



Writing in Anthropology

3860
ANT 4930/ENC 3254

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"Man is an animal suspended in webs of significance which he himself has created. I take culture to be those webs" Clifford Geertz

Course Description ~ Texts ~ Requirements ~ Grading ~ Schedule ~ Useful Links ~ Notes ~ Assignments

Course Description and Objectives

The principal objective of this course is to improve the overall writing abilities of students majoring in anthropology. A secondary objective is to familiarize students with the conventions of the discipline, thus better preparing them for upper-division and graduate courses in anthropology and related subject areas.

This is a Gordon Rule course requiring numerous writing assignments of various lengths.

Anthropology today is as much the study of being human as it is the study of human beings. Scholars working in its four major sub-disciplines, cultural, physical, linguistic and archeological, despite the widely varying foci of their endeavors, generally take a holistic view of the field of anthropology. Indeed, anthropological study is clearly applicable to all areas of inquiry.

Despite the organic quality of the field, writing styles and conventions in the various branches of the discipline do diverge as they are brought to serve the specific demands of the four major areas of study. Thus Writing in Anthropology must of necessity serve the needs of all students regardless of where their interests take them. While some assignments in the course will be of a general character applicable to any student of anthropology, other assignments will be tailored to the needs of individuals making the course, in effect, a tutorial. For example, the annotated bibliography and the essay exam are applicable to all students, whereas the ethnography may have a delimited application.

Work may be revised multiple times thus enabling students to accrue the maximum number

of points toward the total; any student who is willing to put in the hard work that writing is, will be assured of a superior grade in the course.

Required Text

None

Reference Texts

Sunstein, Bonnie Stone and Elizabeth Chiseri-Strater. *Fieldworking: Reading and Writing Reserch*

Zinsser, William. *On Writing Well*.

Strunk, William, Jr., et al. *The Elements of Style*.*

Grossman, John. *The Chicago Manual of Style*.

Rozakis, Laurie, *The Complete Idiot's Guide to Grammar*. Macmillan. 1997

Cuba, Lee. *A Short Guide to Writing about Social Science*. 3rd Edition. Longman, New York. 1997*

* Book will be placed on reserve or loaned from the instructor's library.

Materials

Each student is asked to bring a pocket stapler to class.

Course Requirements

Students will be expected to thoroughly familiarize themselves with the readings. It is expected that all assignments will be completed on time. Late assignments will be reduced one half- letter grade per day. This is a writing course and students will be expected to complete writing assignments totaling six thousand words. The principal assignment will be a two thousand-word research paper, which may be conflated with on-going work in another course, if the instructor permits.

Grading

Course grades will be determined on the basis of a point system on all assignments as well as class attendance and participation. Students will have ample opportunity to revise their written work until all requirements are met. If a student is willing to continue making revisions, he/she can expect to earn full credit for each assignment. Revisions on the research paper will be limited by the time allowed at the conclusion of the course. A brief, oral presentation will also contribute towards the course grade.

There will be no exams excepting a mock exam or timed writing exercise.

The evaluation of written work will be thorough and rigorous, holding students to the highest professional standards. We will use a 1000-point system, the points of which will be distributed as follows:

Annotated Bibliography	100 pts.
Mock Essay Exam	25 pts.
Short Critiques/Analyses	125 pts.
Short Journal Article	200 pts.
Research Paper and notes.	400 pts.
Presentation of Research	50 pts.
Class Participation *	100 pts.
Total Points	1000 pts.

* includes attendance, punctuality, participation in discussion, and short peer reviews

If you have any questions regarding cheating or plagiarism, please refer to the University of Florida's policy on cheating and use of copyrighted materials in your student handbook.

Being Punctual in turning in Assignments

Students are required to bring in two copies of first drafts to class. One copy will be turned in at the beginning of the period as proof that the assignment was completed on time, the other is to be kept for revision. I will not comment on the first copy, only on the first revision. If for any reason you do not turn in the draft copy at the beginning of class, I will be forced to deduct 10% of the allotted points for that assignment.

Other Student Responsibilities

You are expected to attend class regularly and punctually. Three absences are allowed after which students' course grades will be reduced one-half letter grade per absence regardless of the reason. Students who arrive late repeatedly may not be admitted to class. You are expected to read all assignments prior to class and are responsible for learning the content of all materials used in the course. Cell phones may not be brought to class.

Students with Disabilities

Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the instructor when requesting accommodation.

Schedule of Classes and Assignments*

(Single period Tuesday, double period Thursday)

Part I: Introduction

Week 1

Tuesday:

Discuss syllabus and objectives of the course

Thursday:

Writing Diagnostic: Why anthropology?

Write a 500 word essay on why you have chosen anthropology as your major. Due at end of period.

Discussion of AAA Style Guide and other related style guides.
Bookmark and examine.

Week 2

Tuesday:

Discussion of the major journals in anthropology and where to find them.

In-class assignment: Begin a web search for an anthropology article in your area of specialization.

Assignment: Print out and edit the article for conformity to the appropriate style guide. Completed edited article due on Thursday.

Thursday:

Due: Edited article from web for discussion and peer review. Be prepared to present a brief analysis of your article's format and style to the class.

Week 3

Tuesday:

George A. Smathers Library Orientation for resources in anthropology and the social sciences. Remarks by reference librarian.

