

## ETHNOGRAPHIC ANALYSIS—FALL 2013

*“Imagine yourself suddenly set down surrounded by all your gear, alone on a tropical beach close to a native village, while the launch or dinghy which has brought you sails away out of sight.”*

—Malinowski (1922) *Argonauts of the Western Pacific*

*“As the telephone began to seep into my field encounters, I grew increasingly comfortable utilizing it to participate and observe, to query and be queried, to check in with informants scattered over a vast urban landscape. Phone calls never precluded face-to-face contact or attendance at group functions or ceremonies. But when I was on the phone with an informant, or group of informants, I was on-site—often multiple sites—just as my informants were.... It was after this experience that I realized that the telephone was prominent not only in the lives of Sierra Leoneans but in mine as well. I no longer shunned the phone and came instead to regard it not only as an essential fieldwork tool but as a field site in and of itself. I put an Islamic greeting on my answering machine and ordered call waiting, which I learned to manipulate masterfully. When I was not out and about doing fieldwork, I was home doing it on the phone. As I became more comfortable with the telephone I would often wonder how something so familiar had become so foreign and then familiar again in a different way.”*

—D’Alisero (1999) “Field of Dreams: the Anthropologist Far Away at Home”

**Course:** ANTH 146, Section 1  
**Day/Time:** MW 1:30-2:45  
**Location:** Mendocino Hall 4008  
**Instructor:** Dr. Castaneda  
**Email:** [tac@csus.edu](mailto:tac@csus.edu)  
**Webpage:** [www.csus.edu/indiv/c/castaneda](http://www.csus.edu/indiv/c/castaneda)  
**Office:** Mendocino Hall 4028  
**Office Hours:** M/W 2:45-4:15 pm  
**Phone:** 278-6067

**Catalog Description**—Introduces students to current techniques, theories, and debates in ethnographic research and analysis through the use of ethnographies and related works. Critically examines the production of ethnographic knowledge in sociocultural anthropology from historical and contemporary perspectives. **Prerequisite:** ANTH 2 (3 units).

**Learning Objectives**—The term ethnography refers to both a qualitative research methodology and the written product resulting from that work. As the hallmark of sociocultural anthropology, ethnographic research and writing is critical to the production of anthropological knowledge. This course is designed to 1) introduce students to the basic techniques of ethnographic research, 2) familiarize them with the varieties of ethnographic writing that fall within this genre—from both a historical and contemporary perspective, and 3) engage them in the epistemological and methodological debates that animate the contemporary field of sociocultural anthropology.

**Required Texts** (texts marked with *asterisk* may also be *rented* from the Hornet Bookstore)

Briggs, Jean L.

\* 1970 *Never in Anger: Portrait of an Eskimo Family*. Harvard University Press.

Lassiter, Luke E.

1998 *The Power of Kiowa Song*. University of Arizona Press.

Ramirez, Renya K.

\* 2007 *Native Hubs: Culture, Community, and Belonging in Silicon Valley and Beyond*.  
Duke University Press.

Robben, Antonious C. G. M and Jeffrey A. Sluka

\*2012 *Ethnographic Fieldwork: An Anthropological Reader*. Malden, MA: Blackwell.

Sturm, Circe

\* 2002 *Blood Politics: Race, Culture, and Identity in the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma*.  
University of California Press.

**Required Readings—S** (*SacCT*), **R&S** (from Robben & Sluka's *Ethnographic Fieldwork*)

American Anthropological Association (**RS 23**)

2012 "Code of Ethics (2009)." In *Ethnographic Fieldwork: An Anthropological Reader*.  
Robben and Sluka, eds. Pp. 359-364.

Bateson, Gregory and Margaret (**R&S 28**)

2012 [1942] "Balinese Character: A Photographic Analysis." In *Ethnographic Fieldwork: An Anthropological Reader*. Robben and Sluka, eds. Pp. 450-464.

Boas, Franz (**R&S 2**)

2012 [1920] "The Methods of Ethnology." In *Ethnographic Fieldwork: An Anthropological Reader*. Antonius C.G.M. Robben and Sluka, eds. Pp. 63-68.  
Malden, MA: Blackwell.

Biolis, Thomas (**S**)

2005 "Imagined Geographies: Sovereignty, Indigenous Space, and American Indian Struggle." *American Ethnologist* 32(2):239-259.

Bourgois, Philippe (**R&S 20**)

2012 [1991] "Confronting the Ethics of Ethnography: lessons from Fieldwork in Central America." In *Ethnographic Fieldwork: An Anthropological Reader*. Antonius C.G.M. Robben and Sluka, eds. Pp. 318-330. Malden, MA: Blackwell.

California State University, Sacramento (**S**)

2012 "Guidance and Procedures for the Protection of Human Subjects Institutional Review Board (IRB)."

