Anthropology 562: The Practice of Ethnography

Fall 2009  Lecture 10691R  W 2-4:50PM  VHE 214

Professor: Lanita Jacobs
Office: Grace Ford Salvatori Hall (GFS) 128
[Note: To get to my office, you must first enter the Anthropology Department at GFS 120]
Email: jacobshu@usc.edu
Office Hours: M/W 10-11AM; also by appointment. You can also contact me Monday-Friday via email.
Course Website: ANTH 562 course materials are accessible through Blackboard; to access, click on:
https://blackboard.usc.edu/

Required Texts:
9. Anthropology 562 Reader. (Abbreviated as RDR in Reading Schedule; (Available in Blackboard under Course Resources; select articles will be available via Ares Electronic Reserves)

NOTE: All texts are on reserve in Leavey Library.

Course Description: Ethnography is most commonly understood as anthropology’s hallmark methodology. But to its impassioned practitioners, ethnography is much more than that. Ethnography is also a theoretical approach and – trust – a dynamic way of seeing and being in the world. In this seminar, we will explore modes of inquiry and analysis that characterize the practice of ethnography. Special attention will be devoted to the various phases of ethnographic fieldwork, from ‘entering the field’, collecting data, to writing/representing one’s findings. We will also examine such analytical paradigms as discourse analysis, narrative analysis, visual analysis, among other foci. A review of specific case studies will augment this training and further illuminate the intersubjective dimensions of ethnographic fieldwork. At the end of the semester, you will gain insights with which to conduct pilot and/or ongoing fieldwork, as well as an appreciation for the politics of representation and the moral imperative of researcher accountability.
Class Expectations & Evaluation: Class meetings will consist of a brief lecture, article/data presentations, and discussion, with a strong emphasis on the latter. Accordingly, it is essential that you keep up with the weekly readings and complete written assignments on time.

**Class Participation,** Regular attendance is expected. If you are unable to attend a class, please let me know in advance.  *(25% - 25 points)*

**Presentations of Readings.** In order to facilitate class discussion, students will be required to present a 5-10 minute synopsis of *at least TWO* required readings across the span of the semester. On the day your article/chapter is assigned, you should prepare and distribute a 1-page typed handout that summarizes the author’s argument, methods, and/or findings. Feel free to indicate the relevance/significance of the paper, particularly as it relates to ethnographic methods and the study of culture. For example, you may critique the author’s methods or conclusions, present thoughtful questions to the class that encourage a critical examination of the reading. If you are conducting research, you can also incorporate examples from your data and/or fieldwork experiences that might extend class discussion.  *(NOTE: I will cover most, if not all of the assigned readings from O’Reilly [Ethnographic Methods].) (25% - 25 points)*

**Final Paper.** For your final paper, you have the option of completing an ethnographic analysis OR an annotated bibliography on a topic relevant to your research. A half-page summary of your paper focus is due during the 6th week of class.

- Ethnographic analyses should be no more than 15-20 double-space pages in length (excluding a bibliography of 8-10 sources) and present data gleaned from a pilot ethnographic study, interview/life history, etc. Ethnographic analyses can also employ one or several modes of analysis (e.g., discourse analysis, narrative analysis, visual analysis). Graduate students who are well beyond their 4th year are strongly encouraged to complete an ethnographic analysis.

- Annotated bibliographies should specify a central research question and include a review of 25-30 texts (e.g., articles, chapters, films, and/or books). Ideally, these texts should inform your present/projected research. Annotated bibliographies should be single-spaced and provide a three to five sentence summary for each source.

Final papers must adhere to the following format: 12 point-font, 1” top, bottom, right, and left margins. Staple your paper/review and number your pages (no folders please); also include a title page. Bibliographic entries should be formatted according to either MLA or APA format; sample guidelines are available on the web at: [http://www.intranet.csupomona.edu/~dhanne/styleman.html](http://www.intranet.csupomona.edu/~dhanne/styleman.html). Also, ethnographic analyses should be double-spaced (please avoid extra spaces between paragraphs) and annotated bibliographies should be single-spaced. Final papers are due in my mailbox by **5PM on Friday, December 11th** (Do not email papers; late papers will be docked points). *(50% - 50 points)*
READING SCHEDULE*

[NOTE: Emerson = Writing Ethnographic Fieldnotes, Hurston = Mules & Men, Jackson = Harlemworld, Jacobs-Huey = From the Kitchen to the Parlor (unless otherwise stated), O'Reilly = Ethnographic Methods, Rotella = Cut Time, Zinsser 2001 = On Writing Well, Zinsser 1993 = Writing to Learn, RDR = ANTH 562 Reader, TBA=To be announced]

