

**Course Code/Title:**  
**ETHNOGRAPHIC RESEARCH METHODS**  
**ANTH 3005 A**

<b>Instructor</b>	Sardar Saadi
<b>Term</b>	FALL 2024
<b>Course Delivery</b>	In-person lectures
<b>Email Address</b>	sardarsaadi@cunet.carleton.ca

## **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

In this course, you are expected to learn from your texts, your teacher and from one another. This requires striving towards understanding each other but it does not imply striving towards finding agreement. Our class will be racially, religiously, politically, culturally, generationally, and economically diverse. We will be of different gender identifications and sexual orientations and our lived experiences and reactions to the course material will reflect this diversity. Sharing our perspectives and interpretations on the course material will enhance everyone's learning experience and you are encouraged to openly express any disagreements with the authors you will read, with your fellow classmates, or with the Professor in the different participation fora that are available for this course. However, you are expected to conduct yourself in such a way that shows the utmost respect to others who may – or may not – share your views. Derogatory comments and hateful behavior towards others (and their views) will not be tolerated.

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.

### **Official Course Description**

Broad overview of methods through lectures, discussion, and hands-on activities. Research design, ethics, participant-observation, interviewing and other methods, data analysis and ethnographic writing. Prepares students to apply methodological knowledge in careers and projects undertaken for the fourth-year honours research paper and/or ethnographic field course. Precludes additional credit for ANTH 2003. Prerequisite(s): ANTH 2001 [1.0].

## **Additional Course Description**

This course offers a comprehensive introduction to ethnographic research methods, emphasizing hands-on training and the development of original ethnographic projects. Students will engage with a wide array of case studies to inform and inspire their own research endeavors. Weekly sessions will cover practical skills and the theoretical foundations of ethnographic research, including the history of anthropological ethnographic research, learning about the ‘field’ in ethnography, ethical considerations, producing research proposal, practicing fieldnote techniques during participant observation, conducting interviews and virtual ethnography among other techniques, and engaging in contemporary debates about ethnographic methodology and research. Alongside data collection, the course will cover qualitative data analysis, including coding and interpreting interview data, with reflections on researcher positionality, collaboration, representation, and decolonizing methodologies.

A central theme will be the dual nature of ethnographic research—as both a means of understanding and representing people and their practices. Students will examine the types of questions anthropology can address, and how ethnographic methods help to answer them. They'll study different forms of ethnographic representation, such as writing, drawing, photography, audio, and video, to understand the relationship between analysis and representation. The ethics of ethnographic research, especially considering anthropology’s colonial history and its impact on Indigenous peoples, will also be explored.

Throughout the course, students will engage in smaller projects that build toward their larger course project.

### **Learning Outcomes:**

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

1. Understand the history of ethnographic research and the various methodologies it comprises.
2. Demonstrate an understanding of the ethical considerations in conducting ethnographic research with human subjects.
3. Develop a set of approaches to contemporary human cultures based on ethnographic best practices.
4. Read scholarly texts critically, with an eye to understanding theoretical frameworks, methods employed, and key arguments.
5. Write ethnographic research questions and design a research proposal, outlining necessary data and research activities.
6. Form theoretical and methodological links between interdisciplinary ethnographic research and their own specific research interests.
7. Analyze ethnographic data and interpret trends.
8. Produce an original ethnographic work.

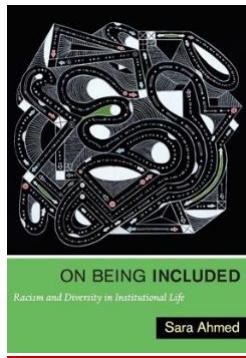
## EVALUATION

15%	Attendance & Participation	<u>Weekly</u>
15%	Reading Responses (6)	<u>Weekly – Tuesdays, Noon</u>
70%	Ethnographic Research Project (8 Components):	
5%	Research Topic (1 page)	<u>TUE. September 17, Noon</u>
5%	Ethics Form	<u>TUE. September 24, Noon</u>
10%	Research Proposal (2 pages + 1 page bibliography)	<u>TUE. October 8, Noon</u>
10%	Participant Observation (Fieldnotes)	<u>TUE. October 29, Noon</u>
10%	Two Interviews	<u>TUE. November 5, Noon</u>
5%	Virtual Ethnography Exercise	<u>TUE. November 12, Noon</u>
5%	Annotated Bibliography	<u>TUE. November 19, Noon</u>
20%	Final Project	<u>MON. December 2, Noon</u>

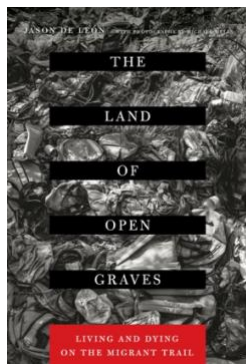
## TEXT



Bernard, H. Russell. *Research methods in anthropology: Qualitative and quantitative approaches*. (Sixth Edition). Rowman & Littlefield, 2017.



Ahmed, Sara. *On Being Included : Racism and Diversity in Institutional Life* . Durham ;: Duke University Press, 2012.



De León, Jason. *The land of open graves: Living and dying on the migrant trail*. Vol. 36. Univ of California Press, 2015.

**These books are available online and accessible through the university's library website. All other required and recommended readings will be posted on Brightspace and/or can be found online through the university's library.**