

Anthropology 4830/7830: Ethnographic Methods
Spring Semester 2009
12:00–12:50 pm MWF
Lafferre W009

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Texts:

Bernard, H. Russell. 2006. *Research Methods in Anthropology: Qualitative and Quantitative Approaches*, 4th edition. AltaMira Press: Lanham, MD.
Gardner, Andrew and David M. Hoffman. 2006. *Dispatches from the Field: Neophyte Ethnographers in a Changing World*. Waveland Press: Long Grove, IL.
McCurdy, David W., James P. Spradley, and Dianna J. Shandy. *The Cultural Experience: Ethnography in Complex Society*, 2nd edition. Waveland Press: Long Grove, IL.

Assignments and Grading:

Methods Exercises: An exercise related to the week's topic will be given each Monday. It will be due in two phases. First, an initial stage of the assignment will be due Wednesday in class; this will often be the basis for an interactive exercise. Second, the rest of the assignment (including the writeup, if required) will be due the following Monday. There will be a total of 12 exercises worth 25-50 points each which will make up a combined 500 points—nearly 2/3 of your total grade in this course. A portion of the points for most exercises will be based on your preparation for and participation in interactive class exercises. An optional 13th assignment will be given as a form of extra credit at the end of the course.

In-Class Presentation: You will be expected to give a 10-minute oral presentation on a subject of your choice related to one of the weekly topics covered in the course. Your presentation can be a summary of a journal article using that week's method, a case study of your experience or the experience of someone else in implementing the method, or a report on a related method or aspect of methodology not discussed in class. Your topic is due 10 days prior to your presentation.

Presentations will be given every Friday from the week of February 11 onwards, and will be worth 50 points. Presentations should utilize Powerpoint or similar software, and will be graded on content (30), organization/clarity (10), visual interest (5), and style (5).

Ethnographic Research Paper: A research paper worth 200 points is due on May 8. Your choice of topic is open but subject to approval; we will work on research topics during week 2 of the course. The paper should focus on answering a research question using multiple ethnographic methods. Each paper should consist of:

- 1) An introduction to the topic including a research question.
- 2) A brief literature review.
- 3) A methods section outlining all methods used *in detail*. Undergraduates are required to use at least two methods of data collection and one method of analysis in their paper. Graduate students are required to use at least three methods of data collection and one method of analysis.
- 4) A detailed section discussing the results of your research and how you would answer your research question. Depending on your research methods this may include visual representations of your findings (e.g. diagrams, tables, flow charts) or may be entirely in narrative form. The application of theory is optional.
- 5) A section discussing your experience with ethnographic research: what worked, what didn't work, what you learned, what you would do differently in the future, what advice you would give to other students.
- 6) A bibliography of all works cited. For the purposes of this class, your methods section should be as well-cited as your literature review. The bibliography does not count towards the length limit.

Undergraduate papers should be 12-15 pages double-spaced, and graduate student papers should be 20-25 pages double spaced. This is not as long as it may sound; once you have done your research you will have *plenty* to write about.

Attendance and Participation: In-class exercises and discussions will be a key part of this class. For this reason, attendance will be noted and combined with class participation to make up 50 points of your final grade. This is in addition to the participation points already built in to the Methods Exercise scores.

Makeup Work and Late Assignments: Since assignments are due on a weekly basis, getting behind can create significant problems. Students each have five free late days; these may be used on different assignments or to the same assignment. After these are gone, grades on assignments will be reduced by 10% for each day they are late unless prior arrangements have been made. Requests for extensions made in advance and with a reasonable explanation will be honored where possible. Requests for extensions received after the fact must be accompanied by a documented excuse.

