Anthropology 197 HB: Anthropology Honors Seminar, Preparation for Field Work

Spring Quarter 2008
Prof. Jason Throop

Office: 374 Haines Hall
Email: jthroop@ucla.edu
Phone: 794-2190
Office Hours: 2-4 pm Tuesday, and by appointment

Course Description:

Enrollment in this course is limited to students who are in the Department of Anthropology Honors Program. The objective of this course is to help students prepare to carry out original research during the summer in preparation for the data analysis class during the fall quarter and the honors thesis writing class during the winter quarter. This is a course that requires you to take responsibility for the design and implementation of your independent research project. This means that you must be prepared to play an ACTIVE role preparing to meet all of the required deadlines for funding, human subjects approval, and securing access to your field site(s). At the end of this class, you must have everything in place for you to undertake your field research over the summer months to ensure that you are ready to begin analyzing your data in the fall.

Objectives:

(1) To develop and implement a strategy for collecting data for your project

(2) To identify and resolve any issues concerning successful implementation of your research plan

(3) To present your research plan to an audience of your peers

(4) To respond to critical commentary by the instructor and your classmates on your methodological approaches

(5) To provide your peers with constructive and supportive criticism of their work in progress

Evaluation and Grading

• Each student will prepare an oral presentation that deals with the methods they will use in carrying out their honors research.

• Students will take necessary steps as preparation to enable an appropriate start date
for the field research (so that the research phase is completed by the start of the Fall quarter). As each project is different, the necessary preparatory steps will be different.

- At the end of the term, each student is to prepare a written report that details your proposed methods. Drafts of materials (e.g. interview formats, informed consent forms) to be used in the field research should be appended to this report.

Your grade will be based upon class participation (25%), the oral presentation of your final research design (25%), and your final written report (50%)

**Texts**


**Calendar**

**Week 1**

Getting acquainted and discussing your current vision for your research plan. Be prepared to speak to the group about the following topics: What is your research question? What methods are you considering? Why? What special issues do you anticipate in getting your project off the ground and how are you planning to address them? Where do you stand with regard to getting research support, ethical considerations, OPRS, access to your field site, letters of support, letters of recommendation, advisor issues, etc?

**READ**: Preface, Chapter One, Chapter Two in *Writing Ethnographic Field Notes*

**Week 2**

Ethics, Research, and Writing Ethnographic Field Notes. We will discuss issues tied to ethics and research, and the practice of writing ethnographic field notes and interviewing, as well as taking time to focus on any specific problems you may be having with completing your OPRS applications.

**READ**: Chapter Three, Chapter Four in *Writing Ethnographic Field Notes*

**READ**: American Anthropological Association Statement on Ethics: [http://dev.aaanet.org/stmths/ethstmt.htm](http://dev.aaanet.org/stmths/ethstmt.htm)

**READ**: Committee on Ethics Briefing Papers on Common Dilemmas Faced by Anthropologists Conducting Research in Field Situations: [http://dev.aaanet.org/committees/ethics/bp.htm](http://dev.aaanet.org/committees/ethics/bp.htm)
Week 3  
Update the group on your progress and collectively discuss any specific problems.

READ: Chapter Five in *Writing Ethnographic Field Notes*

Week 4  
Unless you can demonstrate that you have a scheduling conflict with another class you are required to show up to watch the honors presentations on TUESDAY APRIL 22nd – 3 pm to 5:30 pm.

Week 5  
Update group on progress and any insights or questions that may have occurred to you after seeing the honors presentations.

Week 6-7  
Meet as needed with your primary advisors and at least once with me (*but more often if you like*) to discuss progress, problems, and solutions.

Week 8  
Student presentations

Week 9  
No Class – Memorial Day Holiday Monday, May 26

Week 10  
Student presentations

**FINAL WRITTEN REPORT DUE MONDAY JUNE 9TH**

**Additional Resources**

Below is a selective list of some of better new and classic books on social science research methods; some are specifically about methods in anthropology.

**FIELDWORK / DATA COLLECTION GUIDES**

Agar, Michael


Agar, Michael


Babbie, Earl R.

Baksh, Michael


Becker, Howard S.

1998 Tricks of the Trade: How to think about your research while you’re doing it. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

Bernard, H. Russell


Bernard, H. Russell, ed.


Briggs, Charles


Brim, John A. and David H. Spain


Brislin, Richard W.


Burgess, Robert G.


Crane, Julia G. and Angrosino, Michael V.

Denzin, N.K. and Lincoln, Y.S.

deMunck, Victor and Sobo, E.J.

Duranti, Alessandro
1997 Linguistic Anthropology. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press (see appendix on practical tips for recording interaction).

