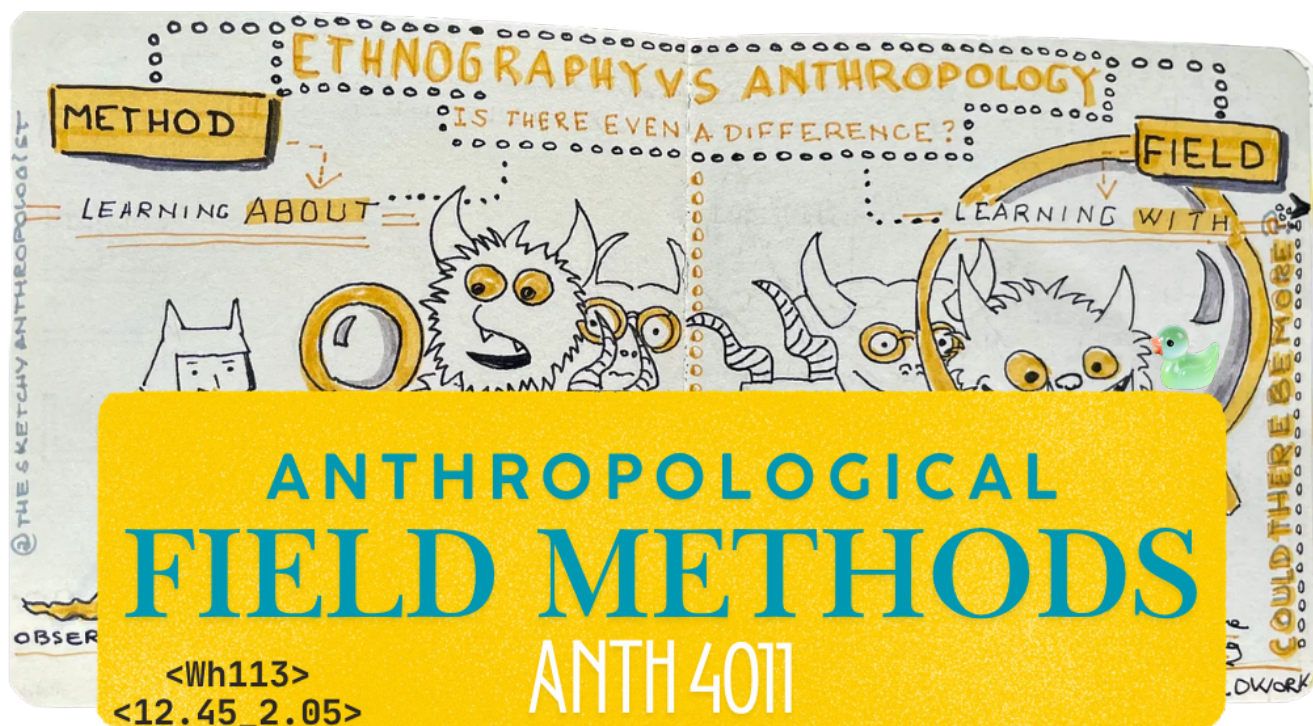




Anthropological Field Methods is a course in how anthropologists “do” anthropology. Every discipline is defined according to their own distinct search for knowledge. For example, psychologists may find knowledge through statistics while biologists test out hypotheses. However, the manner in which a researcher investigates, in terms of their/her/his research methods, is not just about the way they/she/he gathers data and information. Rather, research methods are instrumental in *creating* the very knowledge they are often purported only to discover. This course engages with the methods of anthropological thinking, especially in terms of how the ethnographer/collaborator relationship informs how questions over “culture” are both found and framed.

