

ANTH 260

INTRO ANTHROPOLOGY RESEARCH

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Mélissa Gauthier

Course Description and Objectives

This course introduces students to the various methods of enquiry and interpretation used in anthropological research. With examples from across the subfields of anthropology, this course provides an overview of research design, ethical considerations, and different quantitative and qualitative methods of data collection and analysis. This includes participant observation, interviewing, ethnographic mapping and participatory visual methods. We will also address key debates about the production and status of anthropological knowledge and the relationship between theory and methodology.

This course is designed to help students improve their ability to;

- critically evaluate anthropological research
- select and apply appropriate methods of data collection and analysis for addressing specific research questions
- assess the advantages and disadvantages of qualitative and quantitative methods in certain contexts
- critically assess how historical and contemporary factors can shape the power relations between researcher and participants
- understand the ethical and political implications of anthropological research

Skills Development

Students will gain valuable experience in anthropological research, critical analysis, academic writing and use of referencing. This will involve synthesizing and evaluating information from scholarly sources and clearly communicating through academic writing and peer-to-peer discussions. Through practical research exercises, students will develop foundational skills for the collection, recording and analysis of anthropological data.