COURSE SYLLABUS
ETHNOHISTORICAL RESEARCH METHODS
ANG 6480 - U01
Spring 2012. Thursdays 11:00 AM – 1:45 PM. SIPA 335
Florida International University,
Offered by the Department of Global and Sociocultural Studies
Open to all FIU Graduate Students or by Instructor Permission
Version of January 15, 2012

COURSE DESCRIPTION
To understand the present and future one must know the past. This course emphasizes time, space, process and sociocultural context for understanding the human experience. Ethnohistorical research methods facilitate the compilation and analysis of a wide array of sources created a day ago, or a thousand years ago. Students will be immersed in a variety of data sources and taught the skills to combine written texts, material objects, graphic images, interviews and ethnographic fieldnotes. Triangulation and mixed methods builds a chronological and diachronic interpretation of source materials, validates their integrity, and places them in social and cultural context. Through discourse and content analysis the trained researcher using the computer software NVivo can transform qualitative information into quantitative and graphic form generating innovative explanations and interpretations.

COURSE OBJECTIVES: What you should be able to do on completion of this course
1. Integrate and link sociocultural theories, methods and data to produce new knowledge.
2. Efficiently locate, access and utilize collections and archives for research purposes.
3. Know the assumptions, validity and reliability of methods and techniques for the study of material objects, texts, photographs, interviews, maps, graphic images, ethnographies, etc.
4. Comfortably triangulate multiple methods for the analysis and presentation of qualitative and quantitative research.
5. Use NVivo software for project management, organization, analysis, and report writing.
6. Enhance your skills for the production of professional publications.

LOCATION AND RESOURCES:
Course will be taught in the seminar room SIPA 335. Students are encouraged to utilize their own theories, research topics and data from local, national and international archives/collections. Special collections in South Florida will be highlighted such as FIU Library Special Collections, Wolfsonian, and HistoryMiami.

COMPUTER SOFTWARE
Course includes training in the use of NVivo software from QSR International for project management, coding, analysis, and report writing. NVivo has the capacity to digitally incorporate texts, field notes, photographs, interviews, GIS maps, audio and video as data sources. A transcription function facilitates the production of texts from video and audio files. Codes can be categorized and recombined as themes emerge with discourse and content analysis. As the project grows in complexity, data sources can be queried for specific themes producing new hypertexts. Generation of models and matrices represent the theory and data graphically and quantitatively. NVivo software facilitates the testing of theory based hypotheses or the generation of grounded theories.
Syllabus - Ethnohistorical Research Methods

INSTRUCTOR
Dennis Wiedman, Ph.D. Anthropologist
Associate Professor. Department of Global and Sociocultural Studies.
Office: Maidique Campus, SIPA 327, 305-348-2262
Office Hours: Wednesdays 3:00 to 4:00 PM, or by appointment.
Email: wiedmand@fiu.edu  Web Page: www.fiu.edu/~wiedmand
Email communication should be within Moodle. I try to respond within three days.

TECHNOLOGY AND SOFTWARE
Required: Bring Personal lap-top computer to class each time.
Windows operating system, XP version or later.
(Apple Mac computers are not NVivo efficient.)
With minimum 1.2 GHz Pentium Processor, 1GB memory, 1 GB available hard disk space.
NVivo – Version 9. - QSR International (Use Student Package Order form in Moodle)
Internet Explorer
Adobe Reader
Microsoft Office with Word and Excel
Optional: Bibliographic software such as Endnote

REQUIRED READINGS
Banks, Marcus, and Uwe Flick
Barber, Russell J, and Frances F. Berdan
1999 The Emperor’s Mirror: Understanding Cultures through Primary Sources.
Nabokov, Peter
Rapley, Tim
Stern, Phyllis Noerager, and Caroline Porr
Woodward, Ian

Additional Selected Readings:
Blackman, Margaret
Castle, Joseph
Syllabus - Ethnohistorical Research Methods

Harkin, Michael

Hoffman, Joel M.

Pilling, Arnold

Reynolds, Barrie

Ryan, Gery, and Russell Bernard
2003 Techniques to Identify Themes. Field Methods 15:85-109. FIU electronic library

Wiedman, Dennis


Wiedman, Dennis. Editor

Optional Readings:
Bazeley, Patricia
(Based on NVivo 8. Does not incorporate latest functions of NVivo 9.

Krippendorff, Klaus

COURSE REQUIREMENTS
Each class meeting we focus on specific data sources, learn an NVivo function, discuss the readings, and demonstrate student course projects. In-class and out-of-class exercises facilitate the learning experience. This is a hands-on-course where students are required out-of-class to become immersed in accessing, organizing, analyzing, and then reporting and presenting their work. During class meetings students discuss their research project, including insights, themes, methodological issues, NVivo analytic techniques and strategies.
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The following requirements from Source Specialist, Oral History, Advanced Analysis, and Readings Leader to Exercises are incremental elements building to the completion of the Course Paper and Presentation. A student must complete all of the course requirements in order to earn a passing grade.

