

Department of Anthropology

ANTHROPOLOGY 3331F: READING ETHNOGRAPHY

Course Outline

Fall 2016

INSTRUCTOR: Regna Darnell
OFFICE: SSC 3208
OFFICE HOURS: Mon. 1:30-2:30, by appointment, or when door is open
E-MAIL: rdarnell@uwo.ca

Credit value: 0.5

Pre-requisite: Registration in year three or four in any anthropology module.

Course Description:

Ethnographies are the written products of fieldwork in sociocultural anthropology. This course will introduce students to ethnography by guiding them through readings of classic and recent examples of the genre, concerning diverse topics, people and contexts. Special attention will be paid to the relationship between ethnographic research and writing.

Learning Outcomes:

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to

- Be familiar with a variety of styles of ethnographic writing.
- Situate ethnography within the anthropologist's tool kit.
- Make connections between research and the published end-product.
- Think critically about what is included in an ethnography and what is left out.

Marks will be calculated as follows:

Participation	10%
First Short Paper	20%
Second Short Paper	20%
Third Short Paper	20%
Final Essay	30%

Course Structure: Students will read a series of ethnographies over the thirteen weeks of the course. Classes will consist of lectures and discussions.

Participation: Grade will be based on your familiarity with the assigned readings and class engagement.

Short Papers: The three short papers will consist of answers to questions asked by the instructor. Each short paper will be about 500 words.

Final Essay: The final essay, due at time of scheduled exam, will be a discussion of the important points common to all ethnography. The essay will be about 1000 words.

SCHEDULE of TOPICS AND ASSIGNMENTS:

Week

Sept. 13	Introduction: Ethnography: Anthropology's Very Own Genre
Sept. 20	"I am a Fieldnote": Fieldnotes as Symbol of Professional Identity, Jean Jackson (in Roger Sanjek, ed. <i>Fieldnotes</i>) (OWL)
Sept. 27	Thirty Years of Fieldnotes: Changing Relationships to the Text, Simon Ottenberg (in Sanjek ed.) (OWL)
Oct. 4	Selections from <i>Coral Gardens and their Magic</i> , Bronislaw Malinowski (OWL)
Oct. 11	<i>The Chrysanthemum and the Sword</i> , Ruth Benedict (*Not on OWL)
	ESSAY DUE IN CLASS (500 words) – Ethnographic Classics
Oct. 18	<i>Return to Laughter</i> , Eleanore Smith Bowen [AKA Laura Bohannon] (*Not on OWL)
Oct. 25	<i>Wisdom Sits in Places</i> , Keith Basso (*Not on OWL)
Nov. 1	Introduction to <i>Life Lived like a Story</i> , Julie Cruikshank (OWL)
	Introduction to <i>Mama Lola: A Voodoo Princess in Brooklyn</i> , Karen McCarthy Brown (OWL)
	ESSAY DUE IN CLASS (500 words): Ethnographic Reflexivity
Nov. 8	<i>Moments of Freedom</i> , Johannes Fabian (*Not on OWL)
Nov. 15	Continue Fabian
Nov. 22	<i>Shamanism, Colonialism and the Wild Man</i> , Michael Taussig (*Not on OWL)
Nov. 20	Continue Taussig

Dec. 6

Continue Taussig

ESSAY DUE IN CLASS (500 words): Moving Genre Boundaries

FINAL ESSAY (1000 words) – due at scheduled final exam
Writing Ethnography and Anthropological Theory

Extensions/Missed Work: Students who will not be able to submit a short paper on time should provide prior notification and a valid reason. Extensions are not possible for the final essay – it must be submitted at the sitting of the final exam.

General University Policies: All students should familiarize themselves with Western's current academic policies regarding accessibility, plagiarism and scholastic offences, and medical accommodation. These policies are outlined (with links to the full policies) at:

http://anthropology.uwo.ca/undergraduate/course_information/academic_policies.html