



# ANTH801

## Research Methods in Anthropology

S1 Evening 2015

*Dept of Anthropology*

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#### **Disclaimer**

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## General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff

Convenor

Monica Dalidowicz

[monica.dalidowicz@mq.edu.au](mailto:monica.dalidowicz@mq.edu.au)

Thurs 5-6 or by appt.

Credit points

4

Prerequisites

Admission to MGlobalHlthDevStud or GradCertGlobalHlthDevStud or MAppAnth or PGDipAppAnth or MDevCult or PGDipDevCult or PGCertDevCult or MSocEntre or PGCertSocEntre or 4cp in ANTH units at 800 level

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description

This unit introduces methodological strategies used in community research. Quantitative strategies, such as questionnaire and survey methods, will be compared with qualitative ones, such as participant observation. The epistemological and ethical dimensions of methodology, and the effects of political imperatives on the conduct of research will be discussed. It includes four weeks of community-based research.

## Important Academic Dates

Information about important academic dates including deadlines for withdrawing from units are available at <https://www.mq.edu.au/study/calendar-of-dates>

## Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this unit, you will be able to:

Develop skills in ethnographic research, writing and oral presentation

Gain familiarity with a variety of methodological techniques

Understand the processes of a human research ethics application and learn about current debates over human research ethics and informed consent

Design, implement, and write up their own research project

Relate their experiences to some of the research problems and ethical dilemmas which emerge in key ethnographic texts

Students will develop their oral presentation and communication skills through class presentations and workshop discussions

Students will improve problem-solving skills through research design activities and by engaging in various forms of data analysis

Students will improve their critical skills by learning how research data is produced and how choices made by researchers affect the outcome

## Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Due
<u>Seminar participation</u>	30%	Ongoing
<u>Research proposal</u>	10%	02/04/2015
<u>Ethnographic Journal</u>	10%	07/05/2015
<u>Presentations</u>	10%	28/05/2015
<u>Ethnographic Paper</u>	20%	28/05/2015
<u>Revised Ethnographic Paper</u>	20%	18/06/2015

### Seminar participation

Due: **Ongoing**

Weighting: **30%**

Seminar preparation involves a couple of hours of reading each week. To facilitate tutorial discussion, you are required to submit a short typed summary of each of that week's readings. Each student should fully participate in class discussions and will take turns leading a discussion of the week's readings.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Develop skills in ethnographic research, writing and oral presentation
- Understand the processes of a human research ethics application and learn about current debates over human research ethics and informed consent
- Design, implement, and write up their own research project
- Relate their experiences to some of the research problems and ethical dilemmas which emerge in key ethnographic texts
- Students will develop their oral presentation and communication skills through class presentations and workshop discussions
- Students will improve problem-solving skills through research design activities and by

engaging in various forms of data analysis

## Research proposal

Due: **02/04/2015**

Weighting: **10%**

Research proposals will be original project designs for ethnographic research projects. Your research proposal should be a formal description of the ongoing project of ethnographic description that you are engaged in for this class. You must also undertake a literary search for your chosen topic.

On successful completion you will be able to:

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- Students will improve their critical skills by learning how research data is produced and how choices made by researchers affect the outcome

## Ethnographic Journal

Due: **07/05/2015**

Weighting: **10%**

Students will engage in a small-scale and experimental research project over the course of the semester. Each student will keep a 'field journal' (paper or electronic) that collates completed writing assignments, including observational logs, research diary entries, interview notes, sketches, diagrams, and other data related to the on-going project. You are encouraged to treat the journal as a 'field diary,' and to write in it as often as you see fit. You should write in it as often as possible (a minimum of twice a week).

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Develop skills in ethnographic research, writing and oral presentation
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- Design, implement, and write up their own research project
- Relate their experiences to some of the research problems and ethical dilemmas which emerge in key ethnographic texts

- Students will improve problem-solving skills through research design activities and by engaging in various forms of data analysis
- Students will improve their critical skills by learning how research data is produced and how choices made by researchers affect the outcome

## Presentations

Due: **28/05/2015**

Weighting: **10%**

During the last two weeks of the semester, you will present your research findings in class. You are presenting an ethnographic synthesis that combines theory and data through the medium of analysis. Since this class is centred on methodology, I do expect that you reflect on and discuss your process of observation, methodological challenges, things you might do differently next time etc.

