ANTHROPOLOGY 3P03: DOING ETHNOGRAPHY

Winter 2023

Instructor: Dr. Karen McGarry
Email: mcgarry@mcmaster.ca
Class: Monday, 2:30-5:20 in UH 112

Office: CNH 531
Office Hours: Please email me to set up a time

Contents

NOTE: Due to changing regulations regarding the Covid pandemic, revisions to this syllabus may be necessary. Please always refer to the version posted to A2L (not the department website).

Course Description

This course introduces ethnographic fieldwork in sociocultural anthropology. Through readings, lectures and digital resources, the course will present students with the opportunity to consider the ethical, philosophical, and practical issues faced by cultural anthropologists doing field research. Students who are from fields other than anthropology that employ ethnographic methods are welcome to take the course, with instructor's permission.

Course Objectives

By the end of the course students should be able to:

• be familiar with the history of participant-observation fieldwork and with the way it is currently practiced and;

• design, carry out and write your own "mini-ethnography."

Required Materials and Texts

Available in the bookstore:

Mannik, Lynda, and Karen McGarry

2017 *Practicing Ethnography: A Student Guide to Method and Methodology.* University of Toronto Press. An electronic version can be purchased/rented here: https://utorontopress.com/ca/practicing-ethnography-2

Links to additional articles will be posted on Avenue.

Class Format

Lectures, in-class discussions, and exercises held during our Monday class. Note that classes are **not** recorded and posted.

Course Evaluation – Overview

1. Site selection assignment/ethics (based upon final ethnography): 35%
2. Photo elicitation assignment: 5%
3. Participation in class: 15%
4. Peer review session: 5%
5. Mini-presentation of ethnography/results: 10%
6. Final ethnography: 30%

Course Evaluation – Details

Site selection assignment/ethics tutorial (35%): This is the first step of a scaffolded assignment that will culminate in your final ethnography. The assignment is due by **11 p.m. on Feb. 13** (submit to Avenue drop box). It consists of the following:

1) An outline of your research project, including methods (who you will interview, and how) and brief literature review (with citations), plus a bibliography of relevant sources
2) Evidence of successful completion of McMaster's online ethics tutorial (this takes about 1 hour to do online)
3) Submission of templates for required informed consent forms, letter of information and recruitment scripts. These will be provided for you to revise.

Photo elicitation assignment (5%): This is a short, workshop-based assignment. It does not involve any prep work, other than reading the required chapter on photo elicitation in your textbook. You will be assigned a partner for this exercise and interviews will be conducted in class (see dates on syllabus outline below); it is due on **Feb. 10** to the Avenue Drop box by 11 p.m.

Participation in class (15%): Equal marks are allocated for weekly attendance and active participation (asking or answering questions, regular participation in any group work/discussion, showing evidence of having done course readings).

Peer review session (5%): We will conduct an in-person peer review on **April 3.** Peer review forms are due with your final project in April.

Mini-presentation of your final ethnography (10%): You will do a short 5-7 minute PowerPoint presentation of your final ethnography. Feedback and suggestions for improvement will be provided by Dr. McGarry as well as classmates. Suggestions can then be incorporated into your final project. You will be divided into group 1 or group 2. **Group 1 presentations will occur on March 20. Group 2 presentations will occur on March 27**.

Final ethnography (30%): Your final ethnography is due by **11 p.m. on April 11** to the Avenue drop box. Because this is a scaffolded assignment, your final ethnography builds upon the site selection assignment and reading assignment.

Weekly Course Schedule and Required Readings

Week 1 (January 9)
    Introduction to the course/what is ethnography?/project topics

    Readings: please read the syllabus thoroughly

Week 2 (January 16)
    Historical context of fieldwork/Doing Literature Reviews
    Readings: Gupta and Ferguson, "Discipline and Practice: The 'Field' as Site, Method and Location in Anthropology" pp. 1- bottom of page 18 only (posted on Avenue)

Week 3 (January 23)
Doing Participant Observation/Fieldnotes
Readings: Text, chapter 2, "Participant Observation"

Nader, Laura (posted to Avenue)

Gusterson, Hugh (posted to Avenue)

Sections from Campbell and Lassiter (posted to Avenue)

Week 4 (January 30)
Ethics/Doing Interviews

Reading: Text, chapters 3 and 4

Notes: Photo elicitation assignment distributed in class/on A2L

Week 5 (February 6)
Photo Elicitation

Reading: Text, chapter 10, Photo elicitation, pp. 179-195

Notes: **In-class Workshop** for Photo elicitation assignment held in class on Feb. 6.

***Photo elicitation assignment due to A2L Drop Box by Friday Feb. 10 at 11 p.m.

Week 6 (February 13)

***Site Selection Assignment due to A2L by 11:00 p.m. on Feb. 13. No class. I will host online office hours this week for assistance with projects. Days/times TBA.

Week 7 (February 20)
Reading Week – No readings or classes.

