

Quantitative Ethnographic Field Methods

Anthropology 402

Monday 12:00 - 2:50

Fall 2016

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213 Social Sciences

Office hours: Tues 9:00-12:00

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Community Mapping and Ranking Exercises

Course Description:

Anthropology 402 is a course designed to enhance the participants' understanding of important field methods that generate quantitative data describing human behavior. The toolkit of a student completing this course will include knowledge of basic methods that will get you from observing behavior to discussing your research and findings in a professional manner in oral or written formats. You will study how to derive questions from existing literature, how to aim for specific professional outcomes such as the generation of a professional talk, poster, or paper, and the steps required along the way to get you to those outcomes. Survey design, identification of critical variables to define, predicting required analyses of those variables, identifying the statistical tests you will have to use, and making sure your data are measured appropriately for those tests will be taught in this class.

The class outcomes will include:

- How to construct a research question and testable hypotheses
- Fieldnote/data organization
- Designing and managing databases
- Measuring socio-economic status in non-market settings
- Conducting censuses and recording genealogies
- Standard participatory rural appraisal tools including pile sorting, ranking exercises
- Mapping communities and understanding anthropological applications of GIS
- Using statistical and database management software including SPSS

Advanced writing outcomes will include:

- Identify and pursue more sophisticated questions for academic inquiry
- Find, evaluate, analyze, and synthesize information effectively from diverse sources
- Manage multiple perspectives as appropriate
- Recognize the purposes and needs of discipline-specific audiences and adopt the academic voice necessary for the chosen discipline
- Use multiple drafts, revision, and editing in conducting inquiry and preparing written work
- Follow the conventions of citation, documentation, and formal presentation appropriate to that discipline
- Develop competence in information technology and digital literacy

Readings:

Bernard, R. Research Methods in Anthropology: Qualitative and Quantitative Approaches, Fifth Edition, Altamira Press, 2011.

Papers and chapters posted on Moodle.

Requirements:

- Class participation (and thus attendance) is mandatory. I expect you to have read the assigned readings prior to the class for which they are assigned, and to be prepared to discuss them with your peers. Making a few notes to yourself before class about points you find interesting in the readings will help tremendously. Several times during the semester, your participation and preparation for class will be evaluated with discussions, problem solving activities, or data collecting or analysis. Keep in mind that if you miss a class, you may not make up missed class work or attendance, which ultimately lowers your grade.
- There will be four papers assigned across the semester. These will be 5-7 pages in length, and will be reviewed in class by your peers. Based on self- and peer-review in class, you will revise your writing assignment before turning in the penultimate draft to me. I will suggest revisions for your final draft. Your papers will be evaluated on the following basis:
 - Extent of documentation of your argument, proper citation of sources (using a citation format consistent with a professional academic journal of your choosing).
 - Quality of your thesis statement and relevance to the assigned question.
 - Clarity of the argument you present supporting your thesis statement.
 - Relevance of your argument to assigned readings, methodological needs in anthropological research, and your assessment of the utility and usage of particular methods in the readings you cite.
- Your final grade will be calculated on the basis of attendance, class participation in discussions, your presentation of at least one 15 minute assignment of extra material that you find via google scholar, jstor or another relevant academic search engine, and your paper grades.
- Distribution of course grade:

Papers	75%
Attendance, participation, in-class presentations/work	<u>25%</u>
Total	100%
- Additional information:
 - Please feel free to come to my office hours, or to catch me before or after class with questions. You can also schedule an appointment to meet outside of office hours.
 - Late papers – only with a documented health issue or with prior permission. If you cannot turn in either draft of a paper on time, you must tell me before the due date that you will be absent, and (in the case of a first draft due date) what your alternative arrangement with your grading partner is.
 - If you're taking this class pass/no pass, a pass > 69%.
- **Graduate students will produce the hypotheses and methods section of their thesis or grant proposal in this class, as one of the four writing assignments.**

Schedule:

Week/Date	Topic	Reading/Notes
1 Aug 29	Introduction	
2 Sept 5	Labor Day	Bernard 2011: Chpt 1
3 Sept 12	Posing the right questions	Bernard 2011: Chpts 2-3 Readings on Moodle
4 Sept 19	Cross sectional, longitudinal, retrospective & prospective projects and other concerns First writing assignment due for review in class	Bernard 2011: Chpt 4 Readings on Moodle
5 Sept 26	Identifying independent and dependent variables, predicting analyses and statistical tests required, survey design Turn revised first writing assignment in to KHM	Bernard 2011: Chpt 5-7 Readings on Moodle
6 Oct 3	Organizing your fieldnotes and data before they are written or collected, management of databases in the field	Bernard 2011: Chpt 13 Readings on Moodle
7 Oct 10	Database management and stats software packages Second writing assignment due for review in class	Readings on Moodle
8 Oct 17	Census and genealogical data Turn revised second writing assignment in to KHM	Readings on Moodle
9 Oct 24	Measuring SES	Bernard 2011: Chpt 7, 10 Readings on Moodle

10 Oct 31	Data manipulation: SES data	Readings on Moodle
11 Nov 7	Anthropometry Third writing assignment due for review in class	Readings on Moodle
12 Nov 14	Data Manipulation: Anthropometry Turn revised third writing assignment in to KHM	Readings on Moodle
13 Nov 21	PRA – Participatory Rural Appraisal Methods	Readings on Moodle
14 Nov 28	Data Manipulation: PRA results Fourth writing assignment due for review in class <i>(Grad students: This will be a draft of the methods chapter of your thesis)</i>	Readings on Moodle
15 Dec 5	Mapping villages and fields and GIS applications in anthropology Turn revised fourth writing assignment in to KHM	Readings on Moodle
16 Dec 12	Data manipulation: Maps Final paper discussion and evaluation of course	Readings on Moodle Evaluations and final paper revision
17 Dec 15	Thursday: Final meeting 8am	