Writing in Anthropology

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Course Description

In this course you will learn some of the principles that govern researching and writing about foreign cultures. The content of the course is varied and so are the learning strategies—I will work with you as a class and as individuals. We will have lectures, discussions, and assignments on field study methods, ethnographies by outstanding scholars on Plains Indians, the Zulu wars, nomadic Arabs, the Eskimo, and Andean silver miners. You will read from a range of genres that qualify as ethnography, and you will learn by experience how to conduct and write up an ethnographic research project on a subculture of your choice, and present it to the class at semester's end as a PowerPoint presentation.

At the outset we will quickly review principles of English grammar and the criteria for critical thinking because we write, read, and evaluate only as well as we think. Thus equipped, we will consciously exercise these principles and criteria when writing our assignments. We will reflect on the life and work of an ethnographer, authorial virtues and values, and the powerful influences that perspective and procedure exert on research.

You will enjoy this class, your horizons of cultural knowledge and appreciation will widen, and I will help you to hone the quality of your writing. My best to each of you.

Assignments

		Words	Points
1.	Ethnography		
	The Ethnographer - Personal Identity and Research	250	50
	Culture Shock	250	50
	Project	2000	200
2.	Composition and Grammar	400	130
3.	Writing About Research Skills	3100	570
	Totals	6000	1000

Requirements

Double-spaced, stapled, TNR, font size 12, and always show your word count (excluding words in glossaries and reference lists). Write only your name on the front page of each assignment—there's no need to write the course number and name, the date, or my name. You may double-side hard-copy assignments.

Collaboration in groups extends only to brainstorming, sharing sources, and peer reviewing—it does not extend to the actual writing. You write your own work—there are no multiple-author assignments in this course.

I may change the course by adding or dropping minor assignments like quizzes and short take-home exercises that change the total points available. In this case, I will base final grades on a percentage of points earned.

Notations I use when grading include:

UG	unsubstantiated generalization
p	passive voice
UHV	unnecessary helping verb
W	wordy, verbose
F	fluff
✓	correct

There is no required textbook.

Grading

A	4.0	93%	93-100	930-1000	C	2.0	73%	73-76	730-769
A-	3.67	90%	90-92	900-929	C-	1.67	70%	70-72	700-729
B+	3.33	87%	87-89	870-899	D+	1.33	67%	67-69	670-699
B	3.0	83%	83-86	830-869	D	1.0	63%	63-66	630-669
B-	2.67	80%	80-82	800-829	D-	0.67	60%	60-62	600-629
C+	2.33	77%	77-79	770-799	E	0.00	<60%	0-59	0-599

Assessment

	SATISFACTORY	UNSATISFACTORY
CONTENT	Complexity of thought, critical evaluation of data, and synthesis of sources	Central idea(s) unclear, irrelevant, or inadequately discussed, and insufficient sources
ORGANIZATION AND COHERENCE	Document has a clear thesis statement; paragraphs have identifiable structure including topic sentences, transitions, and logical progression.	Document and paragraphs lack logical organization of ideas, and lack transitions and coherence to guide the reader.
ARGUMENT AND SUPPORT	Persuasive and confident presentation of ideas strongly supported with evidence. At weak end of satisfactory range, only generalized discussion of ideas, or adequate discussion, but weak support for argument(s)	Only weak generalizations in summary or narrative form that give no critical analysis and therefore little or no support to the main idea or argument
STYLE	Word choice appropriate for the context, genre, and discipline. Sentences display complexity and logical structure	Inappropriate or incorrect wording for the context, genre, or discipline. Sentences overly long or short, awkwardly constructed

	Error-free presentation of ideas. At the weak end of the satisfactory range, a few unobtrusive spelling, punctuation, or grammatical errors that do not obscure the main argument or points.	So many mechanical and/or grammatical errors that they impede the reader's understanding and/or severely undermine the writer's credibility.
MECHANICS		

Course Policies and Procedures

Participation

As in many areas of human endeavor, practice is indispensable to improving one's writing to the level expected of professional people. Absences from class will affect your progress negatively. Second, instruction during class may be spontaneous to meet specific needs as they arise and I will not repeat that material for the benefit of absentees.