Assignment Values and Grading Scale:

<u>Assignment</u>	<u>Points (Extra Points)</u>
Methods Exercises	500
In-Class Presentation	50
Term Paper	200
<u>Attendance/Participation</u>	<u>50</u>
Total	800

Grading Scale

A+	776-800 (97-100%)
A	744-775 (93-96%)
A-	720-743 (90-92%)
B+	696-719 (87-89%)
B	664-695 (83-86%)
B-	640-663 (80-82%)
C+	616-639 (77-79%)
C	584-615 (73-76%)
C-	560-583 (70-72%)
D+	536-559 (67-69%)
D	504-535 (63-66%)
D-	480-503 (60-62%)
F	under 480 (under 60%)

Policies and Information:

Academic Dishonesty: You are expected to observe the University's standards for academic behavior. Academic dishonesty includes cheating, copying work from another student, and plagiarism. Any student suspected of academic dishonesty will receive no credit for the affected assignments and will be reported to the Provost's office. When in doubt about plagiarism, paraphrasing, quoting or collaboration, consult the course instructor. You may also refer to the *Collected Rules and Regulations*, Section 200.010, Standard of Conduct, and Section 200.020, Rules of Procedures in Student Conduct Matters for more specific details; these are available on the University of Missouri System website.

You are encouraged to use appropriate internet and published sources when doing assignments for this class, but **any** information you use must be either (a) paraphrased into your own words and the reference given, or (b) directly quoted and the reference given. To do otherwise is plagiarism and will result in loss of credit and possible disciplinary action.

Disability Accommodations: If you need accommodations because of a disability, if you have emergency medical information to share, or if you need special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please inform the instructor immediately. You can speak with the instructor privately after class or in her office during the hours listed above. To request academic accommodations (for example, a note taker or extended time on exams), students must also register with the Office of Disability Services (<http://disabilityservices.missouri.edu>), S5 Memorial Union, 882-4696. It is the campus office responsible for reviewing documentation provided by students requesting academic accommodations, and for accommodations planning in cooperation with students and instructors, as needed and consistent with course requirements. For other MU resources for students with disabilities, click on "Disability Resources" on the MU homepage.

Topics and Readings:

Dates	Topic(s)	Readings
January 21, 23	Introduction Anthropology, Science & Non-Science	Bernard Ch. 1 Gardner & Hoffman Ch. 1
January 26, 28, 30	Basics of Social Research Framing Research and Research Questions	Bernard Chs. 2 & 3 Gardner & Hoffman Ch. 2 McCurdy et al. Ch. 1
February 2, 4, 6	Research Design	Bernard Chs. 4 & 5 Gardner & Hoffman Ch. 3 McCurdy et al. Ch. 2
February 9, 11, 13	Research Ethics and the Institutional Review Board	Gardner & Hoffman Ch. 4 Additional Reading(s) on ERes
Student Presentations Begin 2/20		
February 16, 18, 20	Sampling and Choosing Informants	Bernard Ch. 6 & 8 Gardner & Hoffman Ch. 5 McCurdy et al. Ch. 3
February 23, 25, 27	Unstructured & Semi-Structured Interviewing I	Bernard Ch. 9 Gardner & Hoffman Ch. 6 McCurdy et al. Ch. 4
March 2, 4, 6	Unstructured & Semi-Structured Interviewing II: Focus Groups	Gardner & Hoffman Ch. 7 McCurdy et al. Ch. 5 & 6 Additional Reading(s) on ERes
March 9, 11, 13	Structured Interviewing I: Surveys	Bernard Ch. 10 Gardner & Hoffman Ch. 8 Additional Reading(s) on ERes
March 16, 18, 20	Structured Interviewing II: Cultural Domain Analysis and Scales	Bernard Chs. 11 & 12 Gardner & Hoffman Ch. 9 McCurdy et al. Ch. 7
Spring Break		
March 30 & April 1, 3	Participant Observation	Bernard Ch. 13 Gardner & Hoffman Ch. 10 Additional Reading(s) on ERes
April 6, 8, 10	Field Notes	Bernard Ch. 14 Gardner & Hoffman Ch. 11 McCurdy et al. Ch. 8 & 9
April 13, 15 17	Observational Research	Bernard Ch. 15 Gardner & Hoffman Ch. 12
April 20, 22, 24	Qualitative Analysis I: Text Analysis	Bernard Ch. 17 Gardner & Hoffman Ch. 13
April 27, 29 & May 1	Qualitative Analysis II: Models, Matrices, and Visual Presentations of Data	Bernard Chs. 16 & 18 Gardner & Hoffman Ch. 14
Ethnographic Research Paper Due 5/8		
May 4, 6	Conclusions & De-Briefing	Gardner & Hoffman Ch. 15
May 13	Methods Exercise 13 due by 5 pm	No Readings