Instructor

Professor Nelson (she/her/ella)

melissa.nelson@unt.edu

940.369.8449

ZOOM ID: [9403698449](https://unt.zoom.us/j/9403698449)

Required Materials:

Notebook (w/2 sections)

Small Field Notebook

Barraco (2018) by

Zora Neale Hurston

ISBN 978-0-06-274821-8

Office Hours

T 10.30a-12.30p

Sycamore 120

Grading Scale

A 90-100

B 80-89

C 70-79

D 60-69

F <60

Grade

Breakdown

Attendance 10%

Syntheses* 15%

Exercises 15%

Papers 20%

Ethnographic

Experiences 20%

Panel* 20%

*Group Grades

Learning Objectives

- Students will acquire ethnographic skills that include engaging collaboratively with a social community, interviewing, and assessing the anthropological value of those experiences.
- Students will be able to think critically about the power and process of research. They will be able to contextualize current research approaches within an historical overview of the development of anthropological research methods and discuss how research methods are dynamic tools in processes of power.
- Students will be able to critically reflect upon their own positionality both as social beings and as an ethnographic research student.
- Students will learn how to write ethnographic analyses in ways that are thoughtful, succinct, and anthropological.
- Students will practice collaboration and participation skills, gaining the experience of how to produce and present knowledge within an academic community.

Course Organization

As an in-person class, this course develops an understanding for anthropological methods through a collaborative and discussion-based approach which requires students to be present. **Assignments/assessments will be handed out in-class and submissions will be accepted only in-class unless otherwise noted.** *Canvas* will be used as a supplemental resource for readings/resources, announcements, and recording grades. Modules/materials will be published in synchronicity with our in-class meetings. In other words, you will not have access to full course materials as you would in an online, asynchronous class. *Students are encouraged to engage with/work through the following online materials on Canvas prior to the start of a unit:*

- **“Good to Think” Questions** (to keep in mind as we engage with unit themes)
- **Required Reading for the Unit** (with Author Pictures & Context)

Assessments Policy

Missing assignments as a result of an unexcused absence will result in a 0. Attempts at late submission, or assessments submitted in alternate ways (i.e. email v. in-class), will not be accepted. Make-up opportunities will only be considered with an approved and documented excused absence (see *Assessments/Attendance* below). Make-up work will be due the class meeting immediately following the excused absence(s) unless otherwise expressly determined by the instructor in writing.

Assessments

Attendance

10%

Students are expected to attend class meetings regularly and to abide by the attendance policy established for the course. If possible, it is advised that students communicate with the professor prior to being absent, so you and the professor can discuss and mitigate the impact of the absence on your attainment of course learning goals. ALL absences will be counted **unexcused** unless documentation of a [university approved absence](#) is provided to the instructor in writing within 48 hours of the missed class.

Attendance grades will be calculated according to the table below. Students ending the semester with 100% attendance will receive an additional +1% extra credit added to their final grade. Students with 13 or more absences will result in an automatic “F” for the COURSE grade (not just the attendance grade).

Attendance Grade	Points	Unexcused Absences	
A	100	0	+1% XCR
A	90	1-2	
B	80	3-5	
C	70	6-8	
D	60	9-11	
F	50	12	

13+ Unexcused Absences will result in an automatic "F" for the COURSE grade.

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- **Each Tardy = -1% attendance**
- **1st Tardy is a freebie**
- **You are tardy if you enter class after 12:45p.**
- **Students with back to back classes must speak with me during the first week of the semester if requesting accommodations.**
- **Emailing me you are running late will not excuse a tardy.**

Syntheses

15%

Course meetings dedicated to book club will be based around discussions devoted to the assigned ethnography and will explore themes and processes related to methods. Students will work collaboratively to synthesize those class discussions into short "synthesis" essays which will be assessed according to a group grade.

Exercises

15%

Students will be required to independently participate in exercises outside of class that are designed to elicit an experiential understanding of the themes we are exploring in-class. Exercises may include submissions of a creative nature (poetry, writing, art). Further details will be provided in-class.

Papers

20%

You will be asked to submit **300-500 word** papers at the end of key units/themes. These essays should be informed by lectures, discussions, and readings. I will be looking for a polished writing sample with a clear thesis, argument, and properly cited references. Your argument needs to offer something more than a summary or editorial.