Attendance

If you miss more than six periods during the term, you automatically fail the course. Exempt are absences for university-sponsored events such as athletics and band. I will accept a signed doctor's note explaining your absence, and a note from a minister in the event of a funeral. Telling me in advance that you will be absent on a given date is polite and expected of professionals, but does not qualify as an excused absence. Arriving up to 10 minutes after class has started three times constitutes one absence. If you arrive more than 10 minutes after class starts, I record you as absent for that period.

Academic Honesty

The academic life of students at the University of Florida is governed by the UF Student Honor Code (http://www.registrar.ufl.edu/catalog/policies/students.html). You are responsible for reading, understanding, and abiding by the entire code, which exhorts students to consistent honesty in all matters academic. Academic dishonesty includes giving and receiving unauthorized aid in completing assignments, cheating on quizzes, plagiarism, misrepresentation, bribery, citing phony sources, and falsifying quotations. The code defines these violations in detail.

Plagiarism is copying all or a portion of another person's work and presenting it as one's own. This extends to ideas, words, data, and other kinds of work. It includes:
1. Quoting oral or written materials, whether published or unpublished, without proper attribution. When you copy and paste material from the Internet, _always_ give the exact location and citation information.
2. Submitting a document or assignment, which in whole or in part, is identical or substantially like a document or assignment authored by another person. The UWP Honor Code declares plagiarism as an act of fraud. By stealing someone else's work and lying about it afterward, the writer uses deception to complete an assignment.

Students' work is tested for originality against databases accessed by anti-plagiarism sites to which the university subscribes. Negative reports from such sites constitute proof of plagiarism.
Stealing other people's work and claiming it as one's own as a strategy for doing the least amount of work to get the highest possible grade is not a game; it constitutes failure to comply with UF's clearly stated scholarly requirements. UF views this seriously, as it undermines the mission and reputation of the university. There is zero tolerance for academic dishonesty, and **no second chances.** Students in violation receive a zero for the assignment, _and_ a course grade penalty up to a failing grade, _and_ always I notify the Dean of Students immediately.

General Education Outcomes
Students must pass this course with a "C" or better to satisfy the General Education requirement for Composition (C). Earning general education composition credit, you will:
- Learn different writing styles, approaches, and formats and successfully adapt writing to different audiences, purposes, and contexts; effectively revise and edit their own writing and the writing of others
- Demonstrate forms of effective writing (focusing on analyses, arguments, and proposals)
- Organize complex arguments in writing, using thesis statements, claims, and evidence
- Argue logically and analyze their own writing and the writing of others for errors of logic
- Write clearly and concisely consistent with the conventions of standard written English
- Use thesis sentences, claims, evidence, and logic in arguments.

The University Writing Requirement (UWR) helps students develop fluency in writing, and use writing to facilitate learning. To receive UWR credit (E6), the CLAS requires you to receive a grade of "C" or better for the course, and write papers totaling a minimum of 6,000 words.

I will evaluate and comment on assignments with respect to content, organization and coherence, argument and support, style, clarity, grammar, punctuation, and mechanics.

Classroom Discipline

I do not permit texting in class or going online during lectures as this can distract fellow classmates, and is a display of bad manners unbecoming a professional person . I dismiss from the classroom students who persistently infringe and count them as absent for that day. We will abide by UF's prohibition on food and drink in classrooms.

Punctuality With Work

You are responsible for submitting assignments at the beginning of class on the due date. I may accept late work if you bring an explicitly explanatory note from your doctor. If you are absent on a day when an assignment is due, you can not email your assignment to me. Ask a classmate to bring a hard copy of it to class or you will incur a late penalty of 25% if I accept it. Last-minute failure of technology is always unacceptable as an excuse for late or shoddy work. If you miss a class, don't email me asking what you missed—ask a classmate.

Students With Disabilities

UF complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act. Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office. The Dean of Students Office gives the student documentation for the instructor when requesting accommodation.

Office Hours

My office hours are by appointment in Tigert 302. First make an appointment with me to ensure that I will be in Tigert. If you email me requesting an appointment, wait until you hear back from me before visiting Tigert. Do not turn up unannounced expecting me to be present if I have not confirmed the appointment with you.