- *Plagiarism*: Using or appropriating another's work without any indication of the source, thereby attempting to convey the impression that such work is the student's own.
- *Multiple Submissions*: Submitting the same academic work for credit more than once without the express written permission of the instructor.
- *Helping another violate* academic behavior standards.

For more information about Academic Integrity, students may consult **The Center for Academic Integrity (https://academicintegrity.org/)** .

For more information about plagiarism and misuse of sources, see "**Defining and Avoiding Plagiarism: The WPA Statement on Best Practices (http://wpacouncil.org/node/9)** ".

Responses to Academic Dishonesty, Plagiarism, or Cheating

Students should also familiarize themselves with the procedures for academic misconduct in UCF's student handbook, **The Golden Rule. (http://goldenrule.sdes.ucf.edu/docs/goldenrule.pdf)** UCF faculty members have a responsibility for students' education and the value of a UCF degree, and so seek to prevent unethical behavior and when necessary respond to academic misconduct. Penalties can include a failing grade in an assignment or in the course, suspension or expulsion from the university, and/or a "Z Designation" on a student's official transcript indicating academic dishonesty, where the final grade for this course will be preceded by the letter Z. For more information about the Z Designation, see **http://goldenrule.sdes.ucf.edu/zgrade (http://goldenrule.sdes.ucf.edu/zgrade)** .

Course Accessibility Statement

The University of Central Florida is committed to providing access and inclusion for all persons with disabilities. Students with disabilities who need disability-related access in this course should contact the

professor as soon as possible. Students should also connect with **Student Accessibility Services** (http://sas.sdes.ucf.edu/) (Ferrell Commons 185, **sas@ucf.edu** (mailto:sas@ucf.edu) , phone (407) 823-2371). Through Student Accessibility Services, a Course Accessibility Letter may be created and sent to professors, which informs faculty of potential access and accommodations that might be reasonable.Determining reasonable access and accommodations requires consideration of the course design, course learning objectives and the individual academic and course barriers experienced by the student.

Campus Safety Statement

Emergencies on campus are rare, but if one should arise in our class, everyone needs to work together. Students should be aware of the surroundings and familiar with some basic safety and security concepts.

- In case of an emergency, dial 911 for assistance.
- Every UCF classroom contains an emergency procedure guide posted on a wall near the door. Please make a note of the guide's physical location and consider reviewing the online version at **http://emergency.ucf.edu/emergency_guide.html** (http://emergency.ucf.edu/emergency_guide.html) .
- Students should know the evacuation routes from each of their classrooms and have a plan for finding safety in case of an emergency.
- If there is a medical emergency during class, we may need to access a first aid kit or AED (Automated External Defibrillator). To learn where those items are located in this building, see **http://www.ehs.ucf.edu/workplacesafety.html** (http://www.ehs.ucf.edu/Workplacesafety) (click on link from menu on left).
- To stay informed about emergency situations, sign up to receive UCF text alerts by going to **my.ucf.edu** (http://my.ucf.edu) and logging in. Click on "Student Self Service" located on the left side of the screen in the tool bar, scroll down to the blue "Personal Information" heading on your Student Center screen, click on "UCF Alert," fill out the information, including your e-mail address, cell phone number, and cell phone provider, click "Apply" to save the changes, and then click "OK."
- Students with special needs related to emergency situations should speak with their instructors outside of class.
- To learn about how to manage an active-shooter situation on campus or elsewhere, consider viewing this video.
  You CAN Survive an Active Shooter (https://youtu.be/NIKYajEx4pk)

  (https://youtu.be/NIKYajEx4pk)

Deployed Active Duty Military Students

If you are a deployed active duty military student and feel that you may need a special accommodation due to that unique status, please contact your instructor to discuss your circumstances.

Copyright

This course may contain copyright protected materials such as audio or video clips, images, text materials, etc. These items are being used with regard to the Fair Use doctrine in order to enhance the learning environment. Please do not copy, duplicate, download or distribute these items. The use of these materials is strictly reserved for this online classroom environment and your use only. All copyright materials are credited to the copyright holder.

Third-Party Software and FERPA

During this course you might have the opportunity to use public online services and/or software applications sometimes called third-party software such as a blog or wiki. While some of these could be required assignments, you need not make any personally identifying information on a public site. Do not post or provide any private information about yourself or your classmates. Where appropriate you may use a pseudonym or nickname. Some written assignments posted publicly may require personal reflection/comments, but the assignments will not require you to disclose any personally identity-sensitive information. If you have any concerns about this, please contact your instructor.

Course Summary:

Date	Details	
Fri Aug 24, 2018	**Introduction Post** (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1292024/assignments/5695235)	due by 11:59pm
Wed Aug 29, 2018	**Reading Response 1** (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1292024/assignments/5695477)	due by 11:59pm

Date	Details
	Attendance (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1292024/assignments/5695473)
	Field Notes & Coding Assignment (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1292024/assignments/5695371)
	IRB Protocol (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1292024/assignments/5695369)
	Participation (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1292024/assignments/5695475)
	Project Presentation (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1292024/assignments/5695471)
	Project Write-Up (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1292024/assignments/5695469)
	Proposal (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1292024/assignments/5695363)