

**Anthropology 3P03: Doing Ethnography**

**Fall 2020**

**Professor:** Dr. Karen McGarry

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**Class:** Wednesdays 9-11:20 a.m. (see below re: class format)

**Office hours:** Please e-mail me to set up a time for a virtual meeting or phone call

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**Course Description**

This course provides an introduction to (Covid-approved!) ethnographic fieldwork in cultural anthropology. Through readings, lectures and digital resources, the course will present students with the opportunity to consider the ethical, philosophical and practical issues faced by cultural anthropologists doing field research. Students who are from fields other than anthropology that employ ethnographic methods are welcome to take the course, with instructor's permission.

### Course Objectives

By the end of the course students should be able to:

- be familiar with the history of participant-observation fieldwork and with the way it is currently practiced and;
- design, carry out and write their own “mini-ethnographies.”

### Required Materials and Texts

Mannik, Lynda, and Karen McGarry

2017 *Practicing Ethnography: A Student Guide to Method and Methodology*. University of Toronto Press. An electronic version can be purchased/rented here:

<https://utorontopress.com/ca/practicing-ethnography-2>

Links to additional articles will be posted on Avenue.

### Class Format

Due to current COVID restrictions, this class is virtual. Weekly lectures will be recorded and posted to Avenue to Learn by Tuesday morning each week. Participation in scheduled Zoom sessions/workshops (see dates/times below) will also be required. Zoom sessions will occur from 9-10:30 a.m. Wednesdays on dates specified below. Zoom links will be posted each week on Avenue 48 hours before our meeting.

### Course Evaluation – Overview:

Site selection assignment/ethics (based upon final ethnography): 25%

Reading Assignment: 15%

Photo elicitation assignment: 5%

Participation in Zoom workshops and virtual sessions (see dates below): 10%

Peer review session: 5%

Mini-presentation of ethnography/results: 10%

Final ethnography: 30%

**NOTE: There are no synchronous or asynchronous exams in this course.**

### Course Evaluation – Details:

**Site selection assignment/ethics tutorial (25%):** This is the first step of a scaffolded assignment that will culminate in your final ethnography. The assignment is due by **11 p.m. on October 5** (submit to Avenue drop box). It consists of the following:

- 1) A 4 page (double-spaced) outline of your research project, including methods (who you will interview, and how) and brief literature review (with citations), plus a bibliography of relevant sources;
- 2) Evidence of successful completion of McMaster’s online ethics tutorial (this takes about 1 hour to do online);
- 3) Submission of templates for required informed consent forms and recruitment scripts. These will be provided for you to revise.

**Reading Assignment (15%)**: The reading assignment will ask you to consider how the assigned readings align with your research topic, and how you will make use of relevant course material, combined with external sources, in your final project. This material can then be revised and incorporated into your final project. Length: 3-4 double-spaced pages, plus bibliography. **Due: November 4 by 11 p.m.** to Avenue drop box.

**Photo elicitation assignment (5%)**: This is a short, workshop-based assignment. It does not involve any prep work, other than reading the required chapter on photo elicitation in your textbook. You will be assigned a partner for this exercise and interviews will be conducted via Break-out rooms on Zoom. The assignment will be distributed on September 14. We will do this assignment the following week on September 23 during our Zoom session; it is due on **September 25** to the Avenue Drop box by 11 p.m.

**Participation in Zoom workshops/meetings (10%)**: Synchronous Zoom sessions will occur between 9 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. on specified dates below. Marks are allocated for attendance and active participation. More information will be provided on the first day of class.

**Peer review session (5%)**: You must have a draft of your final ethnography ready and submitted to Avenue by 9 a.m. **November 25**. We will conduct a peer review on this date. Peer review forms are due with your final project on Dec. 2. This assignment is asynchronous. We will be doing this via the Avenue Discussion forum. More details will be provided well in advance of this session.

**Mini-presentation of your final ethnography (10%)**: You will do a short 5-7 minute powerpoint presentation of your final ethnography. Feedback and suggestions for improvement will be provided by Dr. McGarry as well as classmates. Suggestions can then be incorporated into your final project. You will be divided into group 1 or group 2. **Group 1 presentations will occur on November 11. Group 2 presentations will occur on Nov. 18.**

**Final ethnography (30%)**: Your final ethnography is due by **11 p.m. on December 2** to the Avenue drop box. It should be 8-10 pages in length, not including the bibliography or any photographs, charts, or figures. Because this is a scaffolded assignment, your final ethnography builds upon the site selection assignment and reading assignment.

