



ANTH3024

Ethnographic Research Methods

Session 2, In person-scheduled-weekday, North Ryde 2026

School of Communication, Society and Culture

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General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff

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Credit points

10

Prerequisites

130cp at 1000 level or above including 20cp from ANTH units

Corequisites

10cp from ANTH units at 3000 level

Co-badged status

Unit description

What tools do anthropologists use to study human lives and to obtain as holistic a picture as possible of a particular social group, setting, situation or institution? This unit introduces the practical, methodological, and ethical dimensions of ethnographic research methods. The primary goal of the unit is to teach students how to conduct ethnographic research. Over the session students engage in first-hand research projects where they regularly participate in and observe a social setting of their own choosing. Students learn a range of anthropological research methods under the guidance of an experienced staff member, applying this knowledge to their study. Students have opportunities to share their fieldwork experiences with each other, discuss methodological issues and workshop concerns raised by their own studies. Students will also read from several classic ethnographies to develop an understanding of the intimate relationship between the practices of ethnographic research and writing. Students will craft an ethnographic account of their chosen research field.

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: Design and implement a research project using ethnographic methods.

ULO2: Identify and use a variety of qualitative research methods, such as interviewing, unobtrusive observation, participant observation, and visual methods.

ULO3: Prepare a research proposal and literature review for a feasible ethnographic study.

ULO4: Communicate anthropological insights via ethnographic writing.

ULO5: Discuss and apply field research techniques relevant for employment as a social 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	Groupwork/Individual	Short Extension	AI Approach
<u>Ethnographic project</u>	50%	No	08/11/2026	Individual	No	Open
<u>Research proposal</u>	25%	No	30/08/2026	Individual	Yes	Open
<u>Presentation</u>	25%	No	Week 12	Individual	No	Observed

Ethnographic project

Assessment Type ¹: Experiential task

Indicative Time on Task ²: 50 hours

Due: **08/11/2026**

Weighting: **50%**

Groupwork/Individual: Individual

Short extension ³: No

AI Approach: Open

2500 word essay presenting findings from an original ethnographic study

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Design and implement a research project using ethnographic methods.
- Identify and use a variety of qualitative research methods, such as interviewing,

unobtrusive observation, participant observation, and visual methods.

- Prepare a research proposal and literature review for a feasible ethnographic study.
- Communicate anthropological insights via ethnographic writing.
- Discuss and apply field research techniques relevant for employment as a social researcher.

Research proposal

Assessment Type ¹: Problem-based task

Indicative Time on Task ²: 24 hours

Due: **30/08/2026**

Weighting: **25%**

Groupwork/Individual: Individual

Short extension ³: Yes

AI Approach: Open

1200 word research proposal describing an ethnographic research project

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Design and implement a research project using ethnographic methods.
- Identify and use a variety of qualitative research methods, such as interviewing, unobtrusive observation, participant observation, and visual methods.
- Prepare a research proposal and literature review for a feasible ethnographic study.

Presentation

Assessment Type ¹: Presentation task

Indicative Time on Task ²: 24 hours

Due: **Week 12**

Weighting: **25%**

Groupwork/Individual: Individual

Short extension ³: No

AI Approach: Observed

An oral presentation based on an ethnographic research project

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Design and implement a research project using ethnographic methods.
- Communicate anthropological insights via ethnographic writing.
- Discuss and apply field research techniques relevant for employment as a social 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
- [Academic Success](#) 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.

³ An automatic short extension is available for some assessments. Apply through the [Service Connect Portal](#).

Delivery and Resources

This unit is delivered in a seminar style over 13 weeks. Resources are available on Ilearn and via Leganto.

Policies and Procedures

Macquarie University policies and procedures are accessible from [Policy Central](#) (<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>). 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>) 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 connect.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/>

Academic Success

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

- [Ask a Study Coach](#)
- [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 the [Service Connect Portal](#), or contact [Service Connect](#).

IT Help

For help with University computer systems and technology, visit <https://students.mq.edu.au/support/technology/service-desk>.

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 2026.06 of the [Handbook](#)