**MODES OF INQUIRY**

**WK 1: 8/26**  
*Course Introduction*

**WK 2: 9/2**  
*The Practice of Ethnography*  
- O’Reilly: Chapters 1-3

**WK 3: 9/9**  
*Ethnographic Fieldwork/Participant Observations*  
- Agar: Who are you to do this? [in RDR]  
- Geertz: Being There [in RDR]  
- Jacobs-Huey: Introduction [From the Kitchen to the Parlor]  
- O’Reilly: Chapter 4

*Optional Readings:*  
- Kent: Fieldwork that Failed [in RDR]  
- Clifford: Spatial Practices [in RDR]

**WK 4: 9/16**  
*Writing Ethnographic Fieldnotes*  
- Emerson: Chapters 1-3  
- O’Reilly: Chapter 8

*Optional Readings:*  
- Emerson: Chapter 5

**WK 5: 9/23**  
*Ethnographic Interviews/Life Histories*  
- O’Reilly: Chapters 5 and 6

**WK 6: 9/30**  
*Multi-Sited Ethnography*  
- Berg: The Practical Challenges of Multi-Sited Ethnography  
- Casey: How to Get from Space to Place in a Fairly Short Stretch of Time [in RDR]  
- Jacobs-Huey: Chapter 6 [From the Kitchen to the Parlor]  
- Marcus: Ethnography in/of the World System [in RDR]  
- ½ Page Summary of Final Project Due In Class

**WK 7: 10/7**  
*Native Ethnography*  
- Jacobs-Huey: Chapter 7 [From the Kitchen to the Parlor]  
- Kondo: The Eye/I [in RDR]  
- Narayan: How Native is a “Native” Anthropologist [in RDR]

*Optional Readings:*  
- Behar: Writing in My Father’s Name [in RDR]  
- Jackson: An Ethnographic Film/Flam [in RDR]

**WK 8: 10/14**  
*Politics of Representation*  
- Geertz: I-Witnessing [in RDR]  
- Hurston: Mules and Men, Part I  
- Washington: Introduction, ZNH [in RDR]

*Optional Readings:*  
- Rosaldo: Grief & a Headhunters’ Rage [in RDR]  
- Rosaldo: Subjectivity & Social Analysis [in RDR]  
**ANALYTICAL PARADIGMS**

**WK 9: 10/21**  
*Visual Analysis*  
- Collier & Collier: all chapters [in RDR]  
- O’Reilly: Chapter 7

**WK 10: 10/28**  
*Discourse Analysis*  
- Baquedano-López: Creating Social Identities through Doctrina Narratives [in RDR]  
- Duranti: Transcription: From Writing to Digitized Images [in RDR]  
- Jacobs-Huey: Chapter 2 [From the Kitchen to the Parlor]

**WK 11: 11/4**  
*Narrative Analysis*  
- Lawlor & Mattingly: The Complexities Embedded in Family-Centered Care [in RDR]  
- Mattingly: Emergent Narratives [in RDR]  
- Ochs & Capps: Narrating the Self [in RDR]  

*Optional Readings:*  
- Basso: “Stalking with Stories” [in RDR]  
- Mattingly: Finding Narrative in Clinical Practice [in RDR]  

**WK 12: 11/11**  
*Ethnographic Writing*  
- Emerson: Chapter 7  
- Geertz: Thick Description [in RDR]  
- O’Reilly: Chapter 9  
- Marcus & Fischer: Ethnography & Interpretive Anthropology [in RDR]  

*Optional Readings:*  
- Rankin: Meeting Readers’ Needs [in RDR]  
- Zinsser: On Writing Well (Chs. 20-24)

**ETHNOGRAPHIC CASE STUDIES**

**WK 13: 11/18**  
*Ethnography of Performance*  
- Duranti: The Audience as Co-Author [in RDR]  
- Gwaltney: A Nation within a Nation [in RDR]  
- Jacobs-Huey: “The Arab is the New Nigger” [to be posted in Blackboard]  
- Jacobs-Huey: Black/“Urban” Standup Comedy [in RDR]  

*Optional Readings:*  
- Jacobs-Huey: Chapter 4 [From the Kitchen to the Parlor]  
- Kondo: Shades of Twilight [in RDR]  
- Morgan: Redefining “Language in the Inner City” [in RDR]

**WK 14: 11/25**  
*Ethnography of Race and Class*  
- Jackson: Harlemworld  

*Optional Readings:*  
- Manning: The Challenges of Postmodernism [in RDR]

**WK 15: 12/2**  
*Ethnography of Sport/Spectacle*  
- Jacobs-Huey: How An Anthropologist Writes About A USC Football Game (in RDR)  
- Rotella: Cut Time  

*Optional Readings:*  
- Zinsser: Writing to Learn (Chapters 2, 4, and 10)  
- Zinsser: On Writing Well (Chapter 17)

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*Final Papers/Annotated Bibliographies are due in my box by 5PM on Friday, December 11th*

*The Reading Schedule may be subject to modification (e.g., trimming, additions, etc.).*
Select Course Bibliography

(NOTE: Required texts appear in bold. This bibliography is subject to change.)


