

**CARLETON UNIVERSITY  
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY AND ANTHROPOLOGY**

**ANTH 3005A:  
ETHNOGRAPHIC RESEARCH METHODS  
FALL 2023**

**Instructor:** Dr. Jen Pylypa (she/her)

**Office:** Loeb C772

**Office hours:** Contact by email to arrange an appointment on Zoom

**Office phone:** (613) 520-2600 Extension 6329

**Email:** jen.pylypa@carleton.ca (Use to ask questions specific to your circumstances, or to send information such as your project topic)

**Questions?:** Use the '[Need Help? Ask Here](#)' forum on Brightspace for general questions (e.g., about assignments, where other students might also want to read the answer)

**Prerequisites and Precluded Courses:** The prerequisite for this course is ANTH 2001  
Precludes additional credit for ANTH 2003

**Method of delivery:** Asynchronous, via Brightspace  
Weekly work will be posted by Monday morning at 8:00 am.  
Weekly assignments will be due by the following Sunday at 11:59 pm.  
(with some exceptions due to holidays, etc. – see Schedule, below)

**COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES:**

This course focuses on the ethnographic research experience, the ethics and practice of anthropological research, as well as specific skills in research design, methods, and data analysis employed in anthropology. Emphasis is placed on learning, practicing, and assessing the value of particular techniques of qualitative data collection, such as unstructured, semi-structured and structured interviewing; focus groups; cultural domain analysis, visual methods such as photography and filmmaking; participant observation and autoethnography; and direct and indirect observation. In addition to data collection, we study qualitative data analysis, including coding and interpreting interview data, and reflect on broader issues of researcher positionality, collaboration, representation, and indigenizing methodologies. Throughout the course, emphasis is placed on the role of *methodological triangulation* (use of multiple, complementary methods) in modern anthropological and social science research.

In addition to readings, posted weekly lectures, and documents that you will need to read, you will have weekly 'activities' to complete that involve doing methodological exercises and writing commentaries about methodological issues (e.g., watching a film or film clip and writing a commentary on it; critiquing interview questions or surveys, reading a short essay that demonstrates a particular method and commenting on it, etc.). Some of these activities will also

prepare you for the research project assignment in which you will propose a research topic, write interview questions, interview one person, code and analyze the data from this interview, and write a short ethnographic essay about it.

## **REQUIRED TEXTBOOK AND READINGS:**

Bernard, H. Russell

2018 *Research Methods in Anthropology: Qualitative and Quantitative Approaches*.  
Sixth Edition. Lanham: Rowman and Littlefield.

This book is available in Ares, but with some restrictions on access and downloading. Please see the document in Brightspace entitled 'Ways to Get the Textbook' for more information and various options for accessing this book, both electronically and in print.

Other required readings, as well as films, are found in Ares.

## **ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING:**

**\*All assignments must be uploaded to Brightspace under the appropriate assignment tab. Comments and grades will be returned to you through Brightspace as well.\***

### **Summary of Assignments:**

9 'Activities' (1 per week, in most weeks)	25%	Due: Sundays by 11:59 p.m. (see below for more details)
Take home exam #1	25%	Due: Monday, Nov. 6 by 11:59 p.m.
Interview project	25%	Due: Friday, Dec. 8 by 11:59 p.m.
Take home exam #2	25%	Due: Friday, Dec. 22 by 11:59 p.m.

### **9 Activities:**

You will need to submit a written response to an assigned 'activity' each week (not including the first and last classes and the midterm week). Each activity will require you to read, watch, do, or assess something, and then write a short commentary about it. For example, you may need to watch an online film and answer some questions reflecting upon it; read some survey or interview questions written by other researchers and comment on what problems you see with their design (after reading the textbook chapters on survey and interview instrument design); or assess some ethical dilemmas researchers have experienced when conducting fieldwork and comment on what you think the researchers should have done in those circumstances, etc.

Each of these assignments is small and designed to help you reflect upon what you have learned during that week of the course. You are expected to complete them by midnight on the Sunday before the following class. In other words, I post the week's work (lectures, activity description, etc.) by Monday morning, and you must complete that week's activity by Sunday before midnight. Normally, that means the following Sunday, but you get an extra week when the following class is two weeks away due to Thanksgiving or Fall Break. In the last week of the course, the final activity is due on Friday, December 8 before midnight, since that is the last day of classes, and university regulations require all term work to be due by this date. (To avoid confusion, see the "Schedule of Readings and Topics" below for exact due dates for each of these activities.)

