

Department of Anthropology

ANTHRO 3223G-001: Doing Fieldwork in Sociocultural Anthropology

BRIEF COURSE OUTLINE

Winter 2027

Date: June 26, 2026

Instructor and course information:

Instructor: Dr. Jeremy Trombley

Method of delivery: In person

Credit value: 0.5

Antirequisites: None.

Prerequisites: None.

Course Description:

This course introduces students the theory and practice of ethnographic research and situates ethnography within qualitative social science research more generally. The course will begin by considering the historical development of anthropological research and the epistemological questions raised by such research, before turning to practical questions of research design and the primary methods of qualitative research used by anthropologists (e.g., participant-observation, life histories, field interviews). The course will also explore the relationship between research design, conducting research, and writing up the results. We will also discuss the ethical considerations that arise in ethnographic research and all students will undergo training in the ethical design and implementation of research with human subjects.

All students in the course will participate in designing and conducting a collaborative research project. By the end of the course students will have extensive practical experience with a range of qualitative research methods and all students will write an ethnographic analysis based on their field research.

This course has an extensive practical component, which means that all students will be conducting field research. The assignments will thus consist of both field research itself and of more polished analyses written after the research is conducted. The focus of the evaluation will be on feedback that will improve your skills. This means that while all assignments are required, not all of them will receive a letter grade.

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

Course Materials:

No textbook

Required readings will be available through the Course Readings tool on the course site

Evaluation:

Grades will be based on the following:

Pre-Course Reflection	5%
Weekly Fieldnotes	50%
Final Research Essay	30%
Engagement	10%
Post-Course Reflection	5%

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