

# Anthropology 562: The Practice of Ethnography

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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:

1. Emerson, Robert M., Rachel I. Fretz, and Linda L. Shaw. 1995. *Writing Ethnographic Fieldnotes*. Chicago: Chicago University Press. (*Abbreviated as **Emerson** in Reading Schedule*)
2. Hurston, Zora Neale. 1990 [1935]. *Mules and Men*. New York: HarperCollins. (*Abbreviated as **Hurston** in Reading Schedule*)
3. Jackson, John L. 2001. *Harlemworld: Doing Race and Class in Contemporary Black America*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. (*Abbreviated as **Jackson** in Reading Schedule*)
4. Jacobs-Huey, Lanita. 2006. *From the Kitchen to the Parlor: Language and Becoming in African American Women's Hair Care*. Oxford: Oxford University Press. (*Abbreviated as **Jacobs-Huey** in Reading Schedule*)
5. O'Reilly, Karen. 2005. *Ethnographic Methods*. London: Routledge. (*Abbreviated **O'Reilly** in Reading Schedule*)
6. Rotella, Carlo. 2003. *Cut Time: An Education at the Fights*. New York: Houghton Mifflin. (*Abbreviated as **Rotella** in Reading Schedule*)
7. Zinsser, William. 2001. *On Writing Well*. Sixth Edition. New York: HarperCollins Publishers. (*Abbreviated as **Zinsser 2001** in Reading Schedule*)
8. Zinsser, William. 1993. *Writing to Learn*. New York: HarperCollins Publishers. (*Abbreviated as **Zinsser 1993** in Reading Schedule*)
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 Evaluation	
Participation/Attendance:	25%
Presentations of Readings:	25%
Final Assignment:	50%

**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 6<sup>th</sup> 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 4<sup>th</sup> 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>. 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 11<sup>th</sup>** (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**
- Gwaltney: Introduction, The Many Shades of Black [in RDR]
  - 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]
  - Visweswaran: Betrayal: An Analysis in Three Acts [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]
  - Mattingly, Lawlor, Jacobs-Huey: Narrating September 11<sup>th</sup> [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)

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

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

## Select Course Bibliography

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

- Agar, Michael. 1996. Who Are You To Do This? *In* The Professional Stranger: An Informal Introduction to Ethnography, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition (91-111). New York: Academic Press.
- Baquedano-López, Patricia. 2001. Creating Social Identities through Doctrina Narratives. *In* A. Duranti (ed.) Linguistic Anthropology: A Reader (343-358). Oxford: Blackwell.
- Basso, Keith H. 1988 [1984]. “Stalking with Stories”: Names, Places, and Moral Narratives among the Western Apache’. *In* E.M. Bruner (ed.) Text, Play, and Story: The Construction and Reconstruction of Self and Society (19-55). Washington, D.C.: American Ethnological Society.
- Behar, Ruth. 1995. Writing in My Father’s Name: A Diary of Translated Woman’s First Year. *In* R. Behar and D.A. Gordon (Eds.) Women Writing Culture (65-82). Berkeley: University of California Press.
- Casey, Edward. 1996. How to Get from Space to Place in a Fairly Short Stretch of Time: Phenomenological Prolegomena. *In* S. Feld and K. Basso (Eds.) Senses of Place (13-52). Santa Fe, NM: School of American Research Press.
- Clifford, James. 1997. Spatial Practices: Fieldwork, Travel, and the Disciplining of Anthropology. *In* A. Gupta and J. Ferguson (Eds.) Anthropological Locations: Boundaries and Grounds of a Field Science (185-222). Los Angeles: University of California Press.
- Collier, Jr., John and Malcolm Collier. 1986. The Challenge of Observation and the Nature of Photography. (5-18). Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press.
- Collier, Jr., John and Malcolm Collier. 1986. Orientation and Rapport (19-28). Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press.
- Collier, Jr., John and Malcolm Collier. 1986. Risks to Rapport in Photographic Probing. *In* Visual Anthropology: Photography as a Research Method (133-137). Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press.
- Collier, Jr., John and Malcolm Collier. 1986. Principles of Visual Research. *In* Visual Anthropology: Photography as a Research Method (161-173). Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press.
- Duranti, Alessandro and Donald Brennaiss. 1986. The Audience as Co-Author. Text, Vol. 6, No. 3: 239-347.
- Duranti, Alessandro. 1997. Indexical Speech Across Samoan Communities. *American Anthropologist* 99(2): 342-354.
- Duranti, Alessandro. 1997. Transcription: From Writing to Digitized Images. *In* Linguistic Anthropology (123-161). Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Emerson, Robert M., Rachel I. Fretz, and Linda L. Shaw. 1995. Writing Ethnographic Fieldnotes. Chicago: Chicago University Press.**
- Geertz, Clifford. 1971. Thick Description: Toward an Interpretive Theory of Culture. *In* The Interpretation of Culture (3-30). New York: Basic Books.
- Geertz, Clifford. 1988. Being There: Anthropology and the Scene of Writing. *In* Works and Lives: The Anthropologist as Author (1-24). Stanford: Stanford University Press.
- Geertz, Clifford. 1988. I-Witnessing: Malinowski’s Children. *In* Works and Lives: The Anthropologist as Author (73-101). Stanford: Stanford University Press.
- Gwaltney, John Langston. 1993. Introduction and A Nation within a Nation. *In* Drylongso: A Self Portrait of Black America (xix-23). New York: The New Press.
- Gwaltney, John Langston. 1993. The Many Shades of Black. *In* Drylongso: A Self Portrait of Black America (71-92) New York: The New Press.
- Hurston, Zora Neale. 1990 [1935]. Mules and Men. New York: HarperCollins.**
- Jackson, John L. 2004. An Ethnographic *Film/Flam*: Giving Gifts, Doing Research, and Videotaping the Native Subject/Object. *American Anthropologist* 106(1): 32-42.
- Jackson, John L. 2001. Harlemworld: Doing Race and Class in Contemporary Black America. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.**
- Jacobs-Huey, Lanita. 2003. Black/”Urban” Standup Comedy: A Performance by Brandon Bowlin. *Theatre Journal* 55(3): 539-541 (October).
- Jacobs-Huey, Lanita. 2006. “The Arab is the New Nigger”: African American Comics Confront the Irony and Tragedy of September 11. *Transforming Anthropology* 14(1): 60-64.
- Jacobs-Huey, Lanita. 2006. From the Kitchen to the Parlor: Language and Becoming in African American Women’s Hair Care. Oxford: Oxford University Press.**

