

San José State University
Anthropology Department
ANTH 234 Advanced Research Methods
Spring 2010 Semester

Instructor:	Professor Gonzalez
Office Location:	Clark 402G
Telephone:	(408) 924-5715
Email:	Roberto.Gonzalez@sjsu.edu
Office Hours:	TuTh 12:00-2:00, Tu 6:00-7:00
Class Days/Time:	Th 6:00-8:45
Classroom:	Clark 204
Prerequisites:	ANTH 149 or instructor consent
GE/SJSU Studies Category:	N/A
Course Fees:	N/A

Course Description

Anthropologists must be able to use a wide range of research methods in order to investigate a variety of real world problems. To help you achieve this, we will build upon basic ethnographic methods including participant observation and ethnographic interviewing—skills which you should have already learned in your undergraduate methods course. The course should give you the knowledge necessary to design an appropriate methodological plan for conducting research projects. In particular, we will address the following topics:

- participant observation and the ethnographic interview
- eliciting "insider" perspectives
- methods for analyzing relationships of power
- techniques for conducting research using archives and other secondary data sources
- the comparative method and historical analysis
- individual life histories and other methods that explore individual lives in depth
- tracing connections (or "networks") linking people, things, and ideas
- non-verbal techniques including spatial analysis
- the relationship of anthropological methods to social science theory
- timeliness in anthropological research

Throughout, we will pay particular attention to integrating different methods and forms of data, presenting information to different audiences, and collecting, analyzing, and presenting data using various technological means.

The course is organized around three simulation exercises in which you will use different methodological approaches. You will read about these methods, discuss them in seminar, and work in small groups to determine how they might be applied to the simulation exercises. The goal is to help you assess the strengths and weaknesses of each particular method, and the conditions in which it is appropriate to use. Finally, you will have the opportunity to discuss different technologies that might be used for data collection, analysis, or presentation.

Although this graduate course is offered within the context of an applied anthropology M.A. program, you should be aware that the division between "applied" and "theoretical" anthropology is arbitrary. Indeed, the division emerged relatively recently (in the 1930s) in the U.S. The goal of this seminar is not so much to train capable applied anthropologists as it is to train capable anthropologists.

Course Goals and Student Learning Objectives

Course Objectives

Students who successfully complete this course should be able to:

1. Develop and assess research questions and problems and to link them to quantitative and qualitative data using specific research designs.
2. Conceptualize problems from a comparative perspective and investigate them under limited time constraints.
3. Locate, appropriately use and assess secondary data sources such as surveys and censuses.
4. Use selected methods of cognitive and linguistic anthropological approaches to elicit multiple perspectives on problems.
5. Use various archival resources (including local media, organizational documents, government documents) to investigate problems.
6. Conduct narrative research approaches (including life history, "day in the life," etc.) and integrate them with other research methods.
7. Conduct network-based research that elicits structures of interconnections among people and that trace the movement of people, artifacts, and ideas.
8. Synthesize the results of research for different audiences using appropriate modes of presentation.
9. Understand the role of information technologies in data collection, analysis, and presentation (including visual anthropology).

Departmental Objectives

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.
6. Ability to access various forms of anthropological data and literature.
7. Awareness of importance and value of anthropological knowledge in contemporary society, and the ability to apply it to social issues.
8. 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.
9. Ability to present and communicate anthropological knowledge and the results of anthropological research to different audiences.
10. Knowledge of political and ethical implications of social research.

Required Texts/Readings

Textbooks

The following book is required for the course:

Pertti J. Peltó and Gretel H. Peltó, *Anthropological Research: The Structure of Inquiry* (2nd ed.)

In addition, a course reader including photocopied articles to be used in the second half of the course (Weeks 7-15) are available at the King Library reserve desk. You should come to the seminar with photocopies or printouts of the week's materials.

Some of you may want to have more methods books in your personal collection. I recommend the following:

H. Russell Bernard, *Research Methods in Anthropology* (now in 4th ed.)

A.L. Epstein (editor), *The Craft of Social Anthropology*

Peggy Golde (editor), *Women in the Field*

James Spradley, *The Ethnographic Interview*

James Spradley, *Participant Observation*

Classroom Protocol

This course will be conducted as a student-led seminar. In other words, several times during the semester you (along with a partner) will be responsible for presenting the week's readings to your peers. You and your partner will also be expected to lead a critical discussion of the week's readings.