### **Weekly Course Schedule and Required Readings**

**Week 1 (September 9): Introduction to the Course/Historical context of fieldwork**  
Gupta and Ferguson, "Discipline and Practice: The 'Field' as Site, Method and Location in Anthropology" pp. 1- bottom of page 18 (posted on Avenue)  
Malinowski, Bronislaw, "Method and Scope of Anthropological Fieldwork" (posted on Avenue)

\*\*\*Lecture and overview of syllabus/course expectations will be posted by Tuesday September 8 to Avenue. No Zoom seminars this week.

**Week 2 (September 16): Doing Participant Observation**

**Readings:** Text, chapter 2, "Participant Observation"

Nader, Laura (posted to Avenue); Gusterson, Hugh (posted to Avenue)

**Notes:** Doing Literature Reviews

Photo elicitation assignment distributed

\*\*\*\*Lecture posted by Tuesday Sept. 15 to Avenue

**Zoom meeting** for all students 9-10:30 a.m. on Wed. September 16. Please ensure you have completed readings and watched lectures prior to Zoom meeting.

**Week 3 (September 23): Photo Elicitation**

**Reading:** Text, chapter 10, Photo elicitation, pp. 179-195

**Notes:** \*\*\*Lecture to be posted by Tuesday September 22 to Avenue.

**Zoom Workshop** for Photo elicitation assignment held Wednesday September 23 from 9-10:30 a.m.

**Photo elicitation assignment due to Drop Box by Friday September 25 at 11 p.m.**

**Week 4 (September 30): Ethics**

**Reading:** Text, chapter 3, "Ethics and the Politics of Fieldwork"

**Notes:** \*\*\*Lecture posted by September 29.

**Zoom meeting** on "ethical dilemmas" held on Wednesday September 30 9-10:30 a.m.

**Week 5 (October 7): Doing Interviews**

**Reading:** Text, chapter 4

**Notes:** \*\*\*Lecture posted by October 6.

**SITE SELECTION ASSIGNMENT DUE TO DROP BOX BY 11 p.m. October 5.**

**No Zoom meeting this week.**

**Week 6 (week of October 12): Reading Week. No classes.**

**Week 7 (October 21): Virtual Ethnography/Representation**

**Reading:** Text, chapters 7, 9, 12

**Notes:** \*\*\*Lecture posted by October 20. **Individual Zoom appointments** to discuss site selection assignments.

**Week 8 (October 28): Analyzing Data/Identity and Positionality**

**Readings:** Text, chapter 6, pp. 105-122;

**Notes:** \*\*\*Lecture posted to Avenue October 27.

**Zoom meeting** on analyzing data on October 28, 9-10:30 a.m.

**Week 9 (November 4): Reading Assignment due to Avenue by 11 p.m. November 4 to Avenue.**

**Notes:** No Zoom meeting this week.

**Week 10 (November 11): Presentations for Group 1**

**Notes: Zoom presentations/feedback for Group 1- 9-10:30 a.m. on November 11.**

**Week 11 (November 18): Presentations for Group 2**

**Notes: Zoom presentations/feedback for Group 2 - 9-10:30 a.m. on November 18.**

**Week 12 (November 25): Peer Review Session.** Note that you will need a complete rough draft of your final project done for 9 a.m. November 25 in order to participate in this session. Peer review forms are due with your final project on Dec. 7. This is **asynchronous**. We will be doing this via the Avenue Discussion forum. More details will be provided well in advance of this session. No Zoom sessions this week.

**Week 13:**

**\*\*\*\*December 2:** Mini-ethnographies and peer review forms are due to Avenue by 11 p.m. this evening. No Zoom sessions this week.

**COURSE POLICIES**

**Submission of Assignments**

All assignments are due to the Avenue Drop Box (Click on “Assessments” and then “Assignments”) by 11 p.m. on the date specified both on the syllabus and on the assignment information sheet. Please submit all written work in Word format, or as a PDF.