Ethnographic Experiences

20%

Students will be required to present for approval an independently sought community collaboration. The goal of this experience is for students to practice the art of being "ethnographic" and reach a level of cultural intimacy with their community collaborators that allows for a deeper and more nuanced understanding of how a community seeks to make sense of the world and each other. **Students are expected to spend significant time with their community collaborators outside of class-time and are required to dedicate an average of 2-3 days a week (averaging 4-6 hrs. a week) to them.** The *Ethnographic Experience* portion of your grade will be comprised of the following individual assessments (further details will be provided in class):

- Community Collaborator Proposal
- Field-Note Briefs
- Scoring the Ethnographic Episode
- Community Collaborator Assessment and Reflection

Panels

20%

Your final assessment consists of a scholarly discussion of anthropological field methods grounded in the experiences of your ethnographic collaborations. Students will be assessed on the depth of their ethnographic anecdotes and the degree of engagement with the larger issues of anthropological research. Further details will be provided in class.

Semester Schedule*

PERSPECTIVE (8/18-8/27)		
Methods: You Are How You Research		
8/18	Introduction to the Course	
8/20	Class Discussion-"The Ethnographer's Eye" (Exercise Assigned)	
8/25	In Class Activity: Nacirema	Due: Exercise on Perspective
8/27	Class Discussion-"They Are How We Research"	
PARTICIPATION (9/1-10/27)		
Participant-Observation: How We Do What We Do		
9/1	Introduction to Part-Observation/ Community Collaborator Proposal Overview	Due: Paper on Perspective
9/3	Film Discussion: <i>Zora Neale Hurston: Claiming a Space</i>	
9/8	Class Discussion-"Being Present v. Being There"	Due: Community Collaborator Proposal
9/10	Book Club #1	Barracoon: xi-36
		Due: Synthesis #1
9/15	In-Class Exercise on Participation: "Sacred Rites" [In-Class]	
9/17	Collab Conflab	Due: Exercise on Participation Write-Up
9/22	Class Discussion-"The Devil's in the Details"	
9/24	Due: Field Note Sketch	
9/29	Book Club #2	Barracoon: 37-76
		Due: Synthesis #2
10/1	Class Discussion-"TYKYK"	
10/6	Anthropological Analysis of "Kendall Mommies"	
10/8	Introducing Panels: Assignment of Roles	
10/13	Due: Field Note Sketch	
10/15	Introducing Scoring the Ethnographic Episode	
10/20	Book Club #3	Barracoon: 77-113
		Due: Synthesis #3
10/22	Due: Scoring the Ethnographic Episode	
10/27	Due: Field Note Sketch	
POWER (10/29-12/3)		
A Reckoning: Wrestling with Our Disciplinary Legacy		
10/29	Class Discussion-"Disciplinary Legacy"	Due: Paper on Participation
11/3	A Look Back: Full Circle Zora (Exercise Assigned)	
11/5	Due: Ethnographic Skills Assessment Exercise	
11/10	Panel Workshop *NB: Class will begin at 1:15 today!	
11/12	Due: Community Collaborator Assessment and Reflection	
11/17	Panel Practice Day	
11/19	TBD: AAA Panel or Panel Practice Day	Due: Paper on Power
Fall Break (NO CLASS) [11/24-11/28]		
12/1	Panels	
12/3	Panels	

**Learning materials are found on CANVAS. This schedule and its contents are subject to change. Check CANVAS announcements for updates.*

	Synthesis x 3 (15%)		Exercises x 3 (15%)
	Panel (20%)		Papers x 3 (20%)
	Ethnographic Experiences (20%)		

Academic Integrity Policy

University Policy on Academic Integrity:

(Policy and Procedures number 06.003)

Academic Misconduct: “Academic Misconduct,” in this policy, means the intentional or unintentional action by a student to engage in behavior in the academic setting including, but not limited to: cheating, fabrication, facilitating academic misconduct, forgery, plagiarism, and sabotage.

