

Department of Anthropology

ANTHRO 2222F-001: Debates in Sociocultural Anthropology

BRIEF COURSE OUTLINE

Fall 2026

Date: June 10, 2026

Instructor and course information:

Instructor: Dr. Lindsay Bell

Method of delivery: In Person

Credit value: 0.5

Antirequisites: None.

Prerequisites: None, technically. Although I recommend having taken Anthropology 1025F/G, Anthropology 1021A/B, or any sociocultural course at the 2000 level.

Please ensure you have the correct requisites by checking [the Academic Calendar](#).

Course Description:

Sociocultural Anthropologists commonly debate the foundations of their discipline. What are the goals of Sociocultural Anthropology? How should we be doing it, and why? For whom do we do it? This course contextualizes such key debates focusing especially on what they tell us about the discipline's past, present, and future.

A full course schedule including a week-by-week breakdown of topics and assigned readings will be available on the course's OWL Brightspace site before the first day of class.

Course Materials:

There are three required books for this course. Physical copies of all books are strongly encouraged. We will use them in class. Bring all three to class unless otherwise instructed.

1. Deangelo, Darcie. *How to Love a Rat. Detecting Bombs in Postwar Cambodia*. University of California Press. 2024.

There is an electronic version available at no cost, via Weldon. The book costs roughly 38\$ at the UWO bookstore.

2. Elliott, Denielle and Matthew J. Wolf-Meyer, Eds. *Naked Fieldnotes. A rough Guide to Ethnographic Writing*. University of Minnesota Press. 2024.

This book costs 41.81\$ and is available at the UWO bookstore. There is an electronic version available at no cost, via Weldon.

3. Rabinow, Paul. *Reflections on Fieldwork in Morocco*. University of California Press. 1977/2007.

Students are welcome to purchase second-hand or earlier editions of this textbook. The book is widely available second-hand for roughly 20.00\$. There is one physical copy at Weldon. New, the book is roughly 38.00\$.

Evaluation:

Grades will be based on the following:

- Notebook Activities (this is where you will take notes in class and while doing the readings as a group and complete in-class writing prompts and activities meant to activate your learning).
- Fieldnotes (Students will be guided through the process of taking field notes in a public place. These are detailed sets of observations taken in real time. Each set of field notes will focus on one of our three themes for the term: animals, material culture and infrastructure).
- Debate Essays (Students will be learning about the debates that others have had about a theme AND by gathering firsthand observations of some dimension of the theme. The essays, written in class (roughly 800 words each), will allow students to “think with” anthropological debates.)

Notebook Activities	20%
Fieldnotes (3 sets)	20%
Debate Essays (3)	60%

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