

Carleton University
Department of Sociology and Anthropology
Fall 2023
ANTH 6000—Doctoral Seminar
Wednesdays, 11:35-2:35PM

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Overview:

This seminar is designed to introduce you to our Engaged Anthropology doctoral program. Together with the course on Research Design (ANTH 6002), it initiates you into the program's process-based learning during your first semester. These courses encourage you to start defining your thesis project as soon as you begin doctoral studies.

The first half of the ANTH 6000 course is designed to address the doctoral program's "engaged anthropology" theme by examining some of the many ways that anthropological research shapes and is shaped by the human conditions we study. By considering a diverse range of what "engaged anthropology" can mean, the goal is to help you develop a nuanced and informed approach to the complexities of anthropological research. Such awareness should help you anticipate and debate whatever challenges your chosen stances might incur.

In the second half of the course we will engage with each other's specific theoretical, ethical, methodological and topical concerns.

In each semester the first half is led by the instructor, who introduces key theoretical and/or methodological literature as well as ethnographic work exemplifying engaged anthropology, and the second half is led by you, the students in the class, who (with the instructor's guidance and approval) select readings relevant to your own research and to the field generally, introduce them to the class, and lead discussion. In preparing the course content, you will not only deepen your knowledge of your own work, but learn to effectively communicate its importance to your peers. Similarly, in engaging with material outside your area of interest on days your peers are presenting, you will learn to better situate your work in its intellectual, historical, and political context.

Assignments:

In the Fall semester there are three main assignments. 1) A series of weekly one-page (or 500 words) reflections on the assigned readings/discussion posted to Brightspace by the midnight following our class meetings. You are required to submit 8 of these reflections over the course of the term. These will make up 25% of your grade for the Fall. 2) Your in-class presentation and discussion-leading of your chosen text(s) in the second half of the term will be worth 30%. 3) A

final, appx. 4000 word, “review essay” style paper considering three current monographs, a least one of which must have been discussed in class and at least one must come from your independent research, will be worth 30% of your Fall term grade. This will be due at 11pm the last day of exam period, through Brightspace. The remaining 15% of your grade comes from your engaged, respectful and intelligent participation in our weekly class discussions of the assigned texts.

Required readings:

The instructor will ensure readings for the first half of the semester are accessible through ARES on the course Brightspace page by the beginning of classes. It will be each student presenter’s responsibility to make sure readings for the second half are made available either through direct communication or through the instructor on Brightspace at least a week in advance of the scheduled discussion date.