Anthropology Program Policy on Academic Integrity:

The UNT Anthropology program expects its students to abide by the high ethical standards of practicing professionals within the field of anthropology. The program does not tolerate cheating, fabrication, facilitating academic dishonesty, forgery, plagiarism, or sabotage. This includes the use of unauthorized professional writing/editing services and generative AI for assignments. Students are expected to follow the [American Anthropological Association’s code of ethics](#): “In their capacity as researchers, anthropologists are subject to the ethical principles guiding all scientific and scholarly conduct. They must not plagiarize, nor fabricate or falsify evidence, or knowingly misrepresent information or its source”.

Students are encouraged to use the [UNT Writing Center](#). For information on the University’s policies and procedures regarding academic integrity and dishonesty, see the UNT [Student Academic Integrity policy](#).

Course Policy on Academic Integrity:

An allegation of academic dishonesty, if found credible by the instructor, may result in a range of academic penalties or sanctions ranging from admonition to expulsion from the University. Any student suspected of cheating in this course will receive at the very least a 0 on the assignment or up to an F in the course. A report of academic integrity violation shall be filed against the student with UNT and the student will have an opportunity to appeal the decision according to UNT’s appeal process.

ADA Policy

UNT makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Accommodation (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide a student with an accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding one’s specific course needs. Students may request accommodations at any time, however, ODA notices of accommodation should be provided as early as possible in the semester to avoid any delay in implementation. Note that students must obtain a new letter of accommodation for every semester and must meet with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class. For additional information see the [ODA website](#) (<https://disability.unt.edu/>).

Transmission and Recording of Student Images in Electronically-Delivered Courses

1. No permission is needed from a student for his or her image or voice to be transmitted live via videoconference or streaming media, but all students should be informed when courses are to be conducted using either method of delivery.
2. In the event an instructor records student presentations, he or she must obtain permission from the student using a signed release in order to use the recording for future classes in accordance with the Use of Student-Created Work guidelines above.
3. Instructors who video-record their class lectures with the intention of re-using some or all of recordings for future class offerings must notify students on the course syllabus if students’ images may appear on video. Instructors are also advised to provide accommodation for students who do not wish to appear in class recordings.

No notification is needed if only audio and slide capture is used or if the video only records the instructor’s image. However, the instructor is encouraged to let students know the recordings will be available to them for study purposes.

Emergency Notification & Procedures

UNT uses a system called Eagle Alert to quickly notify students with critical information in the event of an emergency (i.e., severe weather, campus closing, and health and public safety emergencies like chemical spills, fires, or violence). In the event of a university closure, please refer to CANVAS for contingency plans for covering course materials.

External Time Commitment

The Anthropological Field Methods course requires an embodied understanding not only of what it means to “do” anthropology, but of what it is to “experience” being “anthropological”. To that end, this course is unique in that it requires both substantial time commitments outside of the classroom in addition to experiences and relationships which may prove to be outside of a student’s comfort zone. In addition to the regular time demands drawn from homework, this course requires a significant increase in time committed outside of our class meetings. **Students are expected to independently seek out an approved community collaboration and dedicate between 4-6 hours per week (spread across 2-3 days) to spending time with them.** In addition, students will be required to conduct exercises outside of class time that will demand planning, availability, and flexibility that will also challenge the boundaries of their comfort zone.

Computer & Electronic Use

The use of computers and other electronics are not allowed in the classroom during lecture/discussion days. Instead, students will be encouraged to practice taking “classroom sketchnotes” on notebook paper in order to engage with the larger questions/themes of the class. Students relying on electronic versions of their reading should bring printed out reading notes to class for reference.

Specific instruction will be given on days/times when electronics are permitted. Exceptions will be made for students who have specific ODA accommodations relevant to this matter. In those cases, it is up to the student to visit office hours to discuss accommodation details with the instructor.