Laptop computers are not permitted in class unless you have a note from the Disability Resource Center justifying a need. You should write lecture notes by hand, or else make audio recordings of lectures and transcribe them after class meetings. Cell phones must be turned off during class to avoid disruption and out of sight or else the instructor will collect the device from the student until the end of class. Text messaging is strictly prohibited.

Any student who allows a cell phone to ring during class, or who texts messages will first be given a formal warning by the instructor. A second infraction of this rule will be promptly reported to the Office of Student Conduct with a recommendation that the student be immediately expelled from the course. Students should be aware that according to Title 5 of the California Code of Regulations, "Standards for Student Conduct," grounds for student discipline includes: "Participating in an activity that substantially and materially disrupts the normal operations of the University," {Section 41301(b)(4)} which could include use of unauthorized electronic devices in classroom settings.

Dropping and Adding

Students are responsible for understanding the policies and procedures about add/drops, academic renewal, etc. [Information on add/drops are available at http://info.sjsu.edu/web-dbgen/narr/soc-fall/rec-298.html](http://info.sjsu.edu/web-dbgen/narr/soc-fall/rec-298.html). [Information about late drop is available at http://www.sjsu.edu/sac/advising/latedrops/policy/](http://www.sjsu.edu/sac/advising/latedrops/policy/). Students should be aware of the current deadlines and penalties for adding and dropping classes.

Assignments and Grading Policy

Assignments for this course include the following:

1. *Weekly reading summaries*. Each week, you should prepare a 2-page double-spaced summary of the week's readings. You should concisely summarize the main points as well as any criticisms you might have about the reading. Late reading summaries will not be accepted without documentation. Electronic copies will not be accepted. (2 points each; 26 points total)
2. *Technology discussion*. Once during the semester each of you will be responsible for making a brief presentation and discussion (10-15 minutes) to the seminar group about a particular technology and how it is being used by anthropologists today. (3 points for presentation; 3 points total)
3. *Simulation exercises*. You will participate in a series of three simulation exercises to be conducted in teams. Each exercise will focus upon a set of methods covered during a portion of the semester. Teams will be assigned by the instructor and will change from one simulation exercise to the next. Students will assume the role of applied anthropologists in a consulting group commissioned to solve a specific problem related to health and illness, environmental sustainability, immigration, or industry. More information will be given to you later in the course. (15 points for each simulation; 45 points total)
4. *Workshop*. This will be conducted during the scheduled final exam period (refer to course schedule). Each of you will have approximately 15 minutes to present ideas regarding your M.A. thesis or project, particularly possible methodological approaches that you might use in the research. You should also submit a 3-4 page summary of your plan. (10 points total)

5. *Participation.* You are expected to attend seminar each week and to actively participate in discussion. (1 point each week; 16 points total)

All assignments must be completed in order to pass. I will not accept late assignments nor will I administer makeup exams unless documents can be presented as evidence of illness, death in family, jury duty, etc. No assignments will be accepted via e-mail—I must receive hard copies of all assignments.

Grading Distribution

100	-	97	A+	79	-	77	C+
96	-	93	A	76	-	73	C
92	-	90	A-	72	-	70	C-
89	-	87	B+	69	-	67	D+
86	-	83	B	66	-	63	D
83	-	80	B-	Below 63			F

University Policies

Academic integrity

Students should know that the University's [Academic Integrity Policy is available at http://www.sa.sjsu.edu/download/judicial_affairs/Academic_Integrity_Policy_S07-2.pdf](http://www.sa.sjsu.edu/download/judicial_affairs/Academic_Integrity_Policy_S07-2.pdf). Your own commitment to learning, as evidenced by your enrollment at San Jose State University and the University's integrity policy, require 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 website for [Student Conduct and Ethical Development is available at http://www.sa.sjsu.edu/judicial_affairs/index.html](http://www.sa.sjsu.edu/judicial_affairs/index.html).

Instances of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Cheating on exams or plagiarism (presenting the work of another as your own, or the use of another person's ideas without giving proper credit) will result in a failing grade and sanctions by the University. For this class, all assignments are to be completed by the individual student unless otherwise specified. If you would like to include in your assignment any material you have submitted, or plan to submit for another class, please note that SJSU's Academic Policy F06-1 requires approval of instructors.

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 requires that students with disabilities requesting accommodations must register with the DRC (Disability Resource Center) to establish a record of their disability.

ANTH 234 Advanced Research Methods

Spring 2010

Course Schedule

Schedule is subject to change with fair notice.

