ANTH 318 A01
INTRODUCTION TO ETHNOGRAPHIC RESEARCH METHODS

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Brian Thom

Course Description and Objectives

This course provides students the opportunity to learn and implement a range of ethnographic methods used in the field by cultural anthropologists. The course takes the perspective that collaborative and community-based research is a fundamental element of good ethnographic research. We will discuss issues of ethics in contemporary research settings, the impact of rapport and relationships in ethnographic research, and the importance of reflexivity in ethnographic writing. The 80-minutes sessions will be divided between lectures, discussion and in-class workshops on ethnographic methods.

Skills Development

This course is a hands-on engagement with ethnography. By the end of the course, students will have written their own original ethnography, based on their experiences in implementing ethnographic methods in the field. As a project-based course, assignments and training in participant observation, fieldnotes, unstructured and semi-structured interviewing, ethnographic representation, computer-aided qualitative data analysis and ethnographic writing will all be directed towards their final original paper.