Welcome Letter (August 2016)

Dear Students,

Welcome to EER 8710, a doctoral course on Advanced Ethnographic Research. Thank you so much for continuing forward with this course sequence.

This course builds upon previous learnings in EER 7880, a graduate course on the Fundamentals of Ethnographic Research. In extending previous experiences, this course aims to balance contemporary issues in ethnographic fieldwork, writing, and representation with historically-informed understandings of how ethnography has developed over time. Put simply, we will examine where ethnography has been, where it is now, and where it seems to be heading.

The first portion of the course will focus on how images, video, and other multi-media are increasingly being incorporated into various phases of ethnographic research. The second portion will focus on the different ways in which fieldwork and participant observations are written. From realist to confessional to impressionist tales and more, there are many ways for authors to position themselves in relation to a text. We will read a series of articles that show not only how authors have conducted ethnographies, but how they have also thought about how to be better ethnographers and do ethnography differently.

The third portion is the thread that holds the course together. It is built around notions regarding how we might conduct a collaborative ethnography in this course. We will have the opportunity not only to practice applying ethnographic skills, but also to present the findings of our study. The University Council for Educational Administration will be holding its annual conference at the Renaissance Center in downtown Detroit, and we have been allotted a spot on the program (on Saturday, November 19, 2016 from 2:00 to 3:10 p.m.). All are invited to participate.

Taken together, this course aims to support the development of up-to-date methodological skills, understandings, and next steps that will help guide your research paths forward as you continue to progress through your doctoral studies.

I am looking forward to a wonderful semester with you all.

Warm regards,
Jasmine B. Ulmer
EER 8710: Advanced Ethnographic Research

Course Description in Graduate Bulletin

8710 Advanced Ethnographic Research. Cr. 4. Prereq: EER 7880. Use of fieldwork to learn group interview, video collection and analysis, ethnographic survey, narrative and poetic analysis; deepening the understandings about culturally-sensitive research, rigor, and the politics of representation.

Course Information

Semester: Fall 2016
Ref. no.: 15227
Location: State Hall, Classroom 431
Dates/Times: Wednesday: 4:30 – 8:10 p.m.

Instructor: Dr. Jasmine Ulmer, Assistant Professor
Division: Theoretical and Behavioral Foundations
Program: Educational Evaluation and Research
Unit: College of Education, Wayne State University

Contact Information

Office Hours: by appointment, Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons
Office: 5425 Gullen Mall #347, Detroit, MI 48202
Phone: 313-577-1427
Email: jasmine.ulmer@wayne.edu

Course Outcomes

- Students will be able to incorporate images and video into ethnographic research.
- Students will be able to compose field observation notes.
- Students will be able to produce different forms of ethnographic writing.
- Students will be able to read and generatively critique ethnographic texts.
- Students will be able to develop a future reading list of methodological texts.
### Tentative Course Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Readings</th>
<th>Due</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8/31</td>
<td>Course Introduction</td>
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<tr>
<td>9/7</td>
<td>Introduction to Visual Ethnography</td>
<td>Pink (2013): Ch. 1: Visual Ethnography Across Disciplines Ch. 2: Ways of Seeing, Knowing and Showing Ch. 3: Planning and Practising Visual Ethno.</td>
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<td>9/14</td>
<td>Photography</td>
<td>Pink (2013): Ch. 4: Photography in Ethnographic Research Ch. 8: Photography and Ethnographic Writing</td>
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<td>9/21</td>
<td>Video</td>
<td>Pink (2013): Ch. 5: Video in Ethnographic Research Ch. 9: Video in Ethnographic Representation</td>
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<td>10/12</td>
<td>Realist, Confessional, and Impressionist Writings</td>
<td>Van Maanen (2011): Ch. 3: Realist Tales, p. 45–54 Ch. 4: Confessional Tales, p. 73–81, 91–96 Ch. 5: Impressionist Tales, p. 101–108, 117–120</td>
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<tr>
<td>10/19</td>
<td>Critical, Formal, Literary, and Jointly-Told Writings</td>
<td>Van Maanen (2011): Ch. 6: Fieldwork, Culture, and Ethnography Epilogue</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week</td>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Topic</td>
<td>Reading</td>
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<td>13</td>
<td>11/23</td>
<td>Students’ Choice: TBD</td>
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<td>15</td>
<td>12/7</td>
<td>Presentations</td>
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Course Assignments

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<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Notes</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tr>
<td>Class preparation and participation</td>
<td>Students will arrive to class having read the required articles and chapters, be prepared for class discussion, and actively participate in class activities.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Data analysis</td>
<td>Students will code, analyze, and write-up data from a dataset created in-class by students. This is an ongoing class activity.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Article review 1</td>
<td>Students will select one ethnographic research study to review (500–600 words). The review should include the following sections: 1) Objectives; 2) Conceptual or theoretical framework; 3) Methods; 4) Data sources; 5) Results; 6) Significance.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Article review 2</td>
<td>Students will select one ethnographic research study to review (300–400 words). The review should analyze the style of ethnographic writing used in the article.</td>
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<td>Abstract</td>
<td>Students will submit an abstract of an ethnographic project of interest (120 words).</td>
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<tr>
<td>Potential research project description</td>
<td>Students will submit a description of a future ethnographic project of interest (1,950 to 2,000 words). Include the following sections: 1) Objectives; 2) Conceptual or theoretical framework; 3) Methods; 4) Data sources; 5) Results; 6) Significance.</td>
<td>10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Class preparation and participation</td>
<td>Students will arrive to class having read the required articles and chapters, be prepared for class discussion, and actively participate in class activities.</td>
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Class Policies

- Cell phones and other electronic devices are not to be used during class.
- Frequent tardiness, early departure, or absence will impact your grade.
- Late work will be penalized up to 10 percent per day.
- Incompletes will be given only in the case of extreme extenuating circumstances.
- Unless otherwise noted, assignments should be submitted in Blackboard before class begins at 5:00 pm. Assignments submitted after 5:00 pm will be late.