- Jacobs-Huey, Lanita. 2007. How An Anthropologist Writes about a USC Football Game. Unpublished Ethnographic Notes.
- Kent, Linda L. 1992. Fieldwork that Failed. In P.R. DeVita (ed.) *The Naked Anthropologist: Tales from Around the World* (17-25). Belmont, CA: Wadsworth
- Kondo, Dorinne. 1990. The Eye/I. In *Crafting Selves*: Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
- Kondo, Dorinne. 1996. Shades of Twilight: Anna Deveare Smith and *Twilight: Los Angeles 1992*. In G. Marcus (Ed.) *Connected: Engagements with the Media* (313-346). Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
- Lawlor, Mary C. and Cheryl F. Mattingly. 1998. The Complexities Embedded in Family-Centered Care. *The American Journal of Occupational Therapy* 52(4): 259-267.
- Marcus, George E. 1995. Ethnography in/of the World System: The Emergence of Multi-Sited Ethnography. *Annual Review of Anthropology* 24: 95-117.
- Marcus, George E. and Michael M.J. Fischer. 1986. Ethnography and Interpretive Anthropology. In *Anthropology as Cultural Critique: An Experimental Moment in the Human Sciences* (17-43). Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
- Manning, Peter K. 1995. The Challenges of Postmodernism. In J. Van Maanen (Ed.) *Representation in Ethnography* (245-272). London: Sage.
- Mattingly, Cheryl F. 1998. Finding Narrative in Clinical Practice. In *Healing Dramas and Clinical Plots: The Narrative Structure of Experience* (1-24). Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Mattingly, Cheryl F. 2000. Emergent Narratives. In C. Mattingly and L. Garro (Eds.) *Narrative and the Cultural Construction of Illness and Healing* (181-211). Los Angeles: University of California Press.
- Mattingly, Cheryl, Mary Lawlor, and Lanita Jacobs-Huey. 2002. Narrating September 11: Race, Gender, and the Play of Cultural Identities. *American Anthropologist* 104(3): 743-753.
- Mercer, Kobena. 1994. Black Hair/Style Politics. In *Welcome to the Jungle: New Positions in Black Cultural Studies* (97-138). Cambridge, MA: The MIT Press.
- Morgan, Marcyliena. 1996. Redefining "Language in the Inner City": Adolescents, Media and Urban Space. *Proceedings of SALSA IV Conference, April 12-14<sup>th</sup>* (1-26).
- Narayan, Kirin. 1997. How Native is a "Native" Anthropologist? In L. Lamphere, H. Ragone, and P. Zavella (Eds.) *Situated Lives: Gender and Culture in Everyday Life* (23-41). London: Routledge.
- Ochs, Elinor and Lisa Capps. 1996. Narrating the Self. *Annual Review of Anthropology* 25: 19-43.
- O'Reilly, Karen. 2005. *Ethnographic Methods*. London: Routledge.**
- Rankin, Elizabeth. 2001. Meeting Readers' Needs. In *The Work of Writing: Insights and Strategies for Academics and Professionals* (27-51). San Francisco: Jossey-Bass.
- Rosaldo, Renato. 1993. Subjectivity and Social Analysis. In *Culture and Truth: The Remaking of Social Analysis* (168-195). Boston: Beacon Press.
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- Visweswaran, Kamala. 1994. Betrayal: An Analysis in Three Acts. In *Fictions of Feminist Ethnography* (40-59). Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press.
- Washington, Mary Helen. 1979. Introduction, Zora Neale Hurston: *A Woman in Half Shadow*. In A. Walker (Ed.) *I Love Myself When I am Laughing ...And Then Again When I Am Looking Mean and Impressive* (7-25). New York: The Feminist Press.
- Zinsser, William. 1993. *Writing to Learn*. New York: Harper Collins Publishers.**
- Zinsser, William. 2001. *On Writing Well*. New York: Harper Collins Publishers.**