Since there are 9 activities worth 25%, each activity is worth approximately 2.8% of your grade. They will each be graded out of 5, and your grade will be posted on Brightspace the week after submission.

*Late submission of activities:* Your responses to 'activities' will be graded if they are submitted late, as long as they are submitted by the last day of the term (December 8). Late activities will be penalized 0.5 points out of 5 if they are up to a week late, and 1 point out of 5 if they are more than a week late.

### **Take home exams:**

The midterm and final take home exams will be based on readings, lectures, and other online materials provided, and will consist of essay questions that ask you to synthesize what you have learned. These exams are open book, but your work must be your own. Specific instructions will be provided with the exam questions on the distribution date indicated in the schedule below.

Take home exam #1 will be distributed on Monday, October 16 and is due on Monday, November 6. Take home exam #2 will be distributed on Friday, December 8 and is due on Friday, December 22.

*Late submission of take home exams:* For the midterm take home exam, late exams will be accepted and penalized at a rate of 2% per day, up to a maximum of 10% (unless medical or other documentation is provided to permit an extension). Midterm take home exams cannot be submitted after December 8, the last day of term. The final take home exam is due at the end of the exam period, and therefore cannot be submitted late without a formal deferral from the Registrar's Office.

### **Interview project:**

Your interview project will require you to imitate, on a smaller scale, the procedures used by anthropologists to conduct and analyze interview-based research. Firstly, you will produce a brief statement proposing a topic and research question and write a set of interview questions to be used to conduct a single, semi-structured, open-ended interview. Secondly, you will conduct

one interview with a participant of your choice using these questions, taking thorough field notes in the process. Thirdly, you will type up and analyze the field notes by using coding techniques learned in class. Finally, you will write a short, ethnographic essay describing and analyzing the results of the interview.

On Brightspace you will find a document describing the interview project in more detail, as well as a lecture video discussing it. Although your final assignment will not be due until the end of term, it is strongly suggested that you work on this project in stages, working on each stage of the project as you learn the relevant skills in class. A suggested timetable for working on the various stages of the project is provided in the assignment description.

*Late submission of projects:* The interview project is due on the last day of classes, Friday, December 8. Since this is the very end of term, submitting a project late will require permission from the professor, who will consider exceptional individual circumstances. A late penalty of 2% per day may apply.

### **Withdrawal deadline:**

Please note that the university deadline for withdrawing from a Fall course without academic penalty is November 15.

### **A note on diversity, inclusion, and sensitive course content:**

A goal of anthropology is to expose students to the diversity of human experience, and to foster respect for the diversity of personal experiences of those around us. This includes showing mutual respect in the classroom. Since this is an asynchronous course, we will not have the opportunity to share our own diverse experiences in class discussions. However, at times in written assignments you may reflect upon your own experiences or those of others around you, including the experiences of your interview participant. I invite you to do so with empathy. Be assured that I will also read your work with empathy, interest, and respect for the life experiences of yourselves and others that you might reference in your work. Respect for diversity also means that I must be conscious of how course material affects students, especially in cases where it may resonate with personal and community experiences. When required course material, such as films, deals with sensitive subject matter, I will provide content warnings on Brightspace so that you may prepare yourself, as needed, to be confronted with that content.

Carleton University acknowledges the location of its campus on the traditional, unceded territories of the Algonquin nation. In doing so, Carleton acknowledges it has a responsibility to the Algonquin people and a responsibility to adhere to Algonquin cultural protocols.

## **SCHEDULE OF READINGS AND TOPICS:**

### **Week 1: Monday, September 11: Introduction**

no reading

### **Week 2: Monday, September 18: Anthropology & Epistemology; Research Ethics**

Bernard, Chapter 1: Anthropology and the Social Sciences

Activity #1 assigned (due Sunday, September 24)

### **Week 3: Monday, September 25: Preparing for Research; Research Ethics, cont.**

Bernard, Chapter 3: Preparing for Research, pp. 54-76 (\*pp. 76 onward, on 'the literature search' may be a useful reference for library research, but is not required reading)

Activity #2 assigned (due Sunday, October 1)

### **Week 4: Monday, October 2: Unstructured & Semi-Structured Interviews; Focus Groups**

Bernard, Chapter 7: Sampling III: Nonprobability Samples and Choosing Informants

Bernard, Chapter 8: Interviewing I: Unstructured and Semistructured

Activity #3 assigned (due Sunday, October 15, because of Thanksgiving)

