

San José State University
Social Sciences, Anthropology
ANTH 149, Ethnographic Methods, 11-03, Fall, 2017

Course and Contact Information

Instructor:	Dr. Ana Pitchon
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Office Hours:	T/TH 1:00 – 3:00 and by appointment
Class Days/Time:	T/TH 10:30-11:45
Classroom:	Washington Square Hall 004

Technology - Canvas and MYSJSU Messaging

Course materials such as syllabus, handouts, notes, assignment instructions, etc. can be found on Canvas Learning Management System course login website at <http://sjsu.instructure.com>. You are responsible for regularly checking with the messaging system through MySJSU at <http://my.sjsu.edu> (or other communication system as indicated by the instructor) to learn of any updates.

Course Description

This course examines the applications of social science and ethnographic methods to the investigation of contemporary social problems. This course provides a conceptual framework for understanding the domains of applied cultural anthropology. We will examine the methods of applied anthropology and the basic concepts of social science research, ethics in social science research, formulation of research questions, the literature search, data collection and analysis, writing and presentation of results. The overall goal of this course is for the student to have a basic competency in ethnographic and applied social science research in order to investigate social problems and produce viable results.

The objectives outlined for this course will be achieved through your collaborative and active involvement in a pre-established, campus-based project. You will work individually and in teams to produce a technical ethnographic report based on an assessment of the potential for SJSU to be rated by the **Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System** (STARS). This is a transparent, self-reporting framework for colleges and universities to measure their sustainability performance (<https://stars.aashe.org>). We will identify problem areas the first week of class, divide into teams, and begin to formulate research questions. The cumulative final project will be a compilation of assignments based on reading, fieldwork and analysis.

The two primary websites for applied anthropology are: Society for Applied Anthropology (www.sfaa.net) and the National Association for the Practice of Anthropology (<http://practicinganthropology.org>). Please familiarize yourself with these!

Learning Outcomes and Course Goals

The Department of Anthropology seeks to enhance student knowledge and skills in the following areas. Departmental objectives that this course explicitly addresses are asterisked.

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Knowledge

1. Understanding culture as the distinguishing phenomenon of human life, and the relationship of human biology and evolution.
2. Awareness of human diversity and the ways humans have categorized diversity.
3. Knowledge of the significant findings of archaeology, cultural anthropology, and physical anthropology, and familiarity of the important issues in each sub-discipline.
4. * Knowledge of the history of anthropological thought and its place in modern intellectual history
5. Comprehension of migration, colonialism, and economic integration as significant phenomenon shaping global society.

Skills

1. * Ability to access various forms of anthropological data and literature.
2. * Awareness of importance and value of anthropological knowledge in contemporary society, and the ability to apply it to social issues.
3. * Knowledge of the research methods of the sub-disciplines of anthropology, and the ability to apply appropriate research methods in at least one sub-discipline.
4. * Ability to present and communicate anthropological knowledge and the results of anthropological research to different audiences.

Professional Values

1. * Knowledge of political and ethical implications of social research

Course Learning Outcomes

The student who satisfactorily completes this course should:

1. Understand the context of research methods within cultural anthropology and the social sciences;
2. Develop the abilities to formulate research questions and design ethnographic studies to explore them;
3. Be able to conduct interviews and perform direct observations of social settings;
4. Be able to analyze qualitative data;

5. Learn and perform the skills necessary for rapid ethnographic research techniques;
6. Acquire knowledge of the ethical issues involved in applied anthropology and familiarity with the ethics guidelines followed by the Society for Applied Anthropology (SfAA).
7. Be able to present findings in both written and oral formats.

Required Texts/Readings:

All required readings can be purchased at the SJSU Bookstore, and online through sites such as Amazon, Barnes and Noble and Bookfinder.com. Make sure that you purchase the correct edition of the textbook, as older editions will not correspond to the assignments.

Textbooks

Margaret D. LeCompte, Jean J. Schensul, *Designing and Conducting Ethnographic Research*. Altamira Press. ISBN. 9780759118690.

