



ANTH3024

Doing Ethnography

Session 2, In person-scheduled-weekday, North Ryde 2024

Macquarie School of Social Sciences

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General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff

Convenor and lecturer

Eve Vincent

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Contact via Email

25WW, B220

By appointment

Credit points

10

Prerequisites

130cp at 1000 level or above including (30cp from ANTH units including (10cp from ANTH units at 3000 level))

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description

What tools do cultural anthropologists use to observe humans and make sense of their actions in the world? This unit introduces the practical, methodological, and ethical dimensions of ethnographic research. As the primary goal of the unit is to teach students how to conduct ethnographic fieldwork, over the semester students engage in first-hand research projects where they regularly participate in and observe a cultural scene of their own choosing. Weekly meetings frame the fieldwork process as students learn anthropological research methods under the guidance of an experienced staff member, and then apply this knowledge to their ethnographic study. These meetings provide students an opportunity to share their fieldwork experiences with each other, discuss the methodological issues, and workshop concerns raised by their own studies. Simultaneously students will read several classic ethnographies to develop an understanding of the relationship between ethnographic research and ethnographic writing.

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:

ULO1: Understand and apply a variety of ethnographic research methods.

ULO2: Conduct ethnographic research.

ULO3: Apply a variety of qualitative research methods, including interviewing, semantic domain analysis, unobtrusive observation, preparing literature review, and time allocation surveys.

ULO4: Present research to peers and instructors in written and oral format.

ULO5: Prepare a sample research proposal for a feasible participant-observation ethnographic study.

ULO6: Acquire the knowledge and confidence to competently discuss and apply field research techniques relevant for employment as a field researcher.

General Assessment Information

Unless a Special Consideration request has been submitted and approved, a 5% penalty (of the total possible mark) will be applied each day a written assessment is not submitted, up until the 7th day (including weekends). After the 7th day, a mark of '0' (zero) will be awarded even if the assessment is submitted. Submission time for all written assessments is set at 11.55pm. A 1-hour grace period is provided to students who experience a technical issue. This late penalty will apply to non-time sensitive assessment (incl. essays, reports, posters, portfolios, journals, recordings etc). Late submission of time sensitive tasks (such as tests/exams, performance assessments/presentations, scheduled practical assessments/labs etc) will only be addressed by the unit convenor in a Special Consideration application. Special Consideration outcome may result in a new question or topic.

Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due
<u>Seminar participation</u>	20%	No	Weekly
<u>Ethics quiz</u>	0%	No	In class, Week 3
<u>Research proposal</u>	20%	No	Thursday August 22, 11:55pm
<u>Research journal</u>	15%	No	Sunday October 20, 11:55pm
<u>Oral presentation of research</u>	10%	No	Weeks 12 and 13, in class
<u>Ethnographic research paper</u>	35%	No	Sunday November 3, 11:55pm

Seminar participation

Assessment Type ¹: Participatory task

Indicative Time on Task ²: 26 hours

Due: **Weekly**

Weighting: **20%**

Seminar participation, including discussion preparation guide

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Understand and apply a variety of ethnographic research methods.
- Acquire the knowledge and confidence to competently discuss and apply field research techniques relevant for employment as a field researcher.

Ethics quiz

Assessment Type ¹: Quiz/Test

Indicative Time on Task ²: 4 hours

Due: **In class, Week 3**

Weighting: **0%**

Students will take the online ethics module for social science research and the online quiz at the end of the module.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Understand and apply a variety of ethnographic research methods.

Research proposal

Assessment Type ¹: Plan

Indicative Time on Task ²: 12 hours

Due: **Thursday August 22, 11:55pm**

Weighting: **20%**

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. Your grade on this assignment will be based on a combination of the research proposal you submit and the feedback you give to your peers.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Understand and apply a variety of ethnographic research methods.

- Present research to peers and instructors in written and oral format.
- Prepare a sample research proposal for a feasible participant-observation ethnographic study.

Research journal

Assessment Type ¹: Field book

Indicative Time on Task ²: 15 hours

Due: **Sunday October 20, 11:55pm**

Weighting: **15%**

From the third week of class students will be asked to keep a research journal. This should be a participant-observation record of their research activity.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Understand and apply a variety of ethnographic research methods.
- Conduct ethnographic research.
- Apply a variety of qualitative research methods, including interviewing, semantic domain analysis, unobtrusive observation, preparing literature review, and time allocation surveys.