Thursday:

Begin preliminary survey of web sites and hard copy library materials that you think could be useful in your research project. Type a brief statement describing as best you can what your research topic will be. If all you know at this point is the sub-discipline you intend to work in, name it.

Second half: Discussion of test-taking strategies followed by a mock essay exam question to be written on an assigned broad topic.

Assignment: Read photocopied chapter, "Friday Night at Iowa 80". Be prepared for detailed analysis in-class discussion.

Week 4

The Short Ethnography

Tuesday:

Lecture and Discussion: The structure of the short ethnography.

Assignment: "Friday Night at Iowa 80": Write a 250 word analysis/critique of Zollo's methods for presentation by groups.

Thursday:

Presentation of analysis/critique by groups. Hand-in written work at end of class.

Week 5

Tuesday:

Discussion of primary sources and the utility of archives.

Field trip to the University Archives and the Department of Special Collections, George A. Smathers Libraries.

Structure and style in physical anthropology

Thursday:

Lecture and discussion: The structure of an article from physical anthropology.

Assignment: Locate an article on the web from a major journal of physical anthropology. In a 200 word document, analyze the structure and style.

Write a draft analysis and discuss in groups. Peer review and revise. Hand-in at end of period.

Week 6

Structure and style in archeology

Tuesday:

Discussion of the structure and style of journal articles in archeology.

Assignment: Locate an article on the web from a major journal of archeology. In a 200 word document, analyze the structure and style. In-class time allotted for this assignment. Due:

Thursday.

Thursday:

Discussion of archeology articles in groups.

Lecture and discussion: The scholarly article in a peer-reviewed journal.

Assignment: Print the title pages of three additional journal articles from your subfield of anthropology. Take notes on one of these articles and turn-in.

Week 7

The Journal Article

Tuesday:

Assignment: Write a short article on a subject of your choosing, but preferably related to your research topic, in the style of a scholarly journal, fifteen hundred word minimum. Follow the format of an appropriate style guide and indicate by your name, etc. which style guide you have followed. Your paper should include three sources from peer reviewed journals. Draft due at end of class on Tuesday, February 28th.

In-class search for on-line sources for your short journal article Ms.

Due: Print outs of three journal article title pages plus typed notes on one article.

Lecture and Discussion: Human Relations Area Files - an interesting and expanding research tool.

Assignment: Choose a group of people to research listed in HRAF. Take notes for a brief class presentation. Make a checklist of basic cultural characteristics you would like to see discussed in any ethnographic work.

Due: Thursday.

Thursday:

HRAF presentations. Presenters will respond to one question from each class member based on their checklist.

Assignment: Write an abstract of a hypothetical ethnography on the group you researched in the HRAF files (no more than 100 words) Due Tuesday.

Week 8

Tuesday: Due: Draft of Journal Article for peer review. Revise and hand-in.

Due: Abstract of hypothetical ethnography for peer review. Revise and hand-in.

Part II: Writing the Research Paper: Getting Started

Thursday:

Composing the Research Question, Working Title, and Thesis Statement

Write the research question for your research paper for peer review. Revise your research question.

Based on your approved research question, choose a working title for your paper. Write a draft thesis statement for peer review. Print-out revised research question, working title and thesis statement on one sheet of paper and hand-in.

Week 9

Preliminary Research Skills: The Annotated Bibliography

Tuesday: Discussion of the annotated bibliography.

Assignment: Write a single sample entry of your annotated bibliography.

Thursday: Due: Draft of your annotated bibliography for peer review. Revise and hand-in.

Week 10

Tuesday: Due: Revised annotated bibliography. Informal presentation/discussion by each student regarding his/her research progress.

Thursday: In-class assignment: Write a detailed outline of your research paper. Peer review, revise and hand-in.

Second half: From the journal articles you have worked with this semester, choose an introduction that you feel is effective based on the criteria discussed in class. Be prepared to explain why you feel that it is a strong introduction. Due Tuesday.

Week 11

Tuesday: Due: Revised outline of your research paper.

Due: Your example of a good introduction. Discussion.

Discussion: Writing the introduction.

Assignment: Write a first draft of your introduction. Include a discussion of methods.

Thursday: Due: First draft of introduction for peer review.

Assignment: Write a first draft of the body of your research paper. Due at time of conference.

Due: Revised introduction due at time of conference. Sign-up for individual conferences.

Week 12

Tuesday: No Class: Individual conferences (have revised Introduction and draft of body sections ready for my perusal)

Thursday: No Class: Individual conferences

Week 13

Graduate School Portfolio

Tuesday: Graduate School Applications Writing the personal statement for graduate school.

Assignment: Write a personal statement (500-700 words). Draft due on Thursday.

Thursday: Due: Drafts of personal statements for peer review. Revisions due at end of first half.

Second half: Write a draft resume for peer review. Revisions due at end of period.

Assignment: Research Paper: Write a first draft of your conclusion. Due on Tuesday for peer review.

Week 14

Tuesday: Research Paper: First draft of Conclusion due for peer review. Revisions due on Thursday as a part of entire paper..

Assignment: Assemble entire research paper in good order and have ready for final peer review in class on Thursday.

Include title page, abstract, text, any figures, tables, etc, and references.

Thursday: Due: Entire research paper for peer review.

Second half: Sign up for presentation times. Fifteen minutes will be allotted per presentation.

Tips on making a good presentation.

Week 16

Group Presentation of Research

Tuesday: Presentation of research
Course evaluations

Thursday: Presentation of research