Ethnography in a Community Context
EPS 199
Spring 2012

Course Meeting Times: Monday and Wednesday, 4-4:50 (329 Davenport Hall)
Course Instructor: Nicole Lamers, PhD
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Office Hours: by appointment

Synopsis:

This course introduces students to ethnographic enquiry and develops their English language skills, cultural awareness and intercultural competence through a small-scale ethnographic enquiry undertaken in the local context. This involves data collection, analysis and the reporting of results. To prepare students for the larger ethnographic project, we will explore the nature of ethnography, some of the methods used within ethnographic approaches and read a variety of samples of ethnographic works.

Objectives:

To enable students to

a. Develop initial competence in ethnographic enquiry;

b. Develop intercultural competence, specifically in Study Abroad context;

c. Analyze and deconstruct the experiences, emotions and perceptions encountered when immersed in a new environment;

d. Develop proficiency in using English within the context of an ethnographic enquiry in a predominantly English-speaking multi-cultural environment.

Content

a. A brief introduction to ethnography:

b. Defining ethnographic approaches;

c. Selecting basic anthropological concepts and methods relevant to projects;

d. Understanding and utilizing basic methods of observation and interview to elicit rich descriptions;

e. Collecting data through field work;

f. Understanding and employing basic methods of recording, analyzing and

interpreting field data.

Opportunities for ethnographic enquiry in the university context:

a. Identifying possible sites of interaction and associated topics

b. Developing a proposal for a small project

c. Conducting the project

d. Presentation of research results

Assessment

An ethnographic project will be conducted either individually or in groups of no more than three, preferably with an individual focus for each student. There will be a variety of assessment opportunities in this course. The first will be the assignments leading up to the major project. You will submit a written plan for your final project toward the beginning of the semester. This will outline your topic and your plans for conducting the research. Once you have started to make some progress, you will required to present your 'In-Progress' status to the group for mutual feedback. Additionally, you will do a longer final presentation toward the end of the semester. Finally, you will submit a final report summarizing your topic, methods and research. Finally, participation and attendance are essential to this process.

a. Participation and Attendance (50 and 50pts) 10%

b. Assignments (5X40pts) 20%

c. Written Plan for Final Project (150pts) 15%

d. In-Progress Oral Presentation (150pts) 15%

e. Final Presentation at EUI conference (200pts) 20%

f. Final Written Report (200pts) 20%

*Please note that assignments and due dates may be altered to better serve student interest and needs. Advanced notice will be given on any changes. Copies of reading materials will be provided. More information on assignments and readings will be available on the course Moodle site: https://courses.las.illinois.edu/course/view.php?id=1681

Course Calendar

Class Meeting	Topic	Assignment
January 30th	Introduction	Look at EUI sample projects on website: http://www.eui.illinois.edu/
February 1st	People, Place, Particularity & Positionality	Campus Places
February 6th	Campus Places Presentations	Write Project Proposal
February 8th	No Class – Project Proposal Due	Nathan (1, 4) for Wednesday
February 13th	IRB Information	
February	How to study a university context?	Write Project Plan

15th		
February 20th	Visit the Student life and culture archives	
February 22nd	No Class Project Plan Due	Body Language Project
February 27th	Discuss findings of observations	
February 29th	Project Check-In	Ritual Project
March 5th	Discuss findings of Ritual Project	
March 7th	Research Techniques	Practice Interview Project
March 12th	How to make a poster presentation	
March 14th	Research Techniques II	Spring Break Trip Observation Project
March 19th	Spring Break	
March 21st	Spring Break	Booth 68-101
March 26th	Finding Sources	
March 28th	Project Check In	
April 2nd	Analyzing your Data	
April 4th	Analyzing your Data	
April 9th	In-Class Presentations	
April 11th	In-Class Presentations	
April 16th	In-Class Presentations	
April 18th	In-Class Presentations EUI Conference Application Due	
April 23rd	Poster Due	Booth 171-212
April 25th	Writing Up	Booth 213-276
April 30th	Writing Up	
May 1st	Conference 3-8pm LISB Room 126	
May 2nd	Wrap-Up Session	
May 7th	No Class (finals week)	
May 9th	Final Paper Due	