On successful completion you will be able to:

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- Students will develop their oral presentation and communication skills through class presentations and workshop discussions
- Students will improve problem-solving skills through research design activities and by engaging in various forms of data analysis
- Students will improve their critical skills by learning how research data is produced and how choices made by researchers affect the outcome

## Ethnographic Paper

Due: **28/05/2015**

Weighting: **20%**

Write an ethnographic synthesis of the research you completed. Your paper should describe the goals of the project, the methods employed, and what you discovered during the course of your research. Remember that ethnographic synthesis weaves theory to data in the medium of analysis. Your paper must present your research in a way that maintains academic integrity whilst also engaging the reader with your ethnographic material. You must connect your material to larger processes, using sound theoretical foundations and consistent and measured analysis. This paper will be reviewed and returned with critical feedback on June 4th.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Develop skills in ethnographic research, writing and oral presentation
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- Design, implement, and write up their own research project
- Relate their experiences to some of the research problems and ethical dilemmas which emerge in key ethnographic texts
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- Students will improve their critical skills by learning how research data is produced and how choices made by researchers affect the outcome

## Revised Ethnographic Paper

Due: **18/06/2015**

Weighting: **20%**

I will return your ethnographic paper (on June 4<sup>th</sup>) with the comments and suggestions. Similar to the process of submission for publication in a journal or edited volume, your paper will be reviewed and you will be given feedback on the work. You will then be required to address the feedback and revise your paper accordingly. You will have two weeks to revise from the time I return your paper. The revised paper will be due on June 18. Your revised paper must also include an epilogue or response (200 to 500 words) reflecting on how you have used the feedback.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Develop skills in ethnographic research, writing and oral presentation
- Design, implement, and write up their own research project
- Students will improve their critical skills by learning how research data is produced and how choices made by researchers affect the outcome

## Delivery and Resources

*All readings for the seminar are found on the library website in the e-reserve section (you can search for ANTH801 in e-reserve or follow the link on iLearn). All other listed readings are on three-day loan (books) or e-reserve (journal articles).*

## Unit Schedule

Week 1	26 Feb	Introduction: course overview
Week 2	5 Mar	Choosing a field site and developing research questions

Week 3	12 Mar	Ethical codes and Ethical dilemmas in fieldwork
Week 4	19 Mar	Participant Observation and Taking Field Notes I
Week 5	26 Mar	Participant Observation and Taking Field Notes II
Week 6	2 Apr	Interviewing

**Mid-semester Recess** (3 April – 20 April)

Week 7	23 Apr	Fieldwork in a Global Era
Week 8	30 Apr	Informants, hosts, and field relationships
Week 9	7 May	Leaving the Field: From Fieldwork to Writing Up
Week 10	14 May	Writing Ethnography
Week 11	21 May	The politics of writing and representation
Week 12	28 May	Doing ethnography: In-class presentations
Week 13	4 Jun	Doing ethnography: In-class presentations continued

## Policies and Procedures

Macquarie University policies and procedures are accessible from [Policy Central](#). Students should be aware of the following policies in particular with regard to Learning and Teaching:

Academic Honesty Policy [http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/academic\\_honesty/policy.html](http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/academic_honesty/policy.html)

Assessment Policy <http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/assessment/policy.html>

Grading Policy <http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/grading/policy.html>

Grade Appeal Policy <http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/gradeappeal/policy.html>

Grievance Management Policy [http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/grievance\\_management/policy.html](http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/grievance_management/policy.html)

Disruption to Studies Policy [http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/disruption\\_studies/policy.html](http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/disruption_studies/policy.html) *The Disruption to Studies Policy is effective from March 3 2014 and replaces the Special Consideration Policy.*

In addition, a number of other policies can be found in the [Learning and Teaching Category](#) of Policy Central.

## Student Code of Conduct

Macquarie University students have a responsibility to be familiar with the Student Code of Conduct: [https://students.mq.edu.au/support/student\\_conduct/](https://students.mq.edu.au/support/student_conduct/)

## Results

Results shown in *iLearn*, or released directly by your Unit Convenor, are not confirmed as they are subject to final approval by the University. Once approved, final results will be sent to your student email address and will be made available in [eStudent](#). For more information visit [ask.m](#)

[mq.edu.au](http://mq.edu.au).

## Student Support

Macquarie University provides a range of support services for students. For details, visit <http://students.mq.edu.au/support/>

## Learning Skills

Learning Skills ([mq.edu.au/learningskills](http://mq.edu.au/learningskills)) provides academic writing resources and study strategies to improve your marks and take control of your study.

