

Eastern Oregon University Course Syllabus

Number of Course:

ANTH 391

Name of Course:

Applied Ethnographic Research

Catalog Description:

The focus of this class is to develop well-rounded ethnographic researchers. This will be accomplished through an analysis of ethnographic research methods, participation observation, visual ethnography, questionnaire development, and research analysis. In addition, students will have the opportunity to work on their own ethnographic project.

Credit Hours:

5

Required Texts or Suggested Materials:

Link to the EOU Bookstore: [Eastern Oregon University Bookstore](#)

Prerequisites:

ANTH 203, ANTH 356, and junior standing.

Learning Outcomes:

This course will address the process of conducting ethnographic research in cultural anthropology, in particular, and related social sciences, more generally. Students will be introduced to the basic concepts in anthropological research, the selection of research topics, literature review, ethnographic data collection methods (participant observation, field note creation and maintenance, ethnographic interviewing, focus groups, and survey development), and data analysis. This will be achieved primarily through completion of a detailed research proposal. By the end of the course students should also have familiarity with the common forms of anthropological literature and data, have knowledge of how to access and interpret this information, and be able to present anthropological knowledge in appropriate ways.

Course Requirements:

Grades will be based on a Personal Information Form (5 points), three Key Concept Quizzes (30 points [3 x 10 points]), a Field Site Observation Exercise (10 points), a Research Proposal Topic (5 points), a Research Proposal Literature Review (10 points), an Interview Project and Summary (10 points), Research Proposal Methods Description (10 points), and a Final Research Proposal (20 points).

Grading Policies and Means of Assessment:

1. Personal Information Form (up to 5 points):

- This form must be filled out as soon as possible following the beginning of the class. As this is an online class, and I will not get the opportunity to meet many of you, the main purpose of this form is to let me know a little about you as people. You can find the form in the appropriate "Assignments" folder of the course Canvas site.

2. Key Concepts Quizzes (up to 30 points [3 x 10 points]):

- These quizzes will assess your understanding of the readings. The quizzes will not be cumulative, that is they will primarily address material since the prior quiz. The quizzes will be administered through Canvas. You will have a 48- hour window in which to complete each quiz. The quizzes will be made available to students at 11:59pm on the Saturday before the quiz is due to be completed. The quiz must be submitted via Canvas by no later than 11:59pm (Pacific) on the Monday due date listed. There will be no opportunities for makeup quizzes without arrangement prior to the quiz due date.

3. Field Site Observation Exercise (up to 10 points):

- This exercise will acquaint you with the process of going to an unfamiliar place or event and actively observing and recording what takes place. Your goal is to write a detailed ethnographic description of the place and/or event you attend. You should detail the context of event or activity (was it a spontaneous gathering, regularly scheduled event, or were people brought together for a specific purpose). What, if any, recording devices did you use? You should also describe who you spoke to and/or interacted with (you don't need to give people's names, just their role/position in the event described). What was said or done? Your description should be at least 500 words long.

4. Research Proposal Topic (up to 5 points):

- At the end of week 4 of the course, you should turn in a brief description of the topic of your final Research Proposal. It should include a description of the social group and/or social practices you propose to study and why you think this is a significant topic for anthropological study (Will it help settle continuing questions about human behavior? Will it add to general knowledge? etc.). You should provide a 500-word description of your proposed topic.

5. Research Proposal Literature Review (up to 10 points):

- This assignment will require you to acquaint yourself with the anthropological literature pertaining to your chosen topic and/or the methods you propose to utilize. You should provide a 750-word review of no fewer than SIX academically rigorous works (peer-reviewed journal articles or books published by recognized academic publishers, for example) on the topic of your proposed research. Your literature review should include in-text references to the works covered and a REFERENCES section at the end of your paper, consistent with the Chicago Manual of Style.

6. Interview Project and Summary (up to 10 points):

- To do this exercise you will first have to conduct an in-depth and open-ended ethnographic interview with an individual about a particular, perhaps even peculiar, cultural practice they engage in. (Possible examples include a role in an entertainment performance group [dance company, music group, etc.], a key position in a cultural institution [church, club, or other group], or even a particular form of labor that is performed. Communicate with me if you are having trouble determining appropriate subjects for this assignment.) The interview should last at least half an hour and should be recorded. The interview should then be transcribed (that is, you should type up what was said) in order to analyze it. Along with the transcription of your interview, you should submit a 500-word summary of the interview. Your summary should primarily focus on a five-minute segment from the interview that you think is particularly indicative of key points in the interview (something that was said that you think was particularly important or revealing, or a point at which you had a kind of “Aha!” moment during your analysis). You should submit the transcript of your interview through the appropriate Canvas “Assignment” folder by no later than 11:59pm on the due date. No late Interview Project and Summary assignments will be accepted.