**McMaster Research Ethics Board (MREB)**

Course-based clearance for student research for this course has been cleared by the McMaster Research Ethics Board. <https://research.mcmaster.ca/ethics/macrem/>

**Grades**

Grades will be based on the McMaster University grading scale:

<b>MARK</b>	<b>GRADE</b>
90-100	A+
85-90	A
80-84	A-
77-79	B+
73-76	B
70-72	B-
67-69	C+
63-66	C
60-62	C-
57-59	D+
53-56	D
50-52	D-
0-49	F

### **Late Assignments**

All late assignments will be penalized 10% per 24 hour period late (or part thereof), up to 3 days late (or 30% off). This includes week-ends. After 72 hours, a 0 will be allocated, unless you have provided an MSAF or have received an extension from Dr. McGarry.

### **Absences, Missed Work, Illnesses**

For missed work that is worth less than 25% of your final grade, please submit an MSAF (see info below on MSAF). If no MSAF is submitted, then late assignments are subject to the late assignment policy (see above). With documentation, you may be eligible to apply for a faculty-issued MSAF for missed work worth greater than 25%.

### **Avenue to Learn**

In this course we will be using Avenue to Learn. Students should be aware that, when they access the electronic components of this course, private information such as first and last names, user names for the McMaster e-mail accounts, and program affiliation may become apparent to all other students in the same course. The available information is dependent on the technology used. Continuation in this course will be deemed consent to this disclosure. If you have any questions or concerns about such disclosure please discuss this with the course instructor.

### **Turnitin.com**

In this course we will be using a web-based service (Turnitin.com) to reveal plagiarism. Students will be expected to submit their work electronically to Turnitin.com and in hard copy so that it can be checked for academic dishonesty. Students who do not wish to submit their work to Turnitin.com must still submit a copy to the instructor. No penalty will be assigned to a student who does not submit work to Turnitin.com. All submitted work is subject to normal verification that standards of academic integrity have been upheld (e.g., on-line search, etc.). To see the Turnitin.com Policy, please to go [www.mcmaster.ca/academicintegrity](http://www.mcmaster.ca/academicintegrity)

### **University Policies**

#### **Online Elements**

This course includes on-line elements (e.g. e-mail, Avenue to Learn (A2L), LearnLink, web pages, capa, Moodle, ThinkingCap, etc.). Students should be aware that, when they access the electronic components of a course using these elements, private information such as first and last names, user names for the McMaster e-mail accounts, and program affiliation may become apparent to all other students in the same course. The available information is dependent on the technology used. Continuation in a course that uses on-line elements will be deemed consent to this disclosure. If you have any questions or concerns about such disclosure please discuss this with the course instructor.

### **Copyright and Recording**

Students are advised that lectures, demonstrations, performances, and any other course material provided by an instructor include copyright protected works. The Copyright Act and copyright law protect every original literary, dramatic, musical and artistic work, **including lectures** by University instructors

The recording of lectures, tutorials, or other methods of instruction may occur during a course. Recording may be done by either the instructor for the purpose of authorized distribution, or by a student for the purpose of personal study. Students should be aware that their voice and/or image may be recorded by others during the class. Please speak with the instructor if this is a concern for you.

### **Academic Integrity Statement**

You are expected to exhibit honesty and use ethical behavior in all aspects of the learning process. Academic credentials you earn are rooted in principles of honesty and academic integrity.

Academic dishonesty is to knowingly act or fail to act in a way that results or could result in unearned academic credit or advantage. This behaviour can result in serious consequences, e.g. the grade of zero on an assignment, loss of credit with a notation on the transcript (notation reads: "Grade of F assigned for academic dishonesty"), and/or suspension or expulsion from the university. For information on the various types of academic dishonesty please refer to the [Academic Integrity Policy](https://secretariat.mcmaster.ca/university-policies-procedures-guidelines/), located at <https://secretariat.mcmaster.ca/university-policies-procedures-guidelines/>

The following illustrates only three forms of academic dishonesty:

1. Plagiarism, e.g. the submission of work that is not one's own or for which credit has been obtained.
2. Improper collaboration in group work.
3. Copying or using unauthorized aids in tests and examinations.