Ethnographic Methods. Karen O'Reilly. (2012). Routledge. ISBN – 978-0415561815

Course Requirements and Assignments

Participation (15 points). Participation includes in-class discussions, on time attendance and in-class exercises and completion of the readings. The primary project of this class, while conducted individually, will form an integrated team effort. Given the real world research component of this project, timelines and due dates are subject to change. You are responsible for any changes in dates or assignments that are announced in class.

Participant Observation Exercise (40 points). Each student will conduct a participant observation at a site within the research area. This involves extensive note taking of all observations and an analysis of your description. You will submit one hardcopy describing and analyzing your experiences. There is no page minimum, but I expect the description and analysis to be substantial enough for me to know that you have put in the effort necessary to gain a foundational understanding of your subject area.

Semi-structured Interview (40 points). Each student will conduct one semi-structured interview with a single person, and transcribe and analyze it. Submit three hardcopies of the interview (one will be graded and returned), and two hardcopies will be available for other students to read.

Domain and Theme Analysis (50 points). Each student will read 10 interviews conducted by other students and analyze them for basic cross-cutting cultural domains and themes. Submit one hard copy.

Final Presentation (40 points). Each student will join a group representing one target area as per the STARS assessment guide (groups decided upon first day of class). Each group will be responsible for presenting an assessment of the STARS area via PowerPoint. Additionally, a three-page, double-spaced written evaluation using results from the group will be submitted, as a team, on the day of the final exam.

Grading Distribution

- Participation - 15 points
- Participant Observation - 40 points
- Semistructured Interviews - (2 @ 40) 80 points
- Domain and Theme Analysis – 50 points

Final Presentation 40 points

Total points 225

All assignments should be type written 12 point, Times or Times New Roman font with one-inch margins on all sides. Failure to comply with these guidelines will result in a deduction of points. I will not accept emailed submissions.

Grading Policy

A: 95-100 A-: 90-94 B+: 86-89 B: 82-85 B-: 78-81 C+: 74-77 C: 70-73 C-: 67-69 D: 60-66 F:0-59	A: Reserved for exceptional scholarship and understanding that reaches beyond minimum course requirements. B: Excellent above average work that exceeds minimum course requirements. C: Satisfactory completion of course requirements. D: Fails to address course requirements satisfactorily.
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In the calculation of the final grade of borderline cases, improvement and dynamic class participation will be decisive factors. I consider all students equally capable of successfully completing the requirements for this class with an above average grade, which does not mean you will receive a B for mediocre work.

Come to class prepared. Read the assignments carefully and take notes in class. Write down any questions you might have about the readings and raise them in class. Do not hesitate to participate actively in class and engage other students or the instructor in class discussions. Pose questions, make comments and ***think critically!***

All assignments are due on the specified due dates. Late assignments will only be considered in the event of compelling evidence as to why you have missed class and were unable to submit the assignment.

SJSU classes are designed such that in order to be successful, it is expected that students will spend a minimum of forty-five hours for each unit of credit (normally three hours per unit per week), including preparing for class, participating in course activities, completing assignments, and so on. More details about student workload can be found in [University Policy S12-3](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-3.pdf) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-3.pdf>.

Students should attend all meetings of their classes, not only because they are responsible for material discussed therein, but because active participation is frequently essential to insure maximum benefit for all members of the class. Attendance will not be used as a criterion for grading.

This course must be passed with a C- or better as a CSU graduation requirement.

Classroom Protocol:

Attendance:

Arrive on time and be in attendance for the entire class period. Class lectures cover important information not found in assigned readings. If you arrive late for class, please move to your seat without disturbing other class

members. Frequent absences and late arrivals will result in poor performance and grades. The use of electronic devices such as cell phones and tablets will not be tolerated. Video recording is strictly prohibited.

Laptop computers, tablets and phones:

Laptop computers are not allowed in this class. A student who is doing non-class related activities on his or her computer is not only hurting his or her own education, but possibly the educational experience of many others in the class: research has shown that a game or a picture on a laptop distracts not only the student using the computer but also those students nearby (Yamamoto 2007, Fried 2008). Therefore the use of laptops is prohibited. In addition, the use of cell phones and tablets in class will result in the student being asked to leave.