7. Research Proposal Methods Description (up to 10 points):

- This should provide a detailed description of the methods that you propose to use in order to study the topic you have selected for your Research Proposal. How do you intend to go about the research and why have you selected these particular research methods? Your Research Methods Description should be at least 750 words in length. Examples of past uses of the methods you have selected presented in the literature should be used to back up your planned use. Any published works you cite in your paper should be included in a REFERENCES section at the end of your paper that is consistent with the Chicago Manual of Style (see note above). The Research Proposal Methods Description should be turned in through the appropriate Canvas “Assignment” folder by 11:59pm on the due date. No late Methods Descriptions will be accepted.

8. Final Research Proposal (up to 20 points):

- This assignment will be a revised and expanded combination of the Research Proposal Topic, Research Proposal Literature Review, and Research Proposal Methods Description. You should also include a Conclusion, tying up the earlier sections and clearly specifying the significance of your proposed research. The proposal should be at least 2,000 words in length (not counting the REFERENCES section at the end of your paper that should be consistent with the Chicago Manual of Style). The Final Research Proposal should be submitted through the appropriate Canvas “Assignment” folder by no later than 11:59pm on the due date. Your grade on this assignment will be reduced by four points (20% of the total assignment grade) for each day (24-hour period) it is turned in late.

Brief Outline of Course:

- Week 1: Foundations and Preparations
- Week 2: Data
- Week 3: Participant Observation
- Week 4: Mapping and More
- Week 5: Interviewing
- Week 6: Semi-structured Approaches
- Week 7: Focus Groups
- Week 8: Structured Approaches
- Week 9: Sampling
- Week 10: Conclusion

General Education Category and Outcomes:

N/A

University Writing Requirement Outcomes:

This course fulfills the requirements of an upper-division UWR writing intensive course. In line with this, students taking this course will:

- Produce at least 5,000 words (including drafts, in-class writing, informal papers, and polished papers); 2,000 words of this total should be in polished papers which students have revised after receiving feedback and criticism.
- Practice the forms of writing and reflect upon the nature of the writing used by graduates and professionals in the discipline the course represents.
- Write at least one paper integrating information from more than one source, employing the appropriate documentation style for the discipline represented by the course.
- Draft, revise, and edit their formal written work.
- Seek assistance from a Writing Tutor in the Writing Center when needed or when referred by the instructor.

Writing Center Statements:

The EOU Writing Center provides a place — physical or virtual — where every EOU student can find an interested, responsive reader. Writing tutorials are free of charge for EOU undergraduate and graduate students and are available for writing at any course level and for writing resumes, job letters, and graduate applications. For drop-in hours or to schedule in-person, synchronous online, or asynchronous online tutoring, please visit the EOU Writing Center: [Writing Center – Eastern Oregon University](#).

Classroom Decorum:

Instruction is the most valuable function at Eastern Oregon University. To assure that all students gain full benefit of instruction, the University insists that appropriate classroom decorum be maintained. Minimum elements of appropriate classroom decorum include: punctuality, courtesy, civility, purposefulness, and integrity.

Academic Misconduct Policy:

Eastern Oregon University places a high value upon the integrity of its student scholars. Any student found responsible for an act of academic misconduct (including but not limited to cheating, unauthorized collaboration, fabrication, facilitation, plagiarism or tampering) may be subject to having his or her grade reduced in the course in question, being placed on probation or suspended from the University, or a combination of these.

Accommodations/Students with Disabilities Policy:

Any student who feels they may need accommodation for any type of disability must contact the Disability Services Office in Loso Hall, Room 233. Phone: 541-962-3081.

Disclaimer:

This standard syllabus provides only general information on the course. For those enrolled in the course a detailed syllabus will be provided by the Instructor at the beginning of the term. Please keep in mind that not all courses are offered every year.

Syllabus Prepared By:

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Date:

3/23/2018