### **October 9: Thanksgiving: No Class**

### **Week 5: Monday, October 16: Structured Interviews**

Bernard, Chapter 9: Interviewing II: Questionnaires

Activity #4 assigned (due Monday, October 30, because of Fall Break)

\*Take home exam #1 distributed\*

### **October 23-27: Fall Break: No Classes**

**Week 6: Monday, October 30: Midterm Week: No reading or lectures**

**\*WRITE YOUR TAKE HOME EXAM: DUE NEXT MONDAY, NOVEMBER 6\***

**Week 7: Monday, November 6: Field Notes; Data Management, Coding & Grounded Theory**

Bernard, Chapter 13: Field Notes and Database Management

Bernard, Chapter 19: Text Analysis II: Pp. 459-470 only (Coding & Grounded Theory)

Activity #5 assigned (due Sunday, November 12)

**\*TAKE HOME EXAM DUE\***

**Week 8: Monday, November 13: Cultural Domain Analysis; Visual Anthropology & Representation**

Bernard, Chapter 10: Interviewing III: Relational Data: Cultural Domains and Networks

Langille, J. (2016). Invisible places. *Medicine Anthropology Theory* 3(1), 98-108.

[Example of a photo essay; use for Activity #6] **[available in Ares]**

Activity #6 assigned (due Sunday, November 19)

**Week 9: Monday, November 20: Participant Observation**

Bernard, Chapter 12: Participant Observation

Activity #7 assigned (due Sunday, November 26)

**Week 10: Monday, November 27: Observation**

Bernard, Chapter 14: Direct and Indirect Observation

Activity #8 assigned (due Sunday, December 3)

**Week 11: Monday, December 4: Collaborative, Insider & Autoethnography; Decolonizing Methodologies**

Pylypa, J. (2020). A week in the life of COVID-19 in Ottawa, Canada. *Anthropology Now* 12(1), 33-38. [Example of an autoethnography; use for Activity #9]  
**[available in Ares]**

Smith, L. T. (2021). Chapter 10: Responding to the imperatives of an indigenous agenda: A case study of Māori. In *Indigenizing methodologies: Research and Indigenous peoples* (pp. 215-238). Zed Books. **[available in Ares]**

Activity #9 assigned (due FRIDAY, December 8)

**Week 12: FRIDAY, December 8: Applying Anthropology & Anthropological Methods in Your Education and Career**

no reading

**\*INTERVIEW PROJECT DUE\***

**\*NOTE: Activity #9 (assigned on Monday) is also due on this day**

**\*Take home exam #2 distributed\***

**Friday, December 22: \*TAKE HOME EXAM #2 DUE\***

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

In accordance with the Carleton University Undergraduate Calendar Regulations, the letter grades assigned in this course will have the following percentage equivalents:

A+ = 90-100	B+ = 77-79	C+ = 67-69	D+ = 57-59
A = 85-89	B = 73-76	C = 63-66	D = 53-56
A - = 80-84	B - = 70-72	C - = 60-62	D - = 50-52
F = Below 50	WDN = Withdrawn from the course	DEF = Deferred	

## Academic Regulations, Accommodations, Plagiarism, Etc.

University rules regarding registration, withdrawal, appealing marks, and most anything else you might need to know can be found on the university's website, here:

<https://calendar.carleton.ca/undergrad/regulations/academicregulationsoftheuniversity/>

You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term. For an accommodation request, the processes are as follows:

### Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities:

The Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) provides services to students with Learning Disabilities (LD), psychiatric/mental health disabilities, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD), chronic medical conditions, and impairments in mobility, hearing, and vision. If you have a disability requiring academic accommodations in this course, please contact PMC at **613-520-6608** or **[pmc@carleton.ca](mailto:pmc@carleton.ca)** for a formal evaluation. If you are already registered with the PMC, contact your PMC coordinator to send your **Letter of Accommodation** at the beginning of the term, and no later than two weeks before the first in-class scheduled test or exam requiring accommodation (*if applicable*).

\*The deadline for contacting the Paul Menton Centre regarding accommodation for December full fall and late fall examinations and fall/winter midterm examinations is November 15, 2023.