Week 8 (February 27)
Virtual Ethnography/Representation

Readings: Text, chapters 7, 9, 12 and Walthorp, Multimodal sorting (posted to A2L)

Week 9 (March 6) Analyzing Data/Identity and Positionality

Readings: Text, chapter 6, pp. 105-122

Week 10 (March 13) Writing Up
Readings: none required

Week 11 (March 20)
Mini-presentations for Group 1
Readings: none required

Week 12 (March 27)
> **Mini-presentations for Group 2**
> **Readings:** none required

Week 13 (April 3)
> **Peer Review session**: More information provided prior to this session.

Week 14 (April 10)

> **Final project is due to A2L by 11 p.m. on April 11. No class on April 10. I will have open office hours on April 10 during class time for individual help/project questions.**

Course Policies

Submission of Assignments
All assignments are due to the Avenue Drop Box (Click on "Assessments" and then "Assignments) by 11 p.m. on the date specified both on the syllabus and on the assignment information sheet. Please submit all written work in Word format, or as a PDF.

Grades
Grades will be based on the McMaster University grading scale:

MARK	GRADE
90-100	A+
85-90	A
80-84	A-
77-79	B+
73-76	B
70-72	B-
67-69	C+
63-66	C
60-62	C-
57-59	D+
53-56	D
50-52	D-
0-49	F

Late Assignments
All late assignments will be penalized 10% per 24-hour period late (or part thereof), up to 3 days/72 hours late (or 30% off). This includes weekends. After 72 hours, a 0 will be allocated, unless you have provided an MSAF or have received an extension from Dr. McGarry. All assignments must be completed in this course. There is no re-weighing of assignments.

Absences, Missed Work, Illness
For missed work that is worth less than 25% of your final grade, please submit an MSAF (see info below on MSAF). If no MSAF is submitted, then late assignments are subject to the late assignment policy (see above). With documentation, you may be eligible to apply for a faculty-issued MSAF for missed work worth greater than 25%.

Avenue to Learn
In this course we will be using Avenue to Learn. Students should be aware that, when they access the electronic components of this course, private information such as first and last names, usernames for the McMaster e-mail accounts, and program affiliation may become apparent to all other students in the same course. The available information is dependent on the technology used. Continuation in this course will be deemed consent to this disclosure. If you have any questions or concerns about such disclosure, please discuss this with the course instructor.

Turnitin.com
In this course we will be using a web-based service (Turnitin.com) to reveal plagiarism. Students will be expected to submit their work electronically to Turnitin.com and in hard copy so that it can be checked for academic dishonesty. Students who do not wish to submit their work to Turnitin.com must still submit a copy to the instructor. No penalty will be assigned to a student who does not submit work to Turnitin.com. All submitted work is subject to normal verification that standards of academic integrity have been upheld (e.g., on-line search, etc.). To see the Turnitin.com Policy, please to go www.mcmaster.ca/academicintegrity.

University Policies

Faculty of Social Sciences E-mail Communication Policy
Effective September 1, 2010, it is the policy of the Faculty of Social Sciences that all e-mail communication sent from students to instructors (including TAs), and from students to staff, must originate from the student's own McMaster University e-mail account. This policy protects confidentiality and confirms the identity of the student. It is the student's responsibility to ensure that communication is sent to the university from a McMaster account. If an instructor becomes aware that a communication has come from an alternate address, the instructor may not reply at his or her discretion.

Privacy Protection
In accordance with regulations set out by the Freedom of Information and Privacy Protection Act, the University will not allow return of graded materials by placing them in boxes in departmental offices or classrooms so that students may retrieve their papers themselves; tests and assignments must be returned directly to the student. Similarly, grades for assignments for courses may only be posted using the last 5 digits of the student number as the identifying data. The following possibilities exist for return of graded materials:

1. Direct return of materials to students in class.
2. Return of materials to students during office hours.
3. Students attach a stamped, self-addressed envelope with assignments for return by mail.
4. Submit/grade/return papers electronically.

Arrangements for the return of assignments from the options above will be finalized during the first class.

Course Modification

The instructor and university reserve the right to modify elements of the course during the term. The university may change the dates and deadlines for any or all courses in extreme circumstances. If either type of modification becomes necessary, reasonable notice and communication with the students will be given with explanation and the opportunity to comment on changes. It is the responsibility of the student to check his/her McMaster email and course websites weekly during the term and to note any changes.

Copyright and Recording

Students are advised that lectures, demonstrations, performances, and any other course material provided by an instructor include copyright protected works. The Copyright Act and copyright law protect every original literary, dramatic, musical and artistic work, **including lectures** by University instructors

The recording of lectures, tutorials, or other methods of instruction may occur during a course. Recording may be done by either the instructor for the purpose of authorized distribution, or by a student for the purpose of personal study. Students should be aware that their voice and/or image may be recorded by others during the class. Please speak with the instructor if this is a concern for you.