Oral presentation of research

Assessment Type ¹: Presentation

Indicative Time on Task ²: 5 hours

Due: **Weeks 12 and 13, in class**

Weighting: **10%**

Students will present their research projects in the class in Weeks 12/13.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Present research to peers and instructors in written and oral format.
- Acquire the knowledge and confidence to competently discuss and apply field research techniques relevant for employment as a field researcher.

Ethnographic research paper

Assessment Type ¹: Essay

Indicative Time on Task ²: 36 hours

Due: **Sunday November 3, 11:55pm**

Weighting: **35%**

Students will write an ethnographic research paper of approximately 2,500 words based on the data that they have collected in their ethnographic research journal.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Conduct ethnographic research.
- Present research to peers and instructors in written and oral format.
- Acquire the knowledge and confidence to competently discuss and apply field research techniques relevant for employment as a field researcher.

¹ If you need help with your assignment, please contact:

- the academic teaching staff in your unit for guidance in understanding or completing this type of assessment
- the [Writing Centre](#) for academic skills support.

² Indicative time-on-task is an estimate of the time required for completion of the assessment task and is subject to individual variation

Delivery and Resources

Unit readings are available via Leganto.

Unit Schedule

Week 1	Introduction
Week 2	Ethical quandries in the field
Week 3	Ethnographic fields
Week 4	Participant observation
Week 5	Fieldnotes
Week 6	Being there: The craft of observing
Week 7	Visual ethnography
Week 8	Social Sciences Week
Week 9	Engaged listening

Week 10	Autoethnography
Week 11	Ethnographic writing
Week 12	Presentations
Week 13	Presentations

Policies and Procedures

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

- [Academic Appeals Policy](#)
- [Academic Integrity Policy](#)
- [Academic Progression Policy](#)
- [Assessment Policy](#)
- [Fitness to Practice Procedure](#)
- [Assessment Procedure](#)
- [Complaints Resolution Procedure for Students and Members of the Public](#)
- [Special Consideration Policy](#)

Students seeking more policy resources can visit [Student Policies \(https://students.mq.edu.au/support/study/policies\)](https://students.mq.edu.au/support/study/policies). It is your one-stop-shop for the key policies you need to know about throughout your undergraduate student journey.

To find other policies relating to Teaching and Learning, visit [Policy Central \(https://policies.mq.edu.au\)](https://policies.mq.edu.au) and use the [search tool](#).

Student Code of Conduct

Macquarie University students have a responsibility to be familiar with the Student Code of Conduct: <https://students.mq.edu.au/admin/other-resources/student-conduct>

Results

Results published on platform other than [eStudent](#), (eg. iLearn, Coursera etc.) 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.mq.edu.au or if you are a Global MBA student contact globalmba.support@mq.edu.au

Academic Integrity

At Macquarie, we believe [academic integrity](#) – honesty, respect, trust, responsibility, fairness and courage – is at the core of learning, teaching and research. We recognise that meeting the

expectations required to complete your assessments can be challenging. So, we offer you a range of resources and services to help you reach your potential, including free [online writing and maths support](#), [academic skills development](#) and [wellbeing consultations](#).

Student Support

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

The Writing Centre

[The Writing Centre](#) provides resources to develop your English language proficiency, academic writing, and communication skills.

- [Workshops](#)
- [Chat with a WriteWISE peer writing leader](#)
- [Access StudyWISE](#)
- [Upload an assignment to Studiosity](#)
- [Complete the Academic Integrity Module](#)

The Library provides online and face to face support to help you find and use relevant information resources.

- [Subject and Research Guides](#)
- [Ask a Librarian](#)

Student Services and Support

Macquarie University offers a range of [Student Support Services](#) including:

- [IT Support](#)
- [Accessibility and disability support](#) with study
- Mental health [support](#)
- [Safety support](#) to respond to bullying, harassment, sexual harassment and sexual assault
- [Social support including information about finances, tenancy and legal issues](#)
- [Student Advocacy](#) provides independent advice on MQ policies, procedures, and processes

Student Enquiries

Got a question? Ask us via [AskMQ](#), or contact [Service Connect](#).

IT Help

For help with University computer systems and technology, visit http://www.mq.edu.au/about_us/offices_and_units/information_technology/help/.

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

Unit information based on version 2024.01R of the [Handbook](#)