### For Religious Obligations:

Please contact your instructor with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details, visit the Equity Services website: [www.carleton.ca/equity/wp-content/uploads/Student-Guide-to-Academic-Accommodation.pdf](http://www.carleton.ca/equity/wp-content/uploads/Student-Guide-to-Academic-Accommodation.pdf)

### For Pregnancy:

Please contact your instructor with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details, visit the Equity Services website: [www.carleton.ca/equity/wp-content/uploads/Student-Guide-to-Academic-Accommodation.pdf](http://www.carleton.ca/equity/wp-content/uploads/Student-Guide-to-Academic-Accommodation.pdf)

### For Survivors of Sexual Violence:

As a community, Carleton University is committed to maintaining a positive learning, working



and living environment where sexual violence will not be tolerated, and where survivors are supported through academic accommodations as per Carleton's Sexual Violence Policy. For more information about the services available at the university and to obtain information about sexual violence and/or support, visit: [www.carleton.ca/sexual-violence-support](http://www.carleton.ca/sexual-violence-support)

### **Accommodation for Student Activities:**

Carleton University recognizes the substantial benefits, both to the individual student and for the university, that result from a student participating in activities beyond the classroom experience. Reasonable accommodation must be provided to students who compete or perform at the national or international level. Please contact your instructor with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. <https://carleton.ca/senate/wp-content/uploads/Accommodation-for-Student-Activities-1.pdf>

### **Plagiarism**

Plagiarism is the passing off of someone else's work as your own and is a serious academic offence. For the details of what constitutes plagiarism, the potential penalties and the procedures refer to the section on Instructional Offences in the Undergraduate Calendar. Students are expected to familiarize themselves with and follow the Carleton University Student Academic Integrity Policy (See <https://carleton.ca/registrar/academic-integrity/>). The Policy is strictly enforced and is binding on all students. Academic dishonesty in any form will not be tolerated. Students who infringe the Policy may be subject to one of several penalties.

### **What are the Penalties for Plagiarism?**

A student found to have plagiarized an assignment may be subject to one of several penalties including but not limited to: a grade of zero, a failure or a reduced grade for the piece of academic work; reduction of final grade in the course; completion of a remediation process; resubmission of academic work; withdrawal from course(s); suspension from a program of study; a letter of reprimand.

### **What are the Procedures?**

All allegations of plagiarism are reported to the faculty of Dean of FASS and Management. Documentation is prepared by instructors and departmental chairs. The Dean writes to the student and the University Ombudsperson about the alleged plagiarism. The Dean reviews the allegation. If it is not resolved at this level then it is referred to a tribunal appointed by the Senate.

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### **Assistance for Students:**

Academic and Career Development Services: <https://carleton.ca/career/>

Writing Services: <http://www.carleton.ca/csas/writing-services/>

Peer Assisted Study Sessions (PASS): <https://carleton.ca/csas/group-support/pass/>

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### **Important Information:**

- Student or professor materials created for this course (including presentations and posted notes, labs, case studies, assignments and exams) remain the intellectual property of the author(s). They are intended for personal use and may not be reproduced or redistributed without prior written consent of the author(s).
- Students must always retain a hard copy of all work that is submitted.
- Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor subject to the approval of the Faculty Dean. This means that grades submitted by the instructor may be subject to revision. No grades are final until they have been approved by the Dean.
- Carleton University is committed to protecting the privacy of those who study or work here (currently and formerly). To that end, Carleton's Privacy Office seeks to encourage the implementation of the privacy provisions of Ontario's *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* (FIPPA) within the university.
- In accordance with FIPPA, please ensure all communication with staff/faculty is via your Carleton email account. To get your Carleton Email you will need to activate your [MyCarletonOne account](#) through Carleton Central. Once you have activated your MyCarletonOne account, log into the [MyCarleton Portal](#).
- Please note that you will be able to link your MyCarletonOne account to other non-MyCarletonOne accounts and receive emails from us. However, for us to respond to your emails, we need to see your full name, CU ID, and the email must be written from your valid MyCarletonOne address. Therefore, it would be easier to respond to your inquiries if you would send all email from your connect account. If you do not have or have yet to activate this account, you may wish to do so by visiting <https://students.carleton.ca/>

### **Important Dates and Deadlines: Fall 2023**

August 29, 2023: Deadline for course outlines to be made available to students registered in full fall, early fall, and fall/winter courses.

September 1, 2023: Last day for receipt of applications from potential fall (November) graduates.

September 4, 2023: Statutory holiday. University closed.

September 5, 2023: Academic orientation (undergraduate and graduate students).

Orientation for new Teaching Assistants.

