Designing Archaeological Research and Field Methods
ANG 5485 – (26209) Section GP54
Tuesday: 8:30-10:25 am
Thursday: 9:35-10:25 am
Location: Classroom TUR 1208H
Academic Term: Spring 2025

Instructor:
Gabriel Prieto
Email Address: ogabriel.prietob@ufl.edu
Office Hours: Monday 11:00 am - 12:00 pm. Wednesday 9:00 – 11:00 am
Office location: B350, Turlington Hall

Course Description

Credit Hours: ANG 5485: 3-3

One of the major challenges in the academic life of graduate students is dealing with the fieldwork for a master/doctoral dissertation project. This is more difficult when the work has to be done overseas in different countries with foreign languages and cultures. This course is designed to explore how we should design a research project, choosing the right problem and the set of questions that will direct the investigation. In this class, the students will explore multiple situations and evaluate the case-study presented by the professor to determine what should be a good site/place to work and how we should deal with common issues that arise during the fieldwork. In anthropology, fieldwork is usually expensive and time-consuming. How to choose the right place (country, community, site, population, and sample size?). This course also shows how to create international teams and getting familiar with local laws and institutions in order to maximize time and field expenses to finalize fieldwork during graduate years satisfactorily. One goal of this class is to come back to UF with all the needed data to write the dissertation. Ultimately, the main goal of this class is that each student will end up with two grant proposals that may be submitted to obtain funds for their doctoral dissertation projects.

Course Objectives

Work with graduate students to improve their skills in identifying relevant anthropological questions for their future research projects.

Improve student skills to layout research projects, combining questions, objectives, methodologies, expectations, and results in a synchronized form.

To work realistic budgets, following their research objectives and methodologies.

To determine what would be the best fieldwork (survey, excavation strategy in the field, interviews, observational strategy, etc.) considering the timing and budgetary limitations.

Prepare the students to build-up a strong peer-network in their sub-fields but also in the host country where they are planning to work.

Finalize two grant proposals: one NSF Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Grant and a Wenner-Gren or National Geographic Grant type.

Required Textbooks
(See assigned readings by week)

Important Dates:
Test and Writing Assignment Due Dates

Reading and written assignments: Every week
Midterm: Thursday, February 27th
Final paper: Thursday, May 1st

<u>**"Instructional materials for this course consist of only those materials specifically reviewed, selected, and assigned by the instructor(s). The instructor(s) is only responsible for these instructional materials."**</u>

Course Schedule

Week 1: Course introduction:
1. **Learning from students' background and experience.**
2. **Setting up an strategy for the course, based on student's experiences.**
3. **Prieto experience on Research Design and Successful Funded Projects**
4. **Defining the "ideal" research process**
5. **The "five essential" questions on your research question**
6. **Discussion on assigned readings**

Week 2: The Backbone: Background and Theoretical Framework: Ideographic & Nomothetic

Week 3: Paradigms and Research Topics

Week 4: Literature Search, part 1

Week 5: Literature Search, part 2

Week 6: Defining the (your) anthropological problem.

1. **What is an anthropological problem?**
2. **An example of different anthropological problem and its outcomes: the case from Gramalote in the North Coast of Peru. The case of child sacrifice in the Chimu society. How can the research questions and the methodology affect the results of a doctoral dissertation project?**

Week 7: Formulating Hypothesis (s), part 1

Week 8: Formulating Hypothesis (s), part 2

Week 9: Research Objectives

The Method(s) in Research Design. How can I find the best methodology to answer my question (s) and to test my hypotheses?

Designing a Research Project. Focusing on a simple but "big" problem.

Week 10: Data Collection and Analysis

Building a research project based on previous experiences. Creating "solid" antecedents. Challenging, confirming, addressing.

Week 11: The Budget – realistic vs ideal. Ethics on research expenses

Week 11: Supporting or rejecting Hypothesis or Theories

Week 12: Discussion vs. Conclusions

Week 13: The Impact of my research

Week 14: Beyond the "body of knowledge." What is the contribution to the anthropological theory? The "broad perspective."

Week 15: Creating your research profile, you've made it!

Attendance Policy, Class Expectations, and Make-Up Policy

Absences count from the first class meeting. In general, acceptable reasons for absence from or failure to participate in class include illness, serious family emergencies, special curricular requirements (e.g. judging trips, field trips, professional conferences), military obligations, severe weather conditions, religious holidays, and participation in official university activities such as music performances, athletic competition or debate. Absences from class for court-imposed legal obligations (e.g. jury duty or subpoena) must be excused. Other reasons also may be approved. Excused absences must be consistent with university policies in the Graduate Catalog and require appropriate documentation. Additional information can be found in Attendance Policies.

Accommodations for students with disabilities:

Students with disabilities who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect with the disability Resource Center (see link below). It is important for students to share their accommodation letter with me and discuss their access needs, as early as possible in the semester

Please, visit: https://disability.ufl.edu/get-started/

Grading in this course takes place within the following parameters.

For more information, please visit: UF Graduate Catalog / Grades and Grading Policies

Letter Grade	Range :

A	100 %	to 94.0%
A-	< 94.0 %	to 90.0%
B+	< 90.0 %	to 87.0%
B	< 87.0 %	to 84.0%
B-	< 84.0 %	to 80.0%
C+	< 80.0 %	to 77.0%
C	< 77.0 %	to 74.0%
C-	< 74.0 %	to 70.0%

Letter Grade	Range:	
D+	< 70.0 %	to 67.0%
D	< 67.0 %	to 64.0%
D-	< 64.0 %	to 61.0%
F	< 61.0 %	to 0.0%

Students Requiring Accommodations

Students with disabilities who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect with the Disability Resource Center. It is important for students to share their accommodation letter with their instructor and discuss their access needs, as early as possible in the semester.

Course Evaluation

Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Click here for guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens, and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via ufl.bluera.com/ufl/. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students here.

University Honesty Policy

UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states, "We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: "On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment." The Honor Code specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor or TAs in this class.

Software Use

All faculty, staff, and students of the University are required and expected to obey the laws and legal agreements governing software use. Failure to do so can lead to monetary damages and/or criminal penalties for the individual violator. Because such violations are also against University policies and rules, disciplinary action will be taken as appropriate. We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to uphold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity.

Student Privacy

There are federal laws protecting your privacy with regards to grades earned in courses and on individual assignments. For more information, please see the Notification to Students of FERPA Rights.

Campus Resources:
Health and Wellness

U Matter, We Care:
If you or a friend is in distress, please contact umatter@ufl.edu or 352 392-1575 so that a team member can reach out to the student.

Counseling and Wellness Center: counseling.ufl.edu/cwc, and 392-1575; and the University Police Department: 392-1111 or 9-1-1 for emergencies.

Sexual Assault Recovery Services (SARS)
Student Health Care Center, 392-1161.

University Police Department at 392-1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies), or police.ufl.edu.

Academic Resources

E-learning technical support, 352-392-4357 (select option 2) or e-mail to Learning-support@ufl.edu.

Career Resource Center, Reitz Union, 392-1601. Career assistance and counseling.

Library Support, Various ways to receive assistance with respect to using the libraries or finding resources.

Teaching Center, Broward Hall, 392-2010 or 392-6420. General study skills and tutoring.

Writing Studio, 302 Tigert Hall, 846-1138. Help brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers.

Student Complaints Campus

On-Line Students Complaints