University Policies

General Expectations, Rights and Responsibilities of the Student

As members of the academic community, students accept both the rights and responsibilities incumbent upon all members of the institution. Students are encouraged to familiarize themselves with SJSU's policies and practices pertaining to the procedures to follow if and when questions or concerns about a class arises. See University Policy S90-5 at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S90-5.pdf>. More detailed information on a variety of related topics is available in the SJSU catalog, at <http://info.sjsu.edu/web-dbggen/narr/catalog/rec-12234.12506.html>. In general, it is recommended that students begin by seeking clarification or discussing concerns with their instructor. If such conversation is not possible, or if it does not serve to address the issue, it is recommended that the student contact the Department Chair as a next step.

Per University Policy S16-9, university-wide policy information relevant to all courses, such as academic integrity, accommodations, etc. will be available on Office of Graduate and Undergraduate Programs' Syllabus Information web page at <http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/>

Dropping and Adding

Students are responsible for understanding the policies and procedures about add/drop, grade forgiveness, etc. Refer to the current semester's Catalog Policies section at <http://info.sjsu.edu/static/catalog/policies.html>. Add/drop deadlines can be found on the current academic year calendars document on the Academic Calendars webpage at http://www.sjsu.edu/provost/services/academic_calendars/. The Late Drop Policy is available at <http://www.sjsu.edu/aars/policies/latedrops/policy/>. Students should be aware of the current deadlines and penalties for dropping classes.

Information about the latest changes and news is available at the Advising Hub at <http://www.sjsu.edu/advising/>.

Consent for Recording of Class and Public Sharing of Instructor Material

University Policy S12-7, <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-7.pdf>, requires students to obtain instructor's permission to record the course.

- You must obtain the instructor's permission to make audio or video recordings in this class. Such permission allows the recordings to be used for your private, study purposes only. The recordings are the intellectual property of the instructor; you have not been given any rights to reproduce or distribute the material.
- Course material developed by the instructor is the intellectual property of the instructor and cannot be shared publicly without his/her approval. You may not publicly share or upload instructor generated material for this course such as exam questions, lecture notes, or homework solutions without instructor consent.

Academic integrity

Your commitment, as a student, to learning is evidenced by your enrollment at San Jose State University. The [University Academic Integrity Policy S07-2](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S07-2.pdf) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S07-2.pdf> requires you to be honest in all your academic course work. Faculty members are required to report all infractions to the office of Student Conduct and Ethical Development. The [Student Conduct and Ethical Development website](http://www.sjsu.edu/studentconduct/) is available at <http://www.sjsu.edu/studentconduct/>.

Campus Policy in Compliance with the American Disabilities Act

If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, or if you need to make special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please make an appointment with me as soon as possible, or see me during office hours. [Presidential Directive 97-03](http://www.sjsu.edu/president/docs/directives/PD_1997-03.pdf) at http://www.sjsu.edu/president/docs/directives/PD_1997-03.pdf requires that students with disabilities requesting accommodations must register with the [Accessible Education Center](http://www.sjsu.edu/aec) (AEC) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/aec> to establish a record of their disability.

Accommodation to Students' Religious Holidays

San José State University shall provide accommodation on any graded class work or activities for students wishing to observe religious holidays when such observances require students to be absent from class. It is the responsibility of the student to inform the instructor, in writing, about such holidays before the add deadline at the start of each semester. If such holidays occur before the add deadline, the student must notify the instructor, in writing, at least three days before the date that he/she will be absent. It is the responsibility of the instructor to make every reasonable effort to honor the student request without penalty, and of the student to make up the work missed. See [University Policy S14-7](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S14-7.pdf) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S14-7.pdf>.

Student Technology Resources

Computer labs for student use are available in the [Academic Success Center](http://www.sjsu.edu/at/asc/) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/at/asc/> located on the 1st floor of Clark Hall and in the Associated Students Lab on the 2nd floor of the Student Union. Additional computer labs may be available in your department/college. Computers are also available in the Martin Luther King Library. A wide variety of audio-visual equipment is available for student checkout from Media Services located in IRC 112. These items include DV and HD digital camcorders; digital still cameras; video, slide and overhead projectors; DVD, CD, and audiotape players; sound systems, wireless microphones, projection screens and monitors.