Edgerton, Robert B. and L.L. Langness

Ellen, R.F., ed.

Emerson, Robert M., Rachel I. Fretz, and Linda L. Shaw

Feldman, Martha S.

Fetterman, David M.

Fontana, A. and Frey, J.H.

Glesne, Corrine and Alan Peshkin

Gorden, Raymond L.


Hammersley, Martyn and Paul Atkinson


Johnson, Allen


Johnson, Allen


Johnson, Allen and Orna R. Johnson


Jorgensen, Danny L.


Langness, L.L.


Levy, Robert I. and Hollan, Douglas


Lincoln, Yvonna S. and Egon G. Guba

Lofland, John and Lyn H. Lofland


Marshall, Catherine and Gretchen B. Rossman


Maxwell, Joseph A.


McCacken, Grant


Miles, Matthew B. and A. Michael Huberman


Miller, Delbert


Mishler, E.


Mitchell, Richard G., Jr.


Munroe, Ruth H. and Robert L. Munroe


Patton, Michael Quinn

Paul, Benjamin D.


Pelto, Pertti and Gretel Pelto


Robson, Colin


Royal Anthropological Institute of Great Britain and Ireland


Sanjek, Roger, ed.


Scrimshaw, Susan C.M.


Seidman, I.E.


Silverman, David

1993 Interpreting Qualitative Data: Methods for Analysing Talk, Text and Interaction. London: Sage [more on analysis than collection; an ethnomethodologist's view]
Spradley, J.P.


Spradley, J.P.


Spradley, J.P. and McCurdy, D.W.


Vidich, A. and J. Bensman


Weiss, R.S.


Weller, S.C. and Romney, A.K.


Werner, Oswald and G. Mark Schoepfle


Werner, Oswald and G. Mark Schoepfle


Whiting, Beatrice and John Whiting.

Williams, Thomas Rhys


Whyte, William Foote


Wolcott, Harry F.

1995 The Art of Fieldwork. Walnut Creek, CA: Altamira.

See also multivolume series (30+) of small monographs in "Qualitative Research Methods" series published by Sage

See also Cultural Anthropology Methods Journal (starting Sept. 1999 will be retitled Field Methods)

FIELDWORK EXPERIENCE

Clarke, Michael


Freilich, Morris, ed.


Golde, P., ed.


Nachman, S.R.


Nash, Dennison

Powdermaker, Hortense


Rabinow, P.


Shaffir, William B. and Stebbins, Robert A. (editors)


Smith, Carolyn D. and William Kornblum, eds.


Spindler, George, ed.


Wax, Rosalie


Whitehead, T.L. and Conway, M.E., eds.


DATA COLLECTION/ SPECIAL TOPICS

Weber, Linda R., Miracle, Andrew, and Skehan, Tom


Schusky, Ernest L.


FOCUS GROUPS
Agar, Michael and MacDonald, James


Kitzinger, J.


Morgan, David L.

1988 Focus Groups as Qualitative Research (Qualitative Research Methods vol. 16). Newbury Park: Sage

Morgan, David L., ed.


RAPID ASSESSMENT PROCEDURES

Beebe, James


Bennett, F.J.


Harris, Karl Jo, Norge W. Jerome and Stephen B. Fawcett


Manderson, L. and P. Aaby


Scrimshaw, Susan C.M. and E. Hurtado

SAMPLING

Biernacki, Patrick and Dan Waldorf


Goetz, J.P. and LeCompte, M.D.


Kuzel, A.J.


Johnson, Jeffrey


ETHICS/ COVERT RESEARCH/ INFORMED CONSENT (a number of the research methods books listed above include discussion on ethical issues)

Bulmer, M., ed.


Cassell Joan and Jacobs, Sue-Ellen, eds.


Fluehr-Lobban, Carolyn

1994 Informed consent in anthropological research: We are not exempt. Human Organization. 53:1-10.

Fluehr-Lobban, Carolyn


Herrera, C.D.

Hilbert, Richard A.


Jacobs, Sue-Ellen and Joan Cassell, eds.


Jorgensen, Joseph


Kemper, Robert V. and Royce, Anya P. 1

1997 Ethical Issues for Social Anthropologists: A North American Perspective on Long-Term Research in Mexico Human Organization 56:479483

Mitchell, Richard G., Jr.


Murphy, Michael Dean and Agneta Johannsen


Punch, M.


Punch, M.


Rynkiewich, Michael and Spradley, James, P., eds.

Thorne, Barrie


Wax, Murray L.


WRITING UP RESEARCH

Van Maanen, John


Wolcott, Harry F.


OTHER

Murdock, G.P.


Silverman, Sydel and Nancy J. Parezo, eds.