1) Source Specialist: Each student becomes a specialist learning how to locate, access, organize, analyze and report on one specific data source. The Source Specialist teaches other students using a PowerPoint presentation at a class meeting dedicated to that data source. In this way students gain in-depth knowledge of various sources such as historical photographs, videos, maps, censuses, government documents, postcards, judicial records, diaries, ethnographies, oral histories, newspapers, material objects, internet web pages and twitters, etc. Student posts in Moodle a literature review and annotated bibliography of notable books, articles, web pages that explain the use of the source or examples of advanced analyses. The Source Specialist facilitates the use of this source by other students throughout the semester.

2) Oral History: Collection and analysis of oral histories is at the foundation of ethnohistory. Interviewing of a person responsible for special collections at a library or archives will provide experience with interviewing and the use of NVivo’s built-in transcription and analysis functions. Topical categories, questions and guidelines will be developed as part of the course. Each student learns from the archivist about the holdings of the collections, rules for using the collections, and aspects of their professional careers and job responsibilities. Digital recording of the interview is imported into NVivo than transcribed, coded, analyzed and reported.

3) Advanced Analysis: Each student will compile primary data sources throughout the semester on a subject of their interest. These will be entered and coded in NVivo then use NVivo’s advanced functions to code, query, visualize, analyze and report on themes and relationships. A written and PowerPoint presentation is then developed. Selected student will make class demonstrations. This becomes the core of the Course Paper and Presentation.

4) Readings Leader: Individual students lead the discussion of the assigned weekly readings by reviewing the main points then leading a discussion of major issues. Two specific discussion points should be posted in Moodle by 5:00 PM on the evening prior to the class.

5) Exercises: In-class and out-of-class assignments enable students to express their perspectives, course comprehension and research abilities while demonstrating their analytical, writing and presentation skills. Most exercises incorporate essential methodological techniques using NVivo.

6) Course Paper: This final essay demonstrates skills in methods and analysis for triangulating texts, objects, and graphic image primary sources. Topic selection and methods are developed throughout the course and the final product is designed to be used by the student as the methods section of their dissertation, research proposal, or published work. A third into the semester the student submits a Proposal introducing the research topic/question, the research design, methods and data sources. A graphic timeline of activities, and an NVivo generated “Concept Map” links the research topic, data sources and coding. The Final Essay is no less than 12 pages, not including appendices and references cited.

7) Project Presentation: Towards the end of the semester each student will present their completed Project to the class and visitors.
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Style and Format: All written assignments and PowerPoint Presentations must use the format and style used by the American Anthropologist. Follow style guidelines in Moodle: Instructions: “Writing Professional Research Papers Using the Style of the American Anthropologist.” For essays use MS Word, double space using 1 inch top, bottom, and side margins. Use Times Roman 12 point font. Endnotes and “References Cited” sections should follow text. Do not use footnotes. Simply staple pages together, do not use a binder or fancy cover. Do not use separate cover page. Place name, course title and date single-spaced on top left of first page. Name should appear on the top left of each page. Center page numbers at the bottom of the page.

Timeliness: When specified by the instructor both printed and electronic versions are necessary in order to receive a grade. Unless otherwise noted, printed exercises and essays are due within 10 minutes of the beginning of the class on the due date; electronic versions in Moodle one hour before the class. Papers received after the due time, but within 24 hours receive one half letter grade less than earned, thereafter they receive a letter grade reduction for each week it is late. A written note from a health practitioner is required in order not to receive reduced points.

Classroom Etiquette: During class time cell phones must be turned off and out of sight. Class discussions demonstrate the student's interest in the course, understanding of the materials, as well as critical thinking and verbal skills. Active, courteous and informed participation is highly desired.

ATTENDANCE
In order to succeed in this course, students are expected to attend every class. Avoid arriving late or leaving early since this disrupts the presentation and student concentration. Course materials, exercises and discussions presented in class are the responsibility of the student. In-class exercises are the instructor’s way of providing regular feedback to students while promoting attendance.

Optional Ways to Get a Better Grade
Students who want to ensure a better grade can produce a product or plan/prototype from their course project paper. This could range from a completed product or plans, such as a museum exhibit, film, video, visual essay, conference poster, journal article of book chapter, etc.

ACADEMIC ETHICS
It is strictly prohibited to submit as one's own work material provided by a professional research agency, the Internet, or other persons. It is considered “plagiarism” to not cite the sources of your information. All sources must be identified in-text and in a “References Cited” section using the style of the American Anthropologist. Student’s who violate these principles receive a grade of “F” for the course. Written exercises and papers are submitted to Moodle-Turnitin for an assessment of originality. The instructor has the authority to consider academic misconduct charges that carry considerable penalties. Please consult the University student handbook for further information on plagiarism and its consequences.
WEB ASSISTED COURSE MATERIALS – Moodle.
Specific information for course assignments is posted in Moodle throughout the semester. Moodle supports the student learning experience with related readings, web page links, study aids, discussions, emails, and extra credit exercises. Student computers need Mozilla Firefox, MS Word, and Adobe Reader for pdf files.

**Announcements:** This is where the instructor communicates with the students.

It is important to read announcements as soon as they are posted.

