

THE UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY
FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES
ANTHROPOLOGY DEPARTMENT

ANTH 411
METHOD AND ANALYSIS FOR ANTHROPOLOGY
WINTER 2013
TR 11:00 A.M. – 12:15 P.M.
ICT 114

Instructor	Charles Mather	TA	Paul Bridger
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Office Hours	W 10:00 - 11:30AM R 1:00 - 2:30 PM	Office Hours	TBA

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course introduces students to ethnography. Ethnography is the chief method of social-cultural anthropologists. The course consists of lectures and readings that will cover: the underlying principles and theories of ethnography: various methods that anthropologists use to conduct their field research: some of the issues and challenges involved in doing fieldwork and employing particular methods: and the ethical questions that adhere to "doing ethnography". Alongside lectures and readings, students will get to see two films that explore ethnography while focusing on two of the major figures from the history of the discipline (Malinowski and Mead), and two other films that shed light on some of the issues that ethnographers face while conducting their research. Readings, lectures, and film will be complimented by exercises that will engage students with different facets of the ethnographic research process. The assignments will provide experience in anthropological observation, free lists and pile sorts, calculating cultural salience, thematic analysis of written transcripts, and autoethnography.

REQUIRED TEXT

Martyn Hammersley and Paul Atkinson *Ethnography: Principles in Practice*. (Third Edition) Routledge: London, 2007

ASSIGNMENTS AND EVALUATIONS

The final grade will be based upon marks attained in two mid-term examinations and a final examination. The exams will be made up of multiple choice questions, mix and match questions, short answer questions, and essay questions. There are also four written assignments in this course. The first assignment is observational in nature. The second assignment involves group work and will include class room work. The third assignment will involve group work on letters that you will gather from the Calgary Herald. Assignment four is worth 20% (10% more than the weighting of the other written assignments) and it will consist of autoethnographic study over the span of two days during the term. Weightings of the exams and assignments are as follows:

1 st mid-term exam	February 7	20%
2 nd mid-term exam	March 19	20%
In class final exam	April 16	10%
Assignment One	January 17	10%
Assignment Two	February 26	10%
Assignment Three	March 21	10%
Assignment Four	April 11	20%

If there are any conflicts with the exam schedule and your personal schedule (and the conflicts have to have legitimate reasons – no stags in Vegas, boyfriends having engagement parties in the West Indies, etc) you need to let me know promptly – that way I’ll have time to make the appropriate arrangements.

Correspondences between letter grades and percentages are as follows:

A+ 94.9-100	B+ 79.9-84.8	C+ 66.9-70.8	D+ 54.9-58.8
A 89.9-94.8	B 74.9-79.8	C 62.9-66.8	D 49.9-54.8
A- 84.9-89.8	B- 70.9-74.8	C- 58.9-62.8	F 49.8 and below

I will penalize late assignments by 2% a day – and that is going to be 2% of your final letter grade. Don’t hand things in late. That being said, life happens and if something serious arises you should contact me ASAP. You cannot appeal to life happenings weeks after the fact. Get a hold of me as quickly as humanly possible. If you are uncertain about whether you are having or experiencing a legitimate life happening and whether I could ever see fit to grant something like a deferral or extension get a hold of me.

ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATIONS

It is the student’s responsibility to request academic accommodations. If you are a student with a documented disability who may require academic accommodation and have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre, please contact their office at 220-8237. You are required to discuss your needs with your instructor no later than fourteen (14) days after the start of this course. Students who have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre are not eligible for formal academic accommodation.

PLAGIARISM AND CHEATING

Plagiarism: “to steal and pass off the ideas or words of another as one’s own” (Webster’s). Plagiarism will not be tolerated and will automatically result in a failing grade for the submission. Any student caught plagiarizing July also be subject to additional University sanctions. Students are expected to be familiar with the Anthropology Departments policy on intellectual honesty available at:

<https://www.anth.ucalgary.ca/home/links/intellectual-honesty-guidelines>

EMERGENCY EVACUATION:

In the event that the classroom should need to be evacuated due to an emergency situation please note that the primary assembly point shall be at Social Science Food Court and the Professional Faculties Food Court shall be used as a secondary assembly point.

Schedule of Lecture Topics

Please note that lectures might take more than one class. There are definite dates for mid-terms and films.

January

Tuesday – 8 – Lecture One
Course introduction
Documenting social situations

Thursday – 10- Lecture Two
Research and Knowledge 1 - Introduction to Ethnography – Chapter 1

Tuesday – 15– Film – “Off the Veranda”
Discussion of assignment one

Thursday – 17 – Lecture Three
Research Design – Chapter Two
Assignment One due

Tuesday – 22 – Lecture Four
Access to Field Situations – Chapter 3

Thursday – 24 – Film
Margaret Mead and Samoa - XMV-57052

Tuesday – 29 – Lecture Five
Managing Field Relations – Chapter 4

Thursday – 31 – Film
A man called Bee - <http://anth.alexanderstreet.com.ezproxy.lib.ucalgary.ca/view/764390>

February

Tuesday – 5 - Lecture Six
Interviewing – Chapter 5

Thursday – 7 - Mid –Term One
Chapters one through four

Tuesday – 12 – Assignment Two
Making a cultural salience matrix

Thursday – 14 – Assignment Two
Making a cultural salience matrix (cont)

Reading Break from February 17 to 24, Family Day on February 18

Tuesday – 26 Lecture Seven
Document Analysis – Chapter 6
Assignment two due

Thursday – 28 – Film
Ax Fight – <http://anth.alexanderstreet.com.ezproxy.lib.ucalgary.ca/View/765336>

March

Tuesday – 5 – Assignment Three
Themes in letters to the editor from the Calgary Herald

Thursday – 7 – Lecture Eight
Recording and Organising Data – Chapter 7

Tuesday – 12 – Lecture Nine
Analysing Data – Chapter 8

Thursday – 14 - Autoethnography
Review of assignment four
Tuesday - 19 - Mid-term Two
Chapters 5 to 8

Thursday – 21 – Lecture Ten
Writing Ethnography - Chapter 9
Assignment three due

Tuesday – 26 - Lecture Twelve
Autoethnography

Thursday – 28 –

April

Tuesday – 2 – Discussion of assignment four

Thursday – 4 – Lecture Eleven
Ethics – Chapter 10

Tuesday – 9 – Let's just watch a movie
To Find the Baruya: An Anthropologist at Work with a New Guinea Tribe –

<http://anth.alexanderstreet.com.ezproxy.lib.ucalgary.ca/view/765506>

Thursday – 11 – TBA
Assignment four due

Tuesday - 16 – FINAL IN-CLASS EXAM
Chapters 9 and 10