- [Workshops](#)
- [StudyWise](#)
- [Academic Integrity Module for Students](#)
- [Ask a Learning Adviser](#)

## Student Services and Support

Students with a disability are encouraged to contact the [Disability Service](#) who can provide appropriate help with any issues that arise during their studies.

## Student Enquiries

For all student enquiries, visit Student Connect at [ask.mq.edu.au](http://ask.mq.edu.au)

## IT Help

For help with University computer systems and technology, visit <http://informatics.mq.edu.au/help/>.

When using the University's IT, you must adhere to the [Acceptable Use Policy](#). The policy applies to all who connect to the MQ network including students.

## Graduate Capabilities

### PG - Capable of Professional and Personal Judgment and Initiative

Our postgraduates will demonstrate a high standard of discernment and common sense in their professional and personal judgment. They will have the ability to make informed choices and decisions that reflect both the nature of their professional work and their personal perspectives.

This graduate capability is supported by:

### Learning outcomes

- Gain familiarity with a variety of methodological techniques
- Understand the processes of a human research ethics application and learn about current debates over human research ethics and informed consent
- Design, implement, and write up their own research project



- Students will develop their oral presentation and communication skills through class presentations and workshop discussions

## **Assessment tasks**

- Seminar participation
- Research proposal
- Ethnographic Journal
- Presentations
- Ethnographic Paper
- Revised Ethnographic Paper

## **PG - Discipline Knowledge and Skills**

Our postgraduates will be able to demonstrate a significantly enhanced depth and breadth of knowledge, scholarly understanding, and specific subject content knowledge in their chosen fields.

This graduate capability is supported by:

## **Learning outcomes**

- Develop skills in ethnographic research, writing and oral presentation
- Gain familiarity with a variety of methodological techniques
- Understand the processes of a human research ethics application and learn about current debates over human research ethics and informed consent
- Design, implement, and write up their own research project
- Relate their experiences to some of the research problems and ethical dilemmas which emerge in key ethnographic texts
- Students will develop their oral presentation and communication skills through class presentations and workshop discussions
- Students will improve problem-solving skills through research design activities and by engaging in various forms of data analysis
- Students will improve their critical skills by learning how research data is produced and how choices made by researchers affect the outcome

## **Assessment tasks**

- Seminar participation
- Research proposal
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- Presentations
- Ethnographic Paper

- Revised Ethnographic Paper

## PG - Critical, Analytical and Integrative Thinking

Our postgraduates will be capable of utilising and reflecting on prior knowledge and experience, of applying higher level critical thinking skills, and of integrating and synthesising learning and knowledge from a range of sources and environments. A characteristic of this form of thinking is the generation of new, professionally oriented knowledge through personal or group-based critique of practice and theory.

This graduate capability is supported by:

### Learning outcomes

- Develop skills in ethnographic research, writing and oral presentation
- Design, implement, and write up their own research project
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- Students will develop their oral presentation and communication skills through class presentations and workshop discussions
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## PG - Research and Problem Solving Capability

Our postgraduates will be capable of systematic enquiry; able to use research skills to create new knowledge that can be applied to real world issues, or contribute to a field of study or practice to enhance society. They will be capable of creative questioning, problem finding and problem solving.

This graduate capability is supported by:

### Learning outcomes

- Develop skills in ethnographic research, writing and oral presentation

- Gain familiarity with a variety of methodological techniques
- Design, implement, and write up their own research project
- Students will improve problem-solving skills through research design activities and by engaging in various forms of data analysis
- Students will improve their critical skills by learning how research data is produced and how choices made by researchers affect the outcome

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## **PG - Effective Communication**

Our postgraduates will be able to communicate effectively and convey their views to different social, cultural, and professional audiences. They will be able to use a variety of technologically supported media to communicate with empathy using a range of written, spoken or visual formats.

This graduate capability is supported by:

## **Learning outcomes**

- Develop skills in ethnographic research, writing and oral presentation
- Design, implement, and write up their own research project
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## **Assessment tasks**

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## **PG - Engaged and Responsible, Active and Ethical Citizens**

Our postgraduates will be ethically aware and capable of confident transformative action in

relation to their professional responsibilities and the wider community. They will have a sense of connectedness with others and country and have a sense of mutual obligation. They will be able to appreciate the impact of their professional roles for social justice and inclusion related to national and global issues

This graduate capability is supported by:

## **Learning outcomes**

- Develop skills in ethnographic research, writing and oral presentation
- Gain familiarity with a variety of methodological techniques
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- Design, implement, and write up their own research project
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