ANTH 300
Ethnographic Methods and Ethnographic Writing

Spring 2006
Thursdays, 6:30-9:30 pm, PNE 151

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PNE 346
Office Hours: M/Th 11:00-1:00 (and by appointment)
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Course Description:
An exploration of anthropological research and writing through the analytical and practical study of “fieldwork” and “ethnography.” Examines a variety of anthropological research methods and genres of representation paying particular attention to questions of knowledge, location, evidence, ethics, power, translation, experience, and the way theoretical problems can be framed in terms of ethnographic research. Students will be asked to apply critical knowledge in a fieldwork project of their own design.

Required Texts:
The following books have been ordered through the Wellesley College bookstore:

**Evaluation and Grading:**
Class sessions will entail a lecture component combined with discussion of assigned readings. Regular attendance is expected of all participants; absences will be excused (or extensions granted) only in special circumstance, judged in conformity with College practice. Assigned readings must be completed prior to class-time, and each student should prepare notes and questions for discussion. Course grades will be based on the following criteria:

- **Class Participation** = 10% total
- **2 Short Analytical Essays** (~5-7 pages each) = 10% each = 20% total
- **10 Short Ethnographic Assignments** = 5% each = 50% total
- **Semester Ethnographic Project** = 20%

Details regarding assessment exercises will be announced at appropriate junctures of the course.

**Please Note:**
Students with disabilities who are taking this course and who need disability-related accommodations are encouraged to work with the Director of Programs of the Pforzheimer Learning and Teaching Center (if you have learning or attention disabilities), and the Director of Disability Services (if you have a physical disability or are uncertain) to arrange these accommodations. Their offices are located in the Pforzheimer Learning and Teaching Center in Clapp Library.

**Course Outline**

1. **Thursday, Feb. 2**  
   **Introduction & Orientation**

2. **Thursday, Feb. 9**  
   **Authority & Representation**

   **Ethnographic Assignment 1 DUE:** Three (3) different ideas for possible (local) ethnographic field projects, including an assessment of pros/cons for each.

3. **Thursday, Feb 16**  
   **Authority & Representation**
     - Mary Louise Pratt, “Fieldwork in Common Places,” pp. 27-50
     - Vincent Crapanzano, “Hermes’ Dilemma: The Masking of Subversion in Ethnographic Description,” pp. 51-76
     - Renato Rosaldo, “From the Door of His Tent: The Fieldworker and the Inquisitor,” pp. 77-97

   **Ethnographic Assignment 2 DUE:** Project Proposal Abstract
4. **Thursday, Feb 23** *Textual Production and Self-Expression*
   - Geertz, *Works and Lives*
   - Van Maanen, *Tales of the Field*

   **Ethnographic Assignment 3 DUE:** Project Annotated Bibliography

5. **Thursday, Mar 2** *Genres, Styles, & Performance*
   - Wolf, *A Thrice Told Tale*

   **Ethnographic Assignment 4 DUE:** Project Journal & Fieldnotes

6. **Thursday, Mar 9** *Life Histories & Literary Expressions*
   - Plath, *Long Engagements*

   **Ethnographic Assignment 5 DUE:** Life History & Genealogical Reconstruction

7. **Thursday, Mar 16** *Language & Situated Meaning*
   - Basso, *Wisdom Sits in Places*

   **Ethnographic Assignment 6 DUE:** Place, Space, & Movement

   * SPRING BREAK * [Sat 3/18 thru Sun 3/26]

**Essay 1 Due: Tuesday, 28 March 2006**

8. **Thursday, Mar 30** *Native Voices & Narrative Ethnography*
   - Abu-Lughod, *Writing Women’s Worlds*

   **Ethnographic Assignment 7 DUE:** Discourse & Socio-linguistics

9. **Thursday, Apr 6** *Community in Place & Mind*
   - Mueggler, *The Age of Wild Ghosts*

   **Ethnographic Assignment 8 DUE:** Ritual & Symbolism
10. Thursday, Apr 13 **Critical Reflexivity**  
   - Tsing, *In the Realm of the Diamond Queen*  

**Ethnographic Assignment 9 DUE:** Survey Questionnaire

11. Thursday, Apr 20 **Nature & Culture**  
   - Raffles, *In Amazonia*  

**Ethnographic Assignment 10 DUE:** Quantitative Assessment

12. Thursday, Apr 27 **Student Presentations**

13. Thursday, May 4 **Student Presentations**