



ANT 3212

World Ethnographies

Section: RVBB

Internet/Fully Online

Fall Term 2026

Course Time Zone: Eastern Time (ET). Course due dates and times are according to this time zone.

Professor Information

Lisa Mueller

Roles: Primary Instructor

Email: lisbrown@fiu.edu

Phone: (305) 348-2247

Office Hours: By appointment -- let me know when you are available and we'll work something out.

Office Location: SIPA 1 300

Department or Academic Unit: Global and Sociocultural Studies

Course Prerequisites

Course prerequisites, if any, are listed below.

Course Description

This course offers an in-depth exploration of ethnography, a cornerstone of cultural anthropology and a growing methodology in disciplines such as sociology, geography, history, and psychology. Students will engage with the processes of conducting ethnographic research and transforming fieldwork into compelling narratives. We will delve into ethnographies that span diverse cultural settings, from urban environments to rural communities, examining how anthropologists navigate the complexities of representing lived experiences. Topics include multispecies ethnographies in the Himalayas, digital ethnographies that examine virtual spaces like Los Angeles' virtual reality scene, feminist ethnographies within Muslim societies, and decolonial ethnographies focusing on Indigenous knowledge and practices in Peru. The course will not only highlight varied research methods but also emphasize how ethnography can serve as a tool for social change, advocacy, and resistance against dominant paradigms. Through a combination of readings, films, and case studies, students will develop critical analytical skills to assess ethnographic work, deepen their understanding of cultural diversity, and foster an awareness of the interconnectedness of local and global systems.

Student Learning Outcomes/Objectives

- Evaluate what does and does not constitute ethnographic fieldwork and methods using Malinowski's framework as a standard of comparison.
- Discuss and analyze the meaning of culture (UCC).
- Examine the role of power differentials in different cultural contexts (UCC).

- Assess some of the effects that state modernization projects and globalization have had on specific cultures (GL)
- Analyze how similar cultural practices can have very different meanings in different cultural contexts (GL)
- Recognize common racial and ethnic stereotypes and how these stereotypes shape lives (GL)
- Explain various ways in which culture is contested and negotiated, not bound by strict rules (UCC).

Expectations of this Course



Expectations of this Course

This is a fully online course. Online courses require a degree of self-motivation, self-discipline, and technology skills which can make these courses more demanding for some students.

Students are expected to:

- Review how to get started information located in the course content.
- Take the practice quiz to ensure that your computer is compatible with Canvas.
- Interact with instructor/s and peers with respect.
- Review and follow the course calendar, including all quizzes, class discussions, and written assignments
- Provide original answers to the essay questions. If it appears that a student has copied from another person's work without citing it (plagiarism), FIU's policies for Academic Misconduct will be followed.

The instructor will:

- respond to emails within 48 hours;
- grade assignments within 7 days of the assignment deadline.



Ground Rules

1. Plagiarism is a serious offense. If you use the work of other authors without giving them credit, you will receive a '0' for the assignment and you will be reported to Academic Affairs. To avoid plagiarism, the essay exams will have to be uploaded on a turnitin.com site associated with this course.

2. Forming a What's App (or similar) group to work together on the quizzes is cheating, and those who share quiz questions or answers will be reported to Academic Affairs.

3. In this course, we will be discussing topics some might consider sensitive, provocative, or taboo; it is imperative that you express your opinions in a respectful manner.

4. As anthropologists, we are required to express our ideas clearly and effectively without the use of AI. This course is an opportunity for you to practice and improve your writing skills – from generating ideas, expressing those ideas, organizing, revising, and editing. Therefore, the use of generative AI is expressly forbidden for all assignments in this course. This includes but is not limited to:

- Utilizing AI applications (such as ChatGPT or Gemini) to generate and organize ideas.
- Using AI-powered grammar checkers (such as Grammarly) to rewrite sections of text.

All written assignments will be scanned for AI use by Turn It In's built-in checker. Assignments that are found to include the use of generative AI will be given an automatic grade of 0.



Textbook and Course Materials

Readings from this course consist of a series of articles that I will share each week. There are also several required films. All readings and films will be available on the

course's Canvas website. Required readings for the course are located within the Canvas module for which they are assigned.



Technology Requirements:

- **CANVAS:** Readings, Videos, and Assignment Guidelines will be posted in CANVAS. Additionally, you will use CANVAS to submit your assignments. Login via canvas.fiu.edu and check that you can access the course website. If you encounter any technical problems, then call UTS at 305.348.2284 or go to Green Library Rm. 150.
- **Zoom:** We will use Zoom for office hours. We might also use Zoom for emergencies. You will be required to sign in with your FIU ID and password. Click on fiu.zoom.us and use your FIU credentials to sign in. You can also find the Zoom link in your Canvas course. Additionally, you can download the Zoom app on your phone and connect via your phone. Make sure you have a working camera and sound.

