

Spring 2002 – *Revised syllabus*

**Doing Anthropology**  
**ANT305 A**  
**Tues / Thurs 3:00 – 4:15 pm**

Dr. C. Kaplonski

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x 5049

Office hours: M/W: 1:30 – 2:45; T/Th: 4:30 – 5:45 (first half of the semester only); by appointment, or whenever the door is open (most days, after 11 or so).

Will assume you have a fairly good working knowledge of cultural anthropology. Even though the only prerequisite is Comparative Cultures, it will be very beneficial to have had more cultural / social background than this.

A key part of anthropology is writing. Much of what we, as working anthropologists, do is write. Journal articles. Book reviews. Reports. Books. As such, writing will be a major component of this course. As part of this, you will be required to hand in drafts of papers. These will be graded as any other assignment. Anthropologists also spend vast amounts of time reading. So another key component of this course will involve reading – not just the textbooks, but the work of other students and your own as well.

When projects are due, we will spend some time that class session discussing what you got out of the assignment.

Because of the nature of doing anthropological fieldwork, and the fact you will encounter issues we discuss in the course of your own research, the schedule for the term is rather fluid. We can expand or contract discussions as becomes necessary.

**Books:**

Anderson, *Around the world in 30 years*

Angrosino, *Doing cultural anthropology*

Fetterman, *Ethnography*

Kutsche, *Field ethnography*

Additional readings will be available on reserve in the anthropology commons.

**Grading:** The grading for this course will be based on the writing assignments. Because of the large amount of writing required to keep current with this course, late work will be penalized. Work not submitted by the end of the class period on the day due will be penalized 5 points, and 5 points per extra class session late. In other words, if an assignment is due on a Thursday, and is not handed in on time, you will be penalized 5 points. If it is not handed in by the end of the following class (Tuesday), you will lose an additional 5 points.

Despite their relative weighting, students must complete and turn in all assignments to pass the course!

Note that I am not technically taking attendance into account. But there is really no way you can do well in this class without coming and participating every session. People who make an effort to attend and participate will receive extra points at the end of the semester.

Assignment:

Anthro Major	2.5%
Map of Block	3.75%
Proposal draft #1	2.5%
Revised proposal	3.75%
Body Language	3.75%
Reading list	2.5%
Articles	3.75%
Ritual	5%
Ethics	3.75%
Life history	5%
Status report	3.75%
Archives	2.5%
Final proposal	2.5%
1 <sup>st</sup> draft of project	6.25%
2 <sup>nd</sup> draft of project	8.75%
Final draft	25%
3x fieldnotes	15%
Total:	100%

Semester schedule:

Jan. 24	Introduction to the course <i>Reading:</i> Fetterman, "The first step" (assignment: Why I'm an anthro major)
Jan. 29	Review of basic concepts in socio-cultural anthropology. <i>Reading:</i> Durkheim, "Social facts;" Fetterman, "Walking in rhythm" (Assignment #1 due)
Jan. 31	What is ethnography, and why do it? What are the basic tools of ethnography? <i>Reading:</i> Fetterman, "A wilderness guide;" Angrosino, "Becoming a participant-observer," pp. 9-16 ONLY; Kutsche, "Map of a block" (Block assignment)
Feb. 5	What sort of research can I do? (brain storming) <i>Reading:</i> Any two of the "Student Illustrative Ethnographies" in Kutsche. (first proposal draft due)
Feb. 7	A first look at research proposals, writing (group editing) <i>Reading:</i> Fetterman, "Recording the miracle" (Block assignment due)
Feb. 12	Hermeneutics and anthropology <i>Reading:</i> Michrina, Chapters 1 & 2 (Revised proposal due)

- Feb. 14 History, theory and classic works  
*Reading:* Malinowski, “Introduction;” Geertz, “From the native’s point of view;” Kutsche, “Body language”  
 (Assignment: body language)
- Feb. 19 History, theory and classic works  
*Reading:* TBA  
 (proposed reading list due)
- Feb. 21 Reading before the field  
*Reading:* TBA  
 (body language assignment due)
- Feb. 26 Thinking about and analysing other writing.  
 (Assignment: articles)
- Feb. 28 Ethics  
*Reading:* AAA Code of ethics; Fetterman, “Walking softly...;”  
 (assignments: ritual; ethics)
- Mar. 5 Going into the field  
*Reading:* Anderson, “The anthropologist as listener...” & “The anthropologist as participant observer”
- Mar. 7 Observation and fieldnotes  
*Reading:* Anderson, “The enculturation process”  
 (ethics assignment due)
- Mar. 12 Observation  
*Reading:* Angrosino, “Carrying out a structured observation”
- Mar. 14 Interviews  
*Reading:* Angrosino, “Conducting a life history interview;” Bernard  
 (Life history assignment; Articles assignment due)
- Mar. 19 **Spring Break**
- Mar. 21 **Spring Break**
- Mar. 26 Interview  
 (Ritual assignment due)
- Mar. 28 Narrative analysis  
*Reading:* Angrosino, “Analyzing narrative data”  
 (life history assignment due)
- Apr. 2 Return to research proposals (Human subjects paperwork)
- Apr. 4 **No Class – Asian Studies Meetings.** (Work on major project!)

- Apr. 9            Guest lecturer: Doing economic anthropology  
(status report due)
- Apr. 11           Fieldnotes and diaries  
*Reading:* Malinowski, “A diary...;” Michrina, “Writing”  
(in-class fieldnotes assignment; Final Research proposal due)
- Apr. 16           Historical background and archives  
*Reading:* Angrosino, “Reconstructing a community...”  
(archives assignment)
- Apr. 18           Working in large-scale societies  
*Reading:* Anderson, “Megacultures” & “The social structure of the service”
- Apr. 23           Description vs. analysis  
*Reading:* Fetterman, “Finding your way...;” Angrosino, “Composing  
autoethnographic stories”  
(archives assignment due)
- Apr. 25           Thinking about data  
*Reading:* Re-read Fetterman, “Recording the miracle”  
(first draft of whole paper due)
- Apr. 30           Thinking about data  
*Reading:* Anderson, “The ordering of human relationships”
- May 2            Working in formal organizations  
*Reading:* Angrosino, “Learning about formal organizations,” & “Observing a  
workplace”
- May 7            Questionnaires and survey research  
*Reading:* Angrosino, “Designing a questionnaire;” Bernard  
(second draft of whole paper due)
- May 9            Questionnaires and survey research

Week of May 13 – Final exam. Final draft of ethnography project due.