**Email:** Send emails to selected individuals using the drop down list.

*Email the instructor only within Moodle Email.*

**Forums:** Student discussions take place here on course topics.

Internet access can be through any computer. Computers in the FIU computer labs and the library are available for your use. Begin by clicking on “Moodle” from the FIU current student main page.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>GRADING</th>
<th>Course Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Source Specialist</td>
<td>15</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. Oral History</td>
<td>10</td>
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<td>3. Advanced Analysis</td>
<td>10</td>
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<td>4. Readings Leader</td>
<td>10</td>
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<tr>
<td>5. Exercises **</td>
<td>20</td>
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<tr>
<td>6. Course Proposal &amp; Paper</td>
<td>25</td>
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<tr>
<td>7. Project Presentation</td>
<td>10</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>100</strong></td>
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**Optional:** Earn points up to Product from course paper 10

**FINAL GRADE CALCULATION**

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<tr>
<th>Grand Total Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A = 95 – 100</td>
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<tr>
<td>A- = 90 – 94.9</td>
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<tr>
<td>B+ = 87 – 89.9</td>
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<tr>
<td>B = 84 – 86.9</td>
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<td>B- = 80 – 83.9</td>
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<td>C+ = 77 – 79.9</td>
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<td>C = 74 – 76.9</td>
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<td>C- = 70 – 73.9</td>
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<td>D+ = 67 – 69.9</td>
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<tr>
<td>D = 64 – 66.9</td>
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<tr>
<td>D- = 60 – 63.9</td>
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<tr>
<td>F = 59.9 or less</td>
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**COURSE TOPICS AND READING SCHEDULE**

Assigned readings are to be completed by class meeting. Beginning in week five we focus on two specific data sources each week. Dates and types of data sources may change based on those selected by students. Additional readings may be recommended by the student source specialist.

**Week One: January 12**

Course Overview
Introductions and Welcomes
Course Syllabus, Readings and Requirements
Moodle Introduction
NVivo Introduction and Access

**At the end of the semester the total number of points for the Exercises may be more or less than the Course Points. Exercise points are calculated using the following formula:**

A) Total points received divided by B) Total possible points, multiplied by C) Course Points = D) Course Points Earned. (A / B) x C = D
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Week Two: January 19
NVivo: Project Structure, Navigation and Major Functions
Topic: Locating, Accessing and Ethically Utilizing Collections and Archives
Readings:
Barber & Berdan: Prologue; Introduction; The Scope of Ethnohistory xi-32. 41 pps.
2 The Reality-Mediation Model. Pages 33-47. 14 pps
Section Introduction. Page 51-52. & 3 Paleography. Pages 53-79. 31 pps
4 Calendrics. Pages 80-96. 16 pps
5 Linguistic Analysis. Pages 97-113. 16 pps
6 Interpretation of Names. Pages 114-147. 33 pps
Wiedman 1987 Oklahoma Cherokee Technological Development and Diabetes Mellitus. Moodle pdf.

Week Three: January 26.
NVivo: Sources, Folders and Text Documents
Topic: Collections, Collectors. & Research Topics and Designs.
Readings:
Barber & Berdan –
7 Source Analysis. Pages 148-177. 29 pps
8 Quantitative Analysis. Pages 178-201. 23 pps
9 Visual Interpretation. Pages 202-225. 23 pps
10 Map Interpretation. Pages 226-246. 20 pps
11 Tapping Complementary Sources of Information. Pages 247-273. 26 pps
13 Working in Archives and Elsewhere. Pages 293-302. 9 pps
Hoffman. Defining the Wolfsonian Collection through Objects, Presentations and Perceptions. Moodle pdf 25 pps
Harkin. Ethnohistory's Ethnohistory: Creating a Discipline from the Ground Up. FIU Electronic Library

Week Four: February 2.
NVivo: Nodes, Coding, Audio and Video. Transcriptions
Topic: Research Designs. Oral History Methods, IRB, Ethics
Readings: Nabokov: A Forest of Time

Week Five: February 9
NVivo: Queries, Text Search, Memos, Annotations and Reports
Ryan and Bernard - Techniques to Identify Themes. Field Methods 15:85-109. 24 pps

Week Six: February 16
NVivo: Word & Node frequencies, Classifications and Attributes

Week Seven: February 23
NVivo: Links, Hyperlinks, Compound Queries.

Week Eight: March 2
NVivo: Matrices, Collections

Week Nine: March 9
NVivo: Models and Concept Maps
Readings:
Data Source Student Presentations: Topic to be scheduled
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March 16, Spring Break – No Class

**Week Ten: March 23**
- NVivo: Charts, Clusters and Tree Maps
*Readings:*
  - Data Source Student Presentations: Topic to be scheduled

**Week Eleven: March 30**
- Data Source Student Presentations: Topic to be scheduled

**Week Twelve: April 6**
- Data Source Student Presentations: Topic to be scheduled

**Week Thirteen – April 13**
- *Course Project Papers due.* Printed within 10 minutes of beginning of class and electronically by noon.
- *Student Presentations*

**Week Fourteen – April 20**
- *Student Presentations:*

**Assessment Week – April 27. 9:45-11:45**
- *Student Presentations - if necessary.*