### **Authenticity/Plagiarism Detection**

Some courses may use a web-based service (Turnitin.com) to reveal authenticity and ownership of student submitted work. For courses using such software, students will be expected to submit their work electronically either directly to Turnitin.com or via an online learning platform (e.g. A2L, etc.) using plagiarism detection (a service supported by Turnitin.com) so it can be checked for academic dishonesty.

Students who do not wish their work to be submitted through the plagiarism detection software must inform the Instructor before the assignment is due. No penalty will be assigned to a student who does not submit work to the plagiarism detection software. All submitted work is subject to normal verification that standards of academic integrity have been upheld (e.g., on-line search, other software, etc.). For more details about McMaster's use of Turnitin.com please go to [www.mcmaster.ca/academicintegrity](http://www.mcmaster.ca/academicintegrity).

### **Conduct Expectations**

As a McMaster student, you have the right to experience, and the responsibility to demonstrate, respectful and dignified interactions within all of our living, learning and working communities. These expectations are described in the Code of Student Rights & Responsibilities (the “Code”). All students share the responsibility of maintaining a positive environment for the academic and personal growth of all McMaster community members, whether in person or online.

It is essential that students be mindful of their interactions online, as the Code remains in effect in virtual learning environments. The Code applies to any interactions that adversely affect, disrupt, or interfere with reasonable participation in University activities. Student disruptions or behaviours that interfere with university functions on online platforms (e.g. use of Avenue 2 Learn, WebEx or Zoom for delivery), will be taken very seriously and will be investigated. Outcomes may include restriction or removal of the involved students’ access to these platforms.

### **Faculty of Social Sciences E-mail Communication Policy**

Effective September 1, 2010, it is the policy of the Faculty of Social Sciences that all e-mail communication sent from students to instructors (including TAs), and from students to staff, must originate from the student’s own McMaster University e-mail account. This policy protects confidentiality and confirms the identity of the student. It is the student’s responsibility to ensure that communication is sent to the university from a McMaster account. If an instructor becomes aware that a communication has come from an alternate address, the instructor may not reply at his or her discretion.

### **Academic Accommodation of Students with Disabilities**

Students with disabilities who require academic accommodation must contact [Student Accessibility Services](#) (SAS) at 905-525-9140 ext. 28652 or [sas@mcmaster.ca](mailto:sas@mcmaster.ca) to make arrangements with a Program Coordinator. For further information, consult McMaster University’s [Academic Accommodation of Students with Disabilities](#) policy.

### **Requests for Relief for Missed Academic Term Work**

McMaster Student Absence Form (MSAF): In the event of an absence for medical or other reasons, students should review and follow the Academic Regulation in the Undergraduate Calendar “Requests for Relief for Missed Academic Term Work”. <https://academiccalendars.romcmaster.ca/content.php?catoid=11&navoid=1698#Requests for Relief for Missed Academic Term Work>

### **Academic Accommodation for Religious, Indigenous or Spiritual Observances (RISO)**

Students requiring academic accommodation based on religious, indigenous or spiritual observances should follow the procedures set out in the [RISO](#) policy. Students should submit their request to their Faculty Office **normally within 10 working days** of the beginning of term in which they anticipate a need for accommodation or to the Registrar’s Office prior to their examinations. Students should also contact their



instructors as soon as possible to make alternative arrangements for classes, assignments, and tests.

### **Privacy Protection**

In accordance with regulations set out by the Freedom of Information and Privacy Protection Act, the University will not allow return of graded materials by placing them in boxes in departmental offices or classrooms so that students may retrieve their papers themselves; tests and assignments must be returned directly to the student. Similarly, grades for assignments for courses may only be posted using the last 5 digits of the student number as the identifying data. The following possibilities exist for return of graded materials:

1. Direct return of materials to students in class;
2. Return of materials to students during office hours;
3. Students attach a stamped, self-addressed envelope with assignments for return by mail;
4. Submit/grade/return papers electronically.

Arrangements for the return of assignments from the options above will be finalized during the first class.

### **Extreme Circumstances**

The University reserves the right to change the dates and deadlines for any or all courses in extreme circumstances (e.g., severe weather, labour disruptions, etc.). Changes will be communicated through regular McMaster communication channels, such as McMaster Daily News, A2L and/or McMaster email.