

**San José State University
Department of Anthropology
ANTH 149(1) Ethnographic Methods (41814)**

Fall 2015 Course Syllabus

Instructor:	Dr. Ana Pitchon
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Office Hours:	Tuesday and Thursday 10:30-12:00 and by appointment
Class Days/Time:	Tuesday and Thursday – 12:00-1:15
Classroom:	Washington Square Hall 004
Prerequisites:	ANTH 11 or instructor consent

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 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.

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 Objectives

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

Textbooks:

Essential Ethnographic Methods (3rd edition). Jean Schensul and Margaret LeCompte (2013).

AltaMira Press. ISBN-10: 0761991441

Designing and Conducting Ethnographic Research (2nd edition). Margaret LeCompte and Jean Schensul (2010). AltaMira Press. ISBN-10: 0759118698

Writing Ethnographic Fieldnotes (2nd edition). Robert Emerson, Rachel Fretz and Linda Shaw. University Of Chicago Press (2011). ISBN-10: 0226206831

Other readings as assigned on Canvas.

Course Requirements and Assignments

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 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.

Data Collection and Analysis Assignments – (75 points total)

Literature Review (15 points) (Course objective #2). Each student will *individually* conduct library research to select at least eight sources relevant to his or her project area and write an introductory literature review. Sources may include books, journal articles, newspaper articles and selected websites. If you have a question regarding the relevance and or legitimacy of a source, please ask me before including it in your review. Two pages, double-spaced.

Participant Observation Exercise (15 points) (Course objective #3). Each student will *individually* conduct participant observation in your determined project area. This involves extensive note taking and then analysis of your description. This will be a description of your findings and how they integrate with your project area. Two pages, double-spaced.

Semi-structured Interviews (15 points) (Course objective #3). Each student will *individually* conduct two semi-structured interviews with two different people associated with your project area, and transcribe and analyze them. *Submit three hardcopies of the interviews.*

Coding analysis (15 points) (Course objective #4). Each *group* will provide a detailed code list of the entire group's interviews.

Domain and Theme Analysis (15 points) (Course objective #4). Each student will *individually* read all of the interviews conducted by the other students in his or her group and analyze them for basic cross-cutting cultural domains and themes. Provide a narrative discussing the findings. Two pages, double-spaced.

These assignments should use Times or Times New Roman font, with one inch margins all around. The two pages do not include references, pictures, notes, etc. **(Less than two pages will result in a reduction of points.)** You will need to refer to the STARS Technical Manual and Checklist regularly. Please have them downloaded. They can be found here - <https://stars.aashe.org/pages/about/technical-manual.html> and on Canvas.

Final assignment: 25 points (Course objective #7)

The course's final written product will be a **GROUP** report on your applied research project. You should use all of your assignments as content for chapters of the report, plus the addition of an executive summary (abstract), a synthesis, results and recommendations. Since this is a report for an applied project, you should rely more heavily on your findings than other peoples work. However, I still expect that you support any statements, recommendations, data, history, etc. with scholarly sources. This assignment will be **15** pages, double-spaced, not including references, pictures, tables, figures and notes.

The other part of this assignment will be a 10-minute PowerPoint presentation of your project area to the class during the scheduled final exam time. This should be a solid, coherent explanation of your applied project, and should be suitable for a presentation before a board or at a national conference. The presentation should be exactly 10 minutes long, and cover all relevant points.

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. Use the American Anthropological Association format, especially when citing references. It can be found at http://www.aaanet.org/pubs/style_guide.htm.

Grading Policy

A: 95-100	A: Reserved for exceptional scholarship and understanding that reaches beyond minimum course requirements.
A-: 90-94	B: Excellent above average work that exceeds minimum course requirements.
B+: 86-89	C: Satisfactory completion of course requirements.
B: 82-85	D: Fails to address course requirements satisfactorily.
B-: 78-81	
C+: 74-77	
C: 70-73	
C-: 67-69	
D: 60-66	
F:0-59	

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.

Credit Hours

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.

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 and tablets:

Laptop computers and tablets may be used in class only for note-taking.

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 for non-class activity (e.g. email, games, web-surfing) is prohibited. Students using their laptop for non-class activity will be asked to turn off their laptop and leave the class. In addition, the use of cell phones 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](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S90-5.pdf) 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](http://info.sjsu.edu/web-dbgen/narr/catalog/rec-12234.12506.html), at <http://info.sjsu.edu/web-dbgen/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.

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](http://info.sjsu.edu/static/catalog/policies.html) 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](http://www.sjsu.edu/provost/services/academic_calendars/) at http://www.sjsu.edu/provost/services/academic_calendars/. The [Late Drop Policy](http://www.sjsu.edu/aars/policies/latedrops/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](http://www.sjsu.edu/advising/) 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), <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-7.pdf>, requires students to obtain instructor's permission to record the course.

- Common courtesy and professional behavior dictate that you notify someone when you are recording him/her. 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.
- 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.

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>.

ANTH 149 Ethnographic Methods Fall 2015 Course Schedule

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
1	8/20	Greensheet and class overview
1	8/25	Team selections, discussion and planning Read: Kedia on Canvas
2	8/27	Introduction to ethnography
2	9/1	Ethnography Read: LeCompte 1-3; Schensul 1 & 2
3	9/3	Research design Read LeCompte 4
3	9/8	Team research design and question formulation
4	9/10	Library day for literature search
4	9/15	Literature review
5	9/17	Team literature discussion LITERATURE REVIEW DUE
5	9/22	Participant observation Read: LeCompte 6; Schensul 3 & 4
6	9/24	On-campus participant observation exercise Read: Schensul 5; Emerson 1
6	9/29	Interviewing Read: Schensul 6 & 7; Emerson 2
7	10/1	Interviewing and question development Read: Schensul 10 PARTICIPANT OBSERVATION ASSIGNMENT DUE
7	10/6	Interviewing and question development group exercise Read: Rylko-Bauer on Canvas
8	10/8	Interviewing practice – Semi-structured
8	10/13	Ethics Read LeCompte 10
9	10/15	Structured observation on campus exercise Read Schensul 9
9	10/20	Team discussion day – bring all findings to date to class!
10	10/22	Getting into the field Read LeCompte 8

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
10	10/27	On campus interviews Read Johnsrud
11	10/29	On campus interviews
11	11/3	Team discussion of interviews SEMI-STRUCTURED INTERVIEWS DUE
12	11/5	Coding Read Schensul 2; Emerson 6; Coding on Canvas
12	11/10	Group coding exercise CODE LIST DUE
13	11/12	Qualitative Analysis Read LeCompte 7; Qual analysis on Canvas
13	11/17	Team analysis exercise
14	11/19	Report writing Read Emerson 7
14	11/24	Team synthesis day DOMAIN AND THEME ANALYSIS DUE
15	11/26	No Class - Thanksgiving
15	12/1	Last minute data collection day
16	12/3	Team synthesis day
16	12/8	Team synthesis day
Final Exam	12/11	9:45-12:00 Power-Point presentations and final project due

Weekly activities and assignments are subject to change at the instructor's discretion.