

ANTH 409 /ANTH 520

APPLIED ETHNOGRAPHIC FILM

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Alex Boudreault-Fournier

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES

This seminar-based course focuses on visual research and production of ethnographic films / videos. Individually or in small teams, students will produce an original short-length film based on ethnographic reflections and understandings. Ethical consideration will remain a central concern throughout this course; we will discuss issues of representation and confidentiality (among others) in relation to the production of a visual narrative. Hands on experiences will be acquired throughout the process of producing and post-producing the film. Students will learn how to use the equipment of the Visual Media Lab including the digital cameras and computer editing software. Students will learn about the different genres and approaches of ethnographic filmmaking and will learn to reflect critically on the process of producing a filmic narrative within the discipline of anthropology. Students will present their final projects during the Sonoptica film festival that will take place at the end of the semester.

SKILLS DEVELOPEMENT

- To master research technologies, more specifically, manipulate a camera and sound recorder to visually and sonically represent an object and a process;
- To imagine and design a film narrative based on a topic that is related to anthropology;
- To conduct fieldwork, develop effective research design, and produce a unique short-length film based on knowledge informed by experience;
- To apply ethical concerns throughout the whole process of designing, producing and post-producing an original audio-visual text;
- To summarize and synthesize information, and edit audio-visual data into a coherent film narrative using a professional editing software;
- To create a dialogue between the process of producing an original film, as well as the content of the film, with the discipline of anthropology;
- To think critically about the process of producing a short-length film based on concrete experience and learning opportunities.