SJSU Peer Connections

Peer Connections, a campus-wide resource for mentoring and tutoring, strives to inspire students to develop their potential as independent learners while they learn to successfully navigate through their university experience. You are encouraged to take advantage of their services which include course-content based tutoring, enhanced study and time management skills, more effective critical thinking strategies, decision making and problem-solving abilities, and campus resource referrals.

In addition to offering small group, individual, and drop-in tutoring for a number of undergraduate courses, consultation with mentors is available on a drop-in or by appointment basis. Workshops are offered on a wide variety of topics including preparing for the Writing Skills Test (WST), improving your learning and memory, alleviating procrastination, surviving your first semester at SJSU, and other related topics. A computer lab and study space are also available for student use in Room 600 of Student Services Center (SSC).

Peer Connections is located in three locations: SSC, Room 600 (10th Street Garage on the corner of 10th and San Fernando Street), at the 1st floor entrance of Clark Hall, and in the Living Learning Center (LLC) in Campus Village Housing Building B. Visit [Peer Connections website](http://peerconnections.sjsu.edu) at <http://peerconnections.sjsu.edu> for more information.

SJSU Writing Center

The SJSU Writing Center is located in Clark Hall, Suite 126. All Writing Specialists have gone through a rigorous hiring process, and they are well trained to assist all students at all levels within all disciplines to become better writers. In addition to one-on-one tutoring services, the Writing Center also offers workshops every semester on a variety of writing topics. To make an appointment or to refer to the numerous online resources offered through the Writing Center, visit the [Writing Center website](http://www.sjsu.edu/writingcenter) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/writingcenter>. For additional resources and updated information, follow the Writing Center on Twitter and become a fan of the SJSU Writing Center on Facebook. (Note: You need to have a QR Reader to



scan this code.)

SJSU Counseling Services

The SJSU Counseling Services is located on the corner of 7th Street and San Fernando Street, in Room 201, Administration Building. Professional psychologists, social workers, and counselors are available to provide consultations on issues of student mental health, campus climate or psychological and academic issues on an individual, couple, or group basis. To schedule an appointment or learn more information, visit [Counseling Services website](http://www.sjsu.edu/counseling) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/counseling>.

Course Number / Title, Semester, Course Schedule

Course Schedule

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
1	8-24	Syllabus review and introduction
1	8-29	Introduction to ethnography Read: O'Reilly 1-2
2	8-31	Ethnography and research design Read: LeCompte 1-3
2	9-5	Research Design Read: LeCompte 4-5
3	9-7	Research question formulation workshop
3	9-12	Ethics Read: LeCompte 10; O'Reilly 3; Scheper-Hughes on CANVAS
4	9-14	Ethics Exercise
4	9-19	Participant observation and note taking Read: LeCompte 6; O'Reilly 4
5	9-21	Ethnographic Interview Developing questions workshop Read: O'Reilly 5
5	9-26	Practice interviewing
6	9-28	Structured Interviewing Read: O'Reilly 6
6	10-3	Structured interview development workshop
7	10-5	Non-Probability Sampling Participant Observation Assignment due
7	10-10	Data collection techniques Read: O'Reilly 7
8	10-12	Data collection day
8	10-17	Pile sort, freelisting and photo elicitation
9	10-19	Cognitive data collection exercise
9	10-24	Reliability and Validity
10	10-26	Coding and Domain Analysis Read: LeCompte 7; O'Reilly 8
10	10-31	Coding workshop
11	11-2	Data Collection day
11	11-7	No Class – work on transcribing your semi-structured interviews
12	11-9	Semi-structured interviews due

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
12	11-14	Report writing and dissemination Read: LeCompte 9; O'Reilly 9
13	11-16	In-class exercise
13	11-21	Workshop – Supervised report writing
14	11-23	No Class - Thanksgiving
14	11-28	Workshop – Supervised report writing Interview Analysis Due
15	11-30	Workshop – Supervised report writing
15	12-5	Presentations
16	12-7	Presentations
Final Exam	12-18 9:45-12:00	WSQ 004 Turn in Final written report

Weekly activities and assignments are subject to change at the instructor's discretion. Notification will be provided to the class of all changes via CANVAS email distribution at least one day in advance. Exams will not be rescheduled.