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
1	01/28/09	<u>Introduction and Course Overview</u> B. Malinowski, "Method and Scope of Anthropological Fieldwork" (distributed by instructor)
2	02/04/09	<u>Methodological Domains: Concepts, Propositions, Theories, Models</u> Pelto and Pelto, "The Domain of Methodology" (Ch. 1) Pelto and Pelto, "Science and Anthropology" (Ch. 2)
3	02/11/09	<u>Emic and Etic Perspectives: Insider's and Outsider's Views</u> Pelto and Pelto, "Operationalism in Anthropology" (Ch. 3) Pelto and Pelto, "Emic and Etic Approaches" (Ch. 4)
4	02/18/09	<u>Research Tools and Research Design</u> Pelto and Pelto, "Tools of Research I" (Ch. 5) Pelto and Pelto, "Tools of Research II" (Ch. 6) Pelto and Pelto, "Notes on Research Design" (Appendix A) <i>Technology Discussion: Pens, Pencils, Paper, and Index Cards</i>
5	02/25/09	<u>Sampling, Measuring, Statistics</u> Pelto and Pelto, "Counting and Sampling" (Ch. 7) Pelto and Pelto, "Measurement, Scales, and Statistics" (Ch. 8) <i>Technology Discussion: Audio Recorders, Transcription, Voice Recognition</i>
6	03/04/09	<u>Analyzing and Interpreting Data</u> Pelto and Pelto, "Art and Science in Field Work" (Ch. 9) Pelto and Pelto, "Research Methods, Relevance, and Applied Anthropology" (Ch. 10) <i>Technology Discussion: Tablet PCs</i> SIMULATION 1 AND IN-CLASS PRESENTATION DUE MARCH 3
7	03/11/09	<u>Timeliness, Note Taking, and Other Skills</u> *Beebe, "Basic Concepts and Techniques of Rapid Appraisal" *Bernard, "Field Notes: How to Take Them, Code Them, Manage Them" <i>Technology Discussion: Analog and Digital Cameras and Photography</i>
8	03/18/09	<u>Mapping and Analyzing Spaces</u> *Cromley, "Mapping Spatial Data" <i>Technology Discussion: Global Positioning Systems and Geographic Information Systems</i>
9	03/25/09	<u>Comparative Methods</u> *Sahlins, "The Original Affluent Society" *Nader, "Comparative Consciousness" <i>Technology Discussion: Video Cameras</i> SPRING BREAK: MARCH 29 - APRIL 2
10	04/08/09	<u>Life Histories and "Day in the Life" Analysis</u> *Steward, "Worker in the Cane" (excerpts)

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
		*Lewis, "On the Edge of Mexico City: The Sánchez Family" <i>Technology Discussion: Qualitative Data and Analysis Software</i>
11	04/15/09	<u>Using Semantics to Explore Cultural Domains</u> *Spradley, "Analyzing Ethnographic Interviews" *Spradley, "Making a Domain Analysis" *Spradley, "Asking Structural Questions" *Spradley, "Making a Taxonomic Analysis" <i>Technology Discussion: Audio and Video Presentations</i> SIMULATION 2 AND IN-CLASS PRESENTATION DUE APRIL 15
12	04/22/09	<u>Studying Up, Down, and Sideways: Methods for Analyzing Power</u> *Nader, "Up the Anthropologist--Perspectives Gained from Studying Up" *Nader, "The Vertical Slice" <i>Technology Discussion: Excel, Calc, and Other Spreadsheets</i>
13	04/29/09	<u>Network Analysis, Hidden Populations, and the Global Context</u> *Trotter, "Ethnographic Network Studies" *Singer, "Studying Hidden Populations" *Marcus, "Ethnography in/of the World System" <i>Technology Discussion: Power Point, Impress, and Presentation Software</i>
14	05/06/09	<u>Archival Information and Secondary Data</u> READINGS TO BE ANNOUNCED <i>Technology Discussion: Creating Websites and Online Presentation Media</i>
15	05/13/09	<u>Combining and Integrating Different Methods</u> Pelto and Pelto, "Building Anthropological Theory: Methods and Models" (Ch. 11) SIMULATION 3 AND IN-CLASS PRESENTATION DUE MAY 12
16		N/A
Final Exam		FINAL EXAM (WORKSHOP)—Thursday, May 20 (5:15-7:30 pm) in regular class meeting room