

Ethnography and Qualitative Methods (SA)

Sociology and Anthropology 356W

Section: D100

Term: 2011 Fall

Instructor: Dr. Hannah Wittman

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Discussion Topics: This course brings a critical perspective to the traditions and applications of qualitative research in sociology and anthropology. After exploring the epistemological foundations underlying choice of research methodologies and fieldwork methods, students will gain practical experience in a range of tools for producing and evaluating qualitative research and ethnographic studies. This course will engage with research motivations, ethics, and methodology choices while examining the issues of representation, voice, reflexivity, and researcher positioning.

The course is designed around two main exercises. First, we will explore qualitative research design and analysis through discussion of a set of key readings on fieldwork methods, films, and one primary ethnography, *Flammable: Environmental Suffering in an Argentine Shantytown*, by Javier Auyero and Débora Alejandra Swistun. The readings, films and in-class exercises will familiarize you with topics including research ethics, research design and site selection, fieldwork methods including observation (participant and unobtrusive), interviewing, testimony and oral history, focus groups, analysis of texts and material culture, visual methods, archival research, data analysis, and writing up and presenting qualitative research. Secondly, students will design and carry out a mini-ethnography incorporating several of the qualitative fieldwork methods learned in class.

Grading: Research Proposal \x09\x09\x09\x0915%
Fieldwork Exercises \x09\x09\x09\x0925%
Final Research Project\x09\x09\x0940%
Participation and In-Class assignments \x0920%

Grading and Academic Honesty:

All assignments in this course must be completed for a final grade to be assigned. The Department of Sociology and Anthropology follows SFU policy in relation to grading practices, grade appeals (Policy T 20.01) and academic honesty and misconduct procedures (S10.01-S10.04). It is the responsibility of students to inform themselves of the content of these policies available on the SFU website: <http://www.sfu.ca/policies/teaching/index.htm>

Required Texts: (1)\x09Carol A B Warren and Tracy Xavia Karner (2010) *Discovering Qualitative Methods: Field Research, Interviews and Analysis*. Oxford University Press.

(2)\x09Emerson, et al (1995) *Writing Ethnographic Fieldnotes*. University of Chicago Press.

(3)\x09Javier Auyero and Débora Alejandra Swistun (2009) *Flammable: Environmental Suffering in an Argentine Shantytown*. Oxford University Press.

Recommended Texts: None

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Materials/Supplies: None

Prerequisite/Corequisite: SA 255. Writing.

Notes: This course meets the Fall 2006 writing requirements.

This outline is derived from a course outline repository database that was maintained by SFU Student Services and the University's IT Services Department. The database was retired in 2014 and the data migrated to SFU Archives in 2015.