

Ethnography and Qualitative Methods (SA)

Sociology and Anthropology 356W

Section: D100

Term: 2008 Fall

Instructor: Dr. Christy Allen

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Discussion Topics: This course is being offer during the day at Burnaby and as well during the evening at Harbour Centre.

This course brings a critical perspective to the traditions and applications of qualitative research in Sociology and Anthropology. After exploring the epistemological foundations underlying choices in research methodologies and related fieldwork methods, you 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 methodological choices while examining the issues of representation, voice, reflexivity and researcher positioning. This course will emphasize ethnographic readings, class discussions and research exercises to familiarize you with research ethics and research design, as well as a variety of fieldwork methods including participant observation, interviewing, testimony and oral history, focus groups, analysis of texts and materials, visual methods, data analysis, and writing up and presenting qualitative research. You will also be encouraged to apply the methods, concepts and tools of the course in an ongoing project in which you will design and carry out a mini-ethnography.

îThis course meets the new Fall, 2006 writing requirements.î

Grading: Research Exercises (30% total):

Observation exercise 5%

Interview exercise 10%

Fieldnotes exercise 10%

Reflexivity/Position exercise 5%

Mini-ethnography (70% total)

Research/mini-ethnography proposal: 20%

Research Presentation: 15%

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Final mini-ethnography paper: 35%

All the 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 dishonesty and misconduct procedures (Policy T 10.03) It is the responsibility of students to inform themselves of the content of these policies (available on the SFU website under Administration, SFU Policies and Procedures).

Required Texts: (1)Sharlene Nagy Hesse-Biber and Patricia Levy (2006). The Practice of Qualitative Research, Sage Publications.

(2)Emerson, et al. (1995) Writing Ethnographic Fieldnotes University of Chicago Press.

Recommended Texts: none

Materials/Supplies: none

Prerequisite/Corequisite: SA 255. Writing.

Notes: All students are expected to read and understand SFU's policies with regard to academic dishonesty (T 10.02 and T 10.03). These policies are available at the following web addresses: <http://www.sfu.ca/policies/teaching/t10-02.htm> and <http://www.sfu.ca/policies/teaching/t10-03.htm>.

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