Textbook and Course Materials

No textbook required

Required/Recommended: Required

Authors: N/A

Publisher: N/A

Publication Date: N/A

Copyright Date: N/A

ISBN 10: N/A

ISBN 13: N/A

Chapters/Pages: N/A

Panther Book Pack

Get all required course materials for \$22 per undergrad credit hour through Panther Book Pack. You'll be charged automatically unless you opt out within 3 days after the add/drop deadline.

For more details, to compare costs, and to learn how to access your course materials, visit the [Panther Book Pack information page on FIU OneStop](#).

Assignments & Assessments



E-Participation (Class discussions)

At the end of each unit, you will need to find some article, news, or short video that relates to one of the topics discussed in that unit. You should post a link to that article or video on the Class Discussion page AND include a 50+ word analysis, linking the content to class content. If you prefer, you can also respond to a post by one of your classmates – follow the link she or he posts, read the article or watch the video, and post a 50+ word analysis of it. You will be graded on the relevance of the post to class materials and the thoughtfulness of your analysis.



Quizzes

In order to mitigate any issues with your computer and online assessments, it is very important that you take the [Practice Quiz](#) from each computer you will be using to take your graded quizzes and exams. For quiz duration, grading criteria, and feedback response time, please review the [important information about quizzes](#) page.

There are six quizzes based on assigned readings, lectures, and films. These quizzes have multiple-choice questions and include one extra credit question per quiz.



Essay Assignments

At the end of each unit, every enrolled student will have to write a relatively short essay assignment. These five assignments will consist short essay questions, each of which should be answered with one-half to one double-spaced page (400-500 words total per exam). These short essays will ask students to demonstrate mastery of the material covered as well as an ability to apply the acquired knowledge to an improved understanding of the global world.



Midterm Book/Article Review:

For the midterm, students will conduct an in-depth review of an ethnography of their choice. The students will select an ethnographic article or book chapter that aligns with the themes and topics covered in class, such as multispecies ethnographies, digital (netnography), feminist, or decolonial ethnographies. The review should critically analyze the key elements of the ethnography and reflect on its contribution to anthropological knowledge and methods.



Final Project:

For the final assignment, students will develop a detailed proposal for an ethnographic research project. This proposal will demonstrate their understanding of the key concepts, methods, and ethical considerations discussed throughout the course. This project should aim to explore a cultural, social, or digital community or issue of their choice, utilizing the ethnographic approaches we've covered (such as multispecies ethnography, feminist ethnography, decolonial ethnography, or digital/virtual ethnography).

This proposal should be a well-thought-out plan, combining all aspects of ethnographic research design, from identifying a research question to considering ethical implications.



Extra Credit

There are 54 extra credit points built into the class, so the final score will be calculated as if there were only 1000 points in the class (even though there are actually 1054).

Grading

Course Requirements	Number of Items	Points for Each	Total Points Available
Module Quizzes	6	45	270
Essay Assignments	6	100	600
Class E-Participation (Discussions)	6	10	60
Midterm (Ethnography analysis)	1	62	62
Final project (Ethnography proposal)	1	62	62
Total	18	N/A	1000 (plus 54 extra credit)

Course Communication

Communication in this course will take place via the Canvas Inbox. Check out the [Canvas Conversations Tutorial](#) or [Canvas Guide](#) to learn how to communicate with your instructor and peers using Announcements, Discussions, and the Inbox. I will respond to all correspondences within 24 hours.

Zoom Video Conference

Zoom is a video conference tool that you can use to interact with your professor and fellow students by sharing screens, chatting, broadcasting live video/audio, and taking part in other interactive online activities. We will be utilizing this tool to conduct meetings between the professor and student when the student prefers to meet by Zoom.

Schedule of Topics

Week	Assignment
Week 1A: What is Ethnography?	Quiz 1
	E-discussion 1
Week 1B: Methodologies and methods of ethnographic research.	Essay 1
	Quiz 2

Week	Assignment
Week 2A: Ethics, reflexivity, and positionality.	Quiz 3
	E-discussion 2
Week 2B: Visual ethnography.	Essay 2
Week 3A: Feminist ethnography.	Quiz 4
	E-discussion 3
Week 3B: Netnography.	Quiz 5
	E-discussion 4
Week 4: Midterm	<u>Midterm Book/Article Review</u>
Week 5A: Decolonial ethnography.	Essay 3
	E-discussion 5
Week 5B: Multispecies ethnography.	Essay 4
	E-discussion 6
Week 6A: Sports ethnography.	Quiz 6
	Essay 5

Week	Assignment
Week 6B: Food ethnography.	Essay 6
Week 7: Finals	Final Ethnography Proposal

Course Awards



Nondiscrimination Statement

The **Office of Civil Rights (OCR)** is responsible for ensuring that FIU maintains a workplace and learning environment free from discrimination, where current and prospective faculty, staff, and students are treated equitably. If any student, employee, or applicant has a sincere and reasonable belief that they have been discriminated against or harassed based on age, color, disability, marital status, ethnic or national origin, race, religion, retaliation, sex, or any other protected category, they can report their concerns to the OCR team through report.fiu.edu.