



DEPARTMENT OF ANTHROPOLOGY

ENGAGING ETHNOGRAPHY

ANTH2517

WINTER 2017

GENERAL INFORMATION

Course Instructor: Saul Cohen
Email: scohen@lakeheadu.ca
Lecture: Tuesday and Thursday, 4:00 – 5:30, OA 2010
Office: OA 3008x, Desk 5
Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday, 2:30 – 3:30, or by appointment
Phone: 705 330-4008, ext 2990

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Ethnography and anthropology are intimately connected. Some argue that anthropology's attention to in-depth fieldwork, participating in and observing various social groupings and situations provides the discipline with its most unique and important distinction. Despite significant critiques and changes over the history of anthropology the basic foundation of ethnographic research has remained somewhat consistent. Through a study of ethnographic methods this course will begin to provide students with the skills to conduct ethnographic research, to engage in key ethical debates raised by the fieldwork experience and learn about anthropology's potential and limitations to provide insight into the human condition. Through an in-depth study of two classic ethnographies and other ethnographic write-ups, students will gain an understanding of this methodological approach to understanding our worlds. The course will also give students a foundation to pursue the Ethnographic Methods class in which students will conduct their own ethnographic study.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING

1. Course activities (4 X 5% = 20%) – See schedule below for dates

Throughout the course we will be conducting various fieldwork activities. Students will be asked to hand-in their written notes after the activities and then hand-in typed up research notes throughout the semester. Activities may include: Observation, Participation, Interviewing, Note-taking and Coding, Ethics

2. Research proposal (25%)

Students will complete an ethnographic research **proposal** in which they will formulate a question, research study and methodology of their choosing. **You will not be conducting research in this class.**

- a. Topic Proposal – Friday, January 20
- b. First Draft (10%) – Friday, February 17
- c. Final Paper (15%) – Friday, March 24

3. Term Test 1 (15%) – Tuesday, February 7
4. Term Test 2 (15%) – Tuesday, March 14

The term tests (and final) may consist of multiple choice, short, long answer and essay questions.

3. Final Exam (25%) – Date and Content TBA

REQUIRED TEXTS AND READINGS:

1. Smith Bowen, Eleanor (1964) Return to Laughter
2. Schonberg, Jeffrey and Bourgois, Phillippe (2009) Righteous Dopefiend
3. Journal and newspaper articles to be downloaded from course website

COURSE POLICIES

1. Attendance

Attendance in all classes is mandatory. Classes consist of a combination of discussion, activities and lecturing. All three aspects are equally important toward gaining a strong foundation in the material and a better understanding of the course themes. I do not provide PowerPoint slides or lectures notes and exams questions emerge from the classes in an organic fashion. Students that are not able to attend lectures due to work or other requirements are advised against taking the course. Students that occasionally miss class must get lectures notes from someone who attended the class and should come to office hours if they have specific questions about the missed material.

2. Laptop and Mobile Phone Use in Class

It is strongly advised that students do not bring laptops to class. There are three reasons for this. First, research shows that typing notes is significantly less effective than writing notes. For this course, understanding of the material is much more important than typing everything said in class. Second, laptops are a great distraction. The temptation to go on-line is often too great. Third, everyone is impacted by your decision to surf the web, go on social media, watch videos, etc. It is distracting to the professor. It is very obvious when students are not engaged in the lecture and are chatting or watching something on their laptops that is unrelated to the course material. It is also rude and distracting to your fellow students. Students get frustrated by students who surf the web during class. It does not make sense to come to class only to peruse the web. If you have issues with distraction and attention, anxiety, screen addiction, etc., then speak to me or a counselling service to address these issues. **Students that are on their laptops or phones for non-course related reasons will be asked to leave the class.**

3. Assignment submission and late penalties

- Assignments handed in late will be assessed a late penalty of 3% per day, including weekends. Each weekend day counts as one day late. The reasons for this strict policy are that the due dates are given well in advance and the instructors want to ensure fairness in grading practices for all students.
- **Extensions are not given close to the due date unless a student can demonstrate that are very close to finishing their assignment.**
- If assignments will be submitted late because of medical reasons, a signed medical note is required, stating the name of doctor, nature of illness, duration of illness, and expected delay and/or impact on the completion of student work. Students must use the official certificate (available online at <http://registrar.lakeheadu.ca/uploads/docs/F.HealthCertificate.pdf> and attach it to the assignment. Please inform the instructor in advance if you anticipate that your assignment will be late on account of medical reasons.
- Assignment extensions for non-medical reasons are given only in extenuating circumstances and on a case-by-case basis. In the event of non-medical extenuating circumstances, students should provide supporting documentation from their college registrar's office or Accessibility Services

4. Mandatory Meeting with Prof

If a student receives less than 60% for any assignment or test they are required to meet with the prof during office hours to work out a plan to improve their grades.

COURSE WEBPAGE

Throughout the academic year, information pertaining to the course will be posted by the instructor on the course website (Desire2Learn). Course announcements, syllabi, assignment guidelines, exam information and supplementary readings will be available on the course webpage. Any important announcements, including changes in due dates will be announced in-class and posted on Desire2Learn. **Please set D2L so you are notified via email when an announcement is posted.**

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Student Accessibility Services (SAS) (Thunder Bay) and Student Affairs (Orillia) coordinate services and facilitates reasonable academic accommodations for students with disabilities. Academic accommodations are provided on the basis of documentation of a disability. Additional information is available at the following campus websites: Orillia: <http://orillia.lakeheadu.ca/about-us--orillia-student-affairs/>

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY

The University takes a most serious view of offences against academic honesty such as plagiarism, cheating and impersonation. Penalties for dealing with such offences will be strictly enforced. A copy of the "Code of Student Behaviour and Disciplinary Procedures" including sections on plagiarism and other forms of misconduct may be obtained from the Office of the Registrar.

