The University of Texas at San Antonio
Department of Bicultural Bilingual Studies

BBL 6073 Ethnographic Research Methods in Bicultural-Bilingual Studies

Note: This Syllabus is provided for informational purposes regarding the anticipated course content and schedule of this course. It is based upon the most recent information available on the date of its issuance and is as accurate and complete as possible. We reserve the right to make any changes deemed necessary and/or appropriate. We will make our best efforts to communicate any changes in the syllabus in a timely manner. Students are responsible for being aware of these changes.

Course synopsis. This course presents an overview of ethnographic research as practiced by anthropologists, sociologist, and other qualitative researchers. Particular attention is given to its application in the field of bicultural-bilingual studies. Course content will focus on (a) ethnography as knowledge base, including its scientific foundations; historical development in the social and applied sciences; and its methods and theory; and (b) ethnography as research process, including research questions; role of researcher, ethics, data collection; research design; analysis and write-up. The course will use lectures, critical discussion of readings, and an applied project to ground students in the basics of ethnographic research.

Course objectives. Students in this course will:

1) become familiar with the historical, epistemological and comparative “place” of ethnographic research in the social sciences and in bicultural-bilingual studies;
2) recognize the methodological assumptions, goals and characteristics of ethnographic research, and their relation to research design;
3) learn to apply course material and gain experience in the practice of ethnographic research methods—participant observation, interviewing, fieldnotes, data analysis; and
4) learn how ethnographic data can be “written up” and reported.

Required Texts:


Emerson, Robert M., R. I. Fretz, and L. L. Shaw

Glesne, Corrine

Heath, Shirley Brice, and Street, Brian V.

Lassier, Luke Eric

Recommended Text:

Hatch, J. Amos

Van Maanen, John

Requirements for successful completion of course:

1) As a graduate seminar, the success of this course depends upon an interactive process. Each student is responsible for attending class, completing assigned readings and assignments according to schedule, and being active participants, i.e., come to class with your questions, reactions, etc.

2) Conduct an ethnographic research project in a “field site” of your choice. The minimum number of written assignments for this project is six: (a) research proposal, (b) set of expanded fieldnotes, (c) interview protocol, (d) interview transcript(s), (e) analysis of ethnographic record (coding & memos), and (f) ethnographic report. Your set of expanded fieldnotes should be from your research site and your interview transcript from someone at the research site. **Note:** In order to turn in your interview transcript on time, you need to conduct a one-hour interview before it is due. We will discuss the details of these assignments in class.

Grade calculation is based on the following:

Preparedness & class participation—Ongoing 15%
Research Proposal (preliminary 15% + final 85%) 20%
Participant Observation Field notes (set) 15%
Interview Protocol, Interview(s) & Transcription(s) 15%
Analysis of Ethnographic Record (coding & memos) 15%
Ethnographic Report 20%

Specific requirements for each of the required tasks will be distributed on separate sheets. Discussion of these assignments will be entertained in class.

**Attendance:** Regular attendance and participation is required. You are responsible for making sure that I checked you being present. More than two unexcused absences will result in 2-point deduction from your attendance/participation grade. A proportionate penalty for excessive unexcused tardiness or partial attendance may be also assessed.

**WebCT Course Site:** A WebCT course site has been established for this course. Please let me know if you have any trouble accessing the site. It contains a copy of the course syllabus, project guidelines, readings that are not in your textbooks, general course information, external links, and our course Discussion Board. Students may also check their attendance and progress under “My Grades.” Important announcements, updates, and new documents may be posted there during the course, so be sure to check it regularly. Students are also encouraged to post their presentations on WebCT so others in the class will have access to them. A Student Café is planned so that students can share additional information with each other.