All new students are expected to be on campus. Class and laboratory preparations, departmental introductions for students, and other academic preparation activities will be held.

September 6, 2023: Fall term begins. Full fall, early fall, and fall/winter classes begin.

September 12, 2023: Last day for registration and course changes (including auditing) in early fall courses.

September 19, 2023: Last day for registration and course changes (including auditing) in full fall, late fall, and fall/winter courses.

Last day to withdraw from early fall courses with a full fee adjustment.

Graduate students who have not electronically submitted their final thesis copy to the Faculty of Graduate and Postdoctoral Affairs will not be eligible to graduate in fall 2023 and must register for the fall 2023 term.

September 22-24, 2023: Full summer and late summer term deferred final examinations will be held.

September 30, 2023: Last day to withdraw from full fall and fall/winter courses with a full fee adjustment.

October 1, 2023: Last day for academic withdrawal from early fall courses.

Last day to request Formal Examination Accommodations for Oct/Nov final examinations from the Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities. Note that it may not be possible to fulfil accommodation requests received after the specified deadlines.

October 6, 2023: December examination schedule (fall term final and fall/winter mid-terms) available online.

October 9, 2023: Statutory holiday. University closed.

October 13, 2023: Last day for summative tests or examinations, or formative tests or examinations totaling more than 15% of the final grade, in early fall term undergraduate courses, before the official Oct/Nov final examination period (see examination regulations in the Academic Regulations of the University section of the Undergraduate Calendar/General Regulations of the Graduate Calendar).

October 15, 2023: Last day for receipt of applications for admission to an undergraduate degree program for the winter term from applicants whose documents originate from outside Canada or the United States.

October 20, 2023: Last day of early fall classes.

Last day for final take-home examinations to be assigned in early fall courses, with the exception of those conforming to the examination

regulations in the Academic regulations of the University section of the Undergraduate Calendar/General Regulations of the Graduate Calendar.

Last day that can be specified by a course instructor as a due date for term work for early fall courses.

October 23, 2023: Deadline for course outlines to be made available to students registered in late fall courses.

October 23-27, 2023: Fall break, no classes.

October 28-29,  
November 4-5, 2023: Final examinations in early fall undergraduate courses will be held.

October 30, 2023: Late fall classes begin.

November 10, 2023: Last day to withdraw from late fall term courses with a full fee adjustment.

November 15, 2023: Last day for academic withdrawal from full fall and late fall courses.

Last day to request Formal Examination Accommodations for December full fall and late fall examinations and fall/winter midterm examinations from the Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities. Note that it may not be possible to fulfil accommodation requests received after the specified deadlines.

Last day for receipt of applications for admission to an undergraduate degree program for the winter term.

November 17-19, 2023: Early fall undergraduate deferred final examinations will be held.

November 24, 2023: Last day for summative tests or examinations, or formative tests or examinations totaling more than 15% of the final grade, in full fall term or fall/winter undergraduate courses, before the official December final examination period (see examination regulations in the Academic Regulations of the University section of the Undergraduate Calendar/General Regulations of the Graduate Calendar).

December 1, 2023: Last day for receipt of applications from potential winter (February) graduates.

Last day for graduate students to submit their supervisor-approved thesis, in examinable form to the department.

Last day for summative tests or examinations, or formative tests or examinations totaling more than 15% of the final grade, in late fall term

undergraduate courses, before the official final examination period (see examination regulations in the Academic Regulations of the University section of the Undergraduate Calendar/General Regulations of the Graduate Calendar).

December 8, 2023: Fall term ends.

Last day of full fall and late fall classes.

Classes follow a Monday schedule.

Last day for final take-home examinations to be assigned, with the exception of those conforming to the examination regulations in the Academic Regulations of the University section of the Undergraduate Calendar/General Regulations of the Graduate Calendar.

Last day that can be specified by an instructor as a due date for term work for full and late fall courses.

Last day for receipt of applications for undergraduate degree program transfers for winter term.

December 9, 2023: No classes or examinations take place.

December 10-22, 2023: Final examinations in full fall and late fall courses and mid-term examinations in fall/winter courses will be held. Examinations are normally held all seven days of the week.

December 22, 2023: All final take-home examinations are due on this day, with the exception of those conforming to the examination regulations in the Academic Regulations of the University section of the Undergraduate Calendar/General Regulations of the Graduate Calendar.

December 25, 2023 through January 3, 2024 inclusive: University closed.