The following rules shall govern the treatment of candidates who have been found guilty of attempting to obtain academic credit dishonestly.

- (a) The minimum penalty for a candidate found guilty of plagiarism, or of cheating on any part of a course will be a zero for the work concerned.
- (b) A candidate found guilty of cheating on a formal examination or a test, or of serious or repeated plagiarism, or of unofficially obtaining a copy of an examination paper before the examination is scheduled to be written, will receive zero for the course and may be expelled from the University.

Students disciplined under the Code of Student Behaviour and Disciplinary Procedures may appeal their case through the Judicial Panel.

Note: "Plagiarism" shall be deemed to include:

1. Plagiarism of ideas as where an idea of an author or speaker is incorporated into the body of an assignment as though it were the writer's idea, i.e. no credit is given the person through referencing or footnoting or endnoting.
2. Plagiarism of words occurs when phrases, sentences, tables or illustrations of an author or speaker are incorporated into the body of a writer's own, i.e. no quotations or indentations (depending on the format followed) are present but referencing or footnoting or endnoting is given.
3. Plagiarism of ideas and words as where words and an idea(s) of an author or speaker are incorporated into the body of a written assignment as though they were the writer's own words and ideas, i.e. no quotations or indentations (depending on format followed) are present and no referencing or footnoting or endnoting is given. A listing of University Regulations can be found at:

<http://calendar.lakeheadu.ca/current/contents/regulations/univregsintro.html>

The code of student behaviour and disciplinary procedures: <http://policies.lakeheadu.ca/policy.php?pid=60>

MISSED EXAMS

Make-up examinations will only be given with written documentation from a healthcare practitioner using the official Student Health Certificate, available at

<http://registrar.lakeheadu.ca/uploads/docs/F.HealthCertificate.pdf>.

Final examinations run from April 10-13, 15, 18-23, 2017 (Easter Weekend is not included) Exam Contingency Date is Monday, April 24, 2017 There will be no rescheduling of examinations to accommodate holiday travel.

COURSE SCHEDULE AND READINGS		
Week 1	<p style="text-align: center;">Introduction and Course Overview What is ethnography?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Bohannan, Laura (1966). Shakespeare in the Bush (Thursday) 2. Madden (2010). Key Concepts and Organizational Frames (Thursday) 	
Week 2	<p style="text-align: center;">Ethnographic Luck, Sitting, and Risk What happens when we “show up”?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Lee, Richard Borshay (1997). Eating Christmas in the Kalahari. 2. Kearney (2004). A Very Bad Disease of the Arms 3. Behar, Ruth (2003). Ethnography and the Book That Was Lost. 	<p style="text-align: center;">Topic Proposal due (Friday)</p>
Week 3	<p style="text-align: center;">From the Armchairs Into the Slums How has fieldwork methods changed over time?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Boas, Franz. (1932). The Aims of Anthropological Research. 2. Evans-Pritchard (1962). Fieldwork and the Empirical Tradition 3. Schonberg, Jeffrey and Bourgois, Phillipe (2009). Righteous Dopefiend – Introduction 	<p style="text-align: center;">Course Activity #1 Observation (Thursday)</p>
Week 4	<p style="text-align: center;">Finding and Losing the “Field” Where and what is the “place and space” of ethnographic inquiry?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Gupta and Ferguson (1997). Anthropological Locations: Boundaries and Grounds of a Field Science 2. Smith Bowen, Eleanor (1964). Return to Laughter – Forward and Chapter 1 – 2 	
Week 5	<p style="text-align: center;">Deep Reading 1: Return to Laughter</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Smith Bowen, Eleanor (1964) Return to Laughter – Forward and Chapt 3 to 12 	<p style="text-align: center;">Term Test #1 (Tuesday)</p>
Week 6	<p style="text-align: center;">Deep Reading 1: Return to Laughter</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Smith Bowen, Eleanor (1964) Return to Laughter – Chapter 13 to the end 	<p style="text-align: center;">Proposal Draft #1 Due (Friday)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Course Activity #2 Participation (Thursday)</p>

Week 7	<p style="text-align: center;">Ethical dilemmas Can we ensure our fieldwork does no harm?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Bourgois (2007) Lessons From Fieldwork in Central America. 2. Hodgson, Dorothy (2009) – Critical Interventions. 3. Robins, Steven and Nancy Scheper-Hughes. (1996). On the Call for a Militant Anthropology. 4. AAA Statement on Ethics 	
Week 8	<p style="text-align: center;">Deep Reading 2: Righteous Dopefiend</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Schonberg, Jeffrey and Bourgois, Phillipe (2009). Righteous Dopefiend – Chapter 1 to 3 	<p>Course Activity #3 Interviewing (Thursday)</p>
Week 9	<p style="text-align: center;">Deep Reading 2: Righteous Dopefiend</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Schonberg, Jeffrey and Bourgois, Phillipe (2009). Righteous Dopefiend – Chapter 4 - 6 	<p>Term Test #2 (Tuesday)</p>
Week 10	<p style="text-align: center;">Deep Reading 2: Righteous Dopefiend</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Schonberg, Jeffrey and Bourgois, Phillipe (2009). Righteous Dopefiend – Chapter 7 - 9 	<p>Final Proposal Due (Friday)</p> <p>Course Activity #4 Ethics and/or analysis (Thursday)</p>
Week 11	<p style="text-align: center;">The Future of Ethnography Where do we go from here?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Mintz, Sidney (2000). Sows' ears and silver linings. 2. Ingold, Tim (2014). That's enough about ethnography! 3. Gable, Eric (2009) Fieldwork and the sinister 	
Week 12	<p style="text-align: center;">Conclusions, Review and Test Preparation</p>	