ADVISORY STATEMENTS

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

You are expected to exhibit honesty and use ethical behaviour in all aspects of the learning process. Academic credentials you earn are rooted in principles of honesty and academic integrity. **It is your responsibility to understand what constitutes academic dishonesty.**

Academic dishonesty is to knowingly act or fail to act in a way that results or could result in unearned academic credit or advantage. This behaviour can result in serious consequences, e.g. the grade of zero on an assignment, loss of credit with a notation on the transcript (notation reads: "Grade of F assigned for academic dishonesty"), and/or suspension or expulsion from the university. For information on the various types of academic dishonesty please refer to the *Academic Integrity Policy*, located at https://secretariat.mcmaster.ca/university-policies-procedures-guidelines/

The following illustrates only three forms of academic dishonesty:
- plagiarism, e.g. the submission of work that is not one's own or for which other credit has been obtained.
- improper collaboration in group work.
- copying or using unauthorized aids in tests and examinations.

AUTHENTICITY / PLAGIARISM DETECTION

Some courses may use a web-based service (Turnitin.com) to reveal authenticity and ownership of student submitted work. For courses using such software, students will be expected to submit their work electronically either directly to Turnitin.com or via an online learning platform (e.g. A2L, etc.) using plagiarism detection (a service supported by Turnitin.com) so it can be checked for academic dishonesty.

Students who do not wish their work to be submitted through the plagiarism detection software must inform the Instructor before the assignment is due. No penalty will be assigned to a student who does not submit work to the plagiarism detection software. **All submitted work is subject to normal verification that standards of academic integrity have been upheld** (e.g., on-line search, other software, etc.). For more details about McMaster's use of Turnitin.com please go to www.mcmaster.ca/academicintegrity.

COURSES WITH AN ON-LINE ELEMENT

Some courses may use on-line elements (e.g. e-mail, Avenue to Learn (A2L), LearnLink, web pages, capa, Moodle, ThinkingCap, etc.). Students should be aware that, when they access the electronic components of a course using these elements, private information such as first and last names, usernames for the McMaster e-mail accounts, and program affiliation may become apparent to all other students in the same course. The available information is dependent on the technology used. Continuation in a course that uses on-line elements will be deemed consent to this disclosure. If you have any questions or concerns about such disclosure, please discuss this with the course instructor.

ONLINE PROCTORING

Some courses may use online proctoring software for tests and exams. This software may require students to turn on their video camera, present identification, monitor and record their computer activities, and/or lock/restrict their browser or other applications/software during tests or exams. This software may be required to be installed before the test/exam begins.

CONDUCT EXPECTATIONS

As a McMaster student, you have the right to experience, and the responsibility to demonstrate, respectful and dignified interactions within all of our living, learning and working communities. These expectations are described in the *Code of Student Rights & Responsibilities* (the "Code"). All students share the responsibility of maintaining a positive environment for the academic and personal growth of all McMaster community members, **whether in person or online**.It is essential that students be mindful of their interactions online, as the Code remains in effect in virtual learning environments. The Code applies to any interactions that adversely affect, disrupt, or interfere with reasonable participation in University activities. Student disruptions or behaviours that interfere with university functions on online platforms (e.g. use of Avenue 2 Learn, WebEx or Zoom for delivery), will be taken very seriously and will be investigated. Outcomes may include restriction or removal of the involved students' access to these platforms.

ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION OF STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Students with disabilities who require academic accommodation must contact Student Accessibility Services (SAS) at 905-525-9140 ext. 28652 or sas@mcmaster.ca to make arrangements with a Program Coordinator. For further information, consult McMaster University's *Academic Accommodation of Students with Disabilities* policy.

REQUESTS FOR RELIEF FOR MISSED ACADEMIC TERM WORK

McMaster Student Absence Form (MSAF): In the event of an absence for medical or other reasons, students should review and follow the Academic Regulation in the Undergraduate Calendar "Requests for Relief for Missed Academic Term Work": https://academiccalendars.romcmaster.ca/content.php?catoid=44&navoid=9020#requests-for-relief-for-missed-academic-term-work

ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION FOR RELIGIOUS, INDIGENOUS OR SPIRITUAL OBSERVANCES (RISO)

Students requiring academic accommodation based on religious, indigenous or spiritual observances should follow the procedures set out in the RISO policy. Students should submit their request to their Faculty Office *normally within 10 working days* of the beginning of term in which they anticipate a need for accommodation or to the Registrar's Office prior to their examinations. Students should also contact their instructors as soon as possible to make alternative arrangements for classes, assignments, and tests.

COPYRIGHT AND RECORDING

Students are advised that lectures, demonstrations, performances, and any other course material provided by an instructor include copyright protected works. The Copyright Act and copyright law protect every original literary, dramatic, musical and artistic work, **including lectures** by University instructors. The recording of lectures, tutorials, or other methods of instruction may occur during a course. Recording may be done by either the instructor for the purpose of authorized distribution, or by a student for the purpose of personal study. Students should be aware that their voice and/or image may be recorded by others during the class. Please speak with the instructor if this is a concern for you.

EXTREME CIRCUMSTANCES

The University reserves the right to change the dates and deadlines for any or all courses in extreme circumstances (e.g., severe weather, labour disruptions, etc.). Changes will be communicated through regular McMaster communication channels, such as McMaster Daily News, A2L and/or McMaster email.

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