Grading System

A    93-100
A-   90-92
B+   87-89
B    83-86
B-   80-82
C+   76-79
C    70-75
F    Below 70

Required Texts and Materials

Cancellations of Class and ‘Snow’ Policy

If for any reason I must cancel class, I will contact students via campus email. You must determine when it is not safe to travel. We come from a variety of locations and conditions always vary, so make good decisions based on your conditions and turn around if driving is not safe. If the campus is open, I must hold class.

Religious Observance Policy

Because of the extraordinary variety of religious affiliations represented in the University student body and staff, the Wayne State University calendar makes no provision for religious holidays. It is University policy, however, to respect the faith and religious obligations of the individual. Students who find that their classes or examinations involve conflicts with their religious observances are expected to notify their instructors well in advance so that alternative arrangements as suitable as possible may be worked out.

For Students with Disabilities

If you have a documented disability that requires accommodations, you will need to register with Student Disability Services (SDS) for coordination of your academic accommodations. The Student Disability Services (SDS) office is located at 1600 David Adamany Undergraduate Library in the Student Academic Success Services department. SDS telephone number is 313-577-1851 or 313-202-4216 (video phone). Once you have your accommodations in place, I will be glad to meet with you privately during my office hours to discuss your special needs. Student Disability Services’ mission is to assist the university in creating an accessible community where students with disabilities have an equal opportunity to fully participate in their educational experience at Wayne State University.

Please be aware that a delay in getting SDS accommodation letters for the current semester may hinder the availability or facilitation of those accommodations in a timely manner. Therefore, it is in your best interest to get your accommodation letters as early in the semester as possible.

Enrollment/Withdrawal Policy

Students must add classes no later than the end of the first week of classes. This includes online classes. Students may continue to drop classes (with full tuition cancellation) through the first two weeks of the term. Students who withdraw from a course after the end of the 5th week of class will receive a grade of WP, WF, or WN.

- WP will be awarded if the student is passing the course (based on work due to date) at the time the withdrawal is requested;
- WF will be awarded if the student is failing the course (based on work due to date) at the time the withdrawal is requested;
- WN will be awarded if no materials have been submitted, and so there is no basis for a grade;
Students must submit their withdrawal request on-line through Pipeline. The faculty member must approve the withdrawal request before it becomes final, and students should continue to attend class until they receive notification via email that the withdrawal has been approved.

Beginning the fifth week of class students are no longer allowed to drop but must withdraw from classes. The last day to withdraw will be at the end of the 10th full week of classes. The withdrawal date for courses longer or shorter than the full 15-week terms will be adjusted proportionately. See the university webpage for full details: http://reg.wayne.edu/students/information.php

**Academic Dishonesty/Plagiarism**

The College of Education has a “zero tolerance” approach to plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty. (See Student Code of http://doso.wayne.edu/assets/codeofconduct.pdf). Plagiarism includes copying material (any more than 5 consecutive words) from outside texts or presenting outside information as if it were your own by not crediting authors through citations. It can be deliberate or unintended. Specific examples of academic dishonesty, including what constitutes plagiarism, can be found in the University’s Undergraduate Bulletin (http://bulletins.wayne.edu/ubk-output/index.html) and Graduate Catalog (http://www.bulletins.wayne.edu/gbk-output/index.html) under the heading “Student Ethics.” These university policies are also included as a link on Blackboard within each course in which students are enrolled. It is every student’s responsibility to read these documents to be aware which actions are defined as plagiarism and academic dishonesty. Sanctions could include failure in the course involved, probation and expulsion, so students are advised to think carefully and thoroughly, ask for help from instructors if it is needed, and make smart decisions about their academic work.

**Wayne State University Writing Center**

The Writing Center (2nd floor, UGL) provides individual tutoring consultations free of charge for students at Wayne State University. While the center serves both graduate and undergraduate students, undergraduate students in General Education courses, including composition courses, receive priority for tutoring appointments. The Writing Center serves as a resource for writers, providing tutoring sessions on the range of activities in the writing process – considering the audience, analyzing the assignment or genre, brainstorming, researching, writing drafts, revising, editing, and preparing documentation. The Writing Center is not an editing or proofreading service; rather, students are guided as they engage collaboratively in the process of academic writing, from developing an idea to correctly citing sources. To make an appointment, consult the Writing Center website: http://www.clas.wayne.edu/writing/.

To submit material for online tutoring, consult the Writing Center HOOT website (Hypertext One-on-One Tutoring) http://www.clas.wayne.edu/unit-inner.asp?WebPageID=1330.

**Wayne State University Mission**

We will create and advance knowledge, prepare a diverse student body to thrive, and positively impact local and global communities.