D'Alisera, JoAnn (**S**)

1999 "Field of Dreams: The Anthropologist Far Away at Home." *Anthropology and Humanism* 24(1):5-19.

Degérando, Joseph-Marie (**R&S 1**)

2012 [1800] "The Observation of Savage Peoples." In *Ethnographic Fieldwork: An Anthropological Reader*. Robben and Sluka, eds. Pp. 56-62. Malden, MA: Blackwell.

Deloria, Jr., Vine (**R&S 11**)

2012 [1973] "Custer Died for Your Sins." In *Ethnographic Fieldwork: An Anthropological Reader*. Robben and Sluka, eds. Pp. 199-206. Malden, MA: Blackwell.

- El Guindi, Fadwa **(S)**  
 2012 "Suckling as Kinship: The Case of Qatar." *Anthropology News*, 53(4): 10, 13.
- Favret-Saada, Jeanne **(R&S 33)**  
 2012 [1980] "The Way Things are Said." In *Ethnographic Fieldwork: An Anthropological Reader*. Robben and Sluka, eds. Pp. 528-539.
- Feld, Steven **(R&S 30)**  
 2012 [1987] "Dialogic Editing: Interpreting How Kaluli Read *Sound and Sentiment*." In *Ethnographic Fieldwork: An Anthropological Reader*. Robben and Sluka, eds. Pp. 480-495.
- Geurts, Kathryn Linn **(R&S 31)**  
 2012 [2002] "On Rocks, Walks, and Talks in West Africa: Cultural Categories and an Anthropology of the Senses." In *Ethnographic Fieldwork: An Anthropological Reader*. Robben and Sluka, eds. Pp. 496-510.
- Gupta, Aktul and James Ferguson **(R&S 24)**  
 2012 [1992] "Beyond 'Culture': Space, Identity and the Politics of Difference. In *Ethnographic Fieldwork: An Anthropological Reader*. Robben and Sluka, eds. Pp. 374-386.
- Jacobs-Huey, Lanita **(S)**  
 2002 The Natives are Gazing and Talking Back: Reviewing the Problematics of Position, Voice, and Accountability Among "Native" Anthropologists. *American Anthropologist*, Vol. 104(3):791-804.
- King, Cecil **(R&S 12)**  
 2012 [1977] "Here Come the Anthros." In *Ethnographic Fieldwork: An Anthropological Reader*. Robben and Sluka, eds. Pp. 207-209. Malden, MA: Blackwell.
- La Farge, Oliver La **(S)**  
 1957 "Termination of Federal Supervision: Disintegration and the American Indians." *Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science* 311: 41-46.
- Lassiter, Luke Eric **(S)**  
 2000 "Authoritative Texts, Collaborative Ethnography, and Native American Studies." *American Indian Quarterly* 24(4):601-614.  
 2008 "Moving Past Public Anthropology and Doing Collaborative Research." *NAPA Bulletin* 29(1):70-86.
- Mahmood, Cynthia Keppley **(R&S 17)**  
 2012 [2008] "Anthropology from the Bones: A Memoir of Fieldwork, Survival and Commitment." In *Ethnographic Fieldwork: An Anthropological Reader*. Robben and Sluka, eds. Pp. 274-282.
- Malinowski, Bronislaw **(R&S 3)**  
 2012 [1922] "Method and Scope of Anthropological Fieldwork." In *Ethnographic Fieldwork: An Anthropological Reader*. Robben and Sluka, eds. Pp. 69-81. Malden, MA: Blackwell.
- Middleton, C. Townsend **(S)**  
 2011 "Across the Interface of State Ethnography: Rethinking Ethnology and its Subjects in Multicultural India." *American Ethnologist* 38(2):249-266.
- Nash, June **(R&S 15)**  
 2012 [1976] "Ethnology in a Revolutionary Setting." In *Ethnographic Fieldwork: An Anthropological Reader*. Robben and Sluka, eds. Pp. 244-255.

Powdermaker, Hortense **(R&S 4)**

2012 [1966] "A Woman Going Native." In *Ethnographic Fieldwork: An Anthropological Reader*. Robben and Sluka, eds. Pp. 92-102.

Ranco, Darren **(S)**

2006 "Toward a Native Anthropology: Hermeneutics, Hunting Stories, and Theorizing from Within." *Wicazo Sa Review*, Vol. 21(2):61-78.

Robben, Antonius C.G. M. **(R&S 10)**

2012 [1995] "The Politics of Truth and Emotion among Victims and Perpetrators of Violence." In *Ethnographic Fieldwork: An Anthropological Reader*. Robben and Sluka, eds. Pp. 175-190.

Scheper-Hughes, Nancy **(R&S 14)**

2000 "Ire in Ireland." *Ethnography* Vol. 1(1): 219-233.

Shaery-Eisenlohr, Roschanack **(R&S 5)**

2012 [2009] "Fixing and Negotiating Identities in the Field: The Case of Lebanese Shiites." In *Ethnographic Fieldwork: An Anthropological Reader*. Robben and Sluka, eds. Pp. 103-113.

Skidmore **(R&S 37)**

2012 [2009] "Scholarship, Advocacy, and the Politics of Engagement in Burma (Myanmar)." In *Ethnographic Fieldwork: An Anthropological Reader*. Robben and Sluka, eds. Pp. 579-592.

Slagle, Alogan **(S)**

1989 "Unfinished justice: Completing the Restoration and Acknowledgement of California Indian Tribes." *American Indian Quarterly* 13(6):325-345.

William Willard **(S)**

1994 Indian Newspapers, or "Say, Ain't You Some Kind of Indians?" *Wicazo Sa Review* Vol. 10 (2): 91-97.

**Recommended Reading—S** (*SacCT*), **R&S** (from Robben & Sluka's *Ethnographic Fieldwork*)

González, Roberto J. **(R&S 38)**

2012 [2008] "'Human Terrain': Past, Present and Future Applications." In *Ethnographic Fieldwork*. Robben & Sluka, eds. Pp. 409-439.

Marcus, George E. **(S)**

1995 "Ethnography in/of the World System: the Emergence of Multi-sited Ethnography." *Annual Review of Anthropology*, 95-117.

Matsutake Worlds Research Group **(R&S 27)**

2012 [2009] "A New Form of Collaboration in Cultural Anthropology: Matsutake Worlds." In *Ethnographic Fieldwork*. Robben and Sluka, eds. Pp. 409-439.

**Thematic Focus**—Each semester, this course achieves its learning objectives (bottom of page one) by focusing on a specific issue, society, process, or sociohistorical dimension of the human condition. This semester, we have a dual focus. We will give primary consideration to the conceptual evolution of "the field" and fieldwork(ing) as central—some might say "defining"—components of the ethnographic enterprise. At the same time, we will engage in a parallel exploration of the particular insights that ethnographic analysis can offer to issues of contemporary concern to American Indian peoples and societies. Thus, we will read four ethnographies—each with its own distinctive "field stories," theoretical moorings and analytic

ambitions—coupled with 30 historic and contemporary articles intended to expand the substantive scope and theoretical depth of our discussions about the spatiotemporal “location,” disciplinary meanings, “inhabitants,” ethics, insights and experiences of “the field.”

**Course Requirements**—Access to SacCT, consistent attendance, completion of all readings and assignments, meaningful class participation (*per rubric to be distributed in class*).

**Course Evaluation and Grading**—Your final grade is the average of the following components:

- Reading quizzes (25%)—including (no fewer than) 11 announced and unannounced quizzes covering the reading assignments due that day and any days prior (exclusive of readings already covered by a quiz). \* These are administered within the first 10 minutes of class and may not be taken as make-ups. Objective questions (MC/TF) will comprise most quizzes, but a brief essay may occasionally be substituted. I may also have you engage in group work that will count for the equivalent of a reading quiz.
- Class Participation (25%). This component of your grade is based on the average of two scores:
  - Attendance and participation in seminar discussion (50%).
  - Seminar Presentation—a five to seven-minute oral response based on a required reading prompt (50%).
- Mid-term exam (25%).
- Final essay exam (25%).

\*You will need 15 Scantron “815E” quiz strips.

**Grading Scale**—A (92-100%); A- (90-91%); B+ (88-89%); B (82-87%); B-(80-81%); C+(78-79%); C (72-77%); C- (70-71%); D+ (68-69%); D (62-67%); D-(60-61%); F (59% and below).

**Make-up/Late Paper Policy**—No missed assignments (including reading quizzes) can be made up (even for excused absences), although the lowest reading quiz score will be dropped. Final essays (if take-home), will be marked down 15 points for each day late.

**SSWD**—Students who need disability accommodation are urged to approach me early in the course of the semester and to stop by the [SSWD](#) office.

**Cell Phones, Laptops/iPads, etc.**—Please silence and put your phones away during class. Laptops/tablets are permitted for note-taking only. If you plan to surf the web regardless of this policy, please sit in the back row of the classroom so that I do not have to entertain complaints from your classmates about the distraction your activity represents to their own efforts to focus on course-related activity.

**Academic Dishonesty**—Plagiarism and other forms of cheating will result in a score of zero on the assignment, potentially followed by dismissal from the course. I am **very** serious about this. Review the university’s [official policy](#).

**SacCT** — I will use [SacCT](#) to help manage the course, to deliver announcements and essay topics to you, and to make readings available to you electronically.

## Course Schedule\*

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### WEEK 1

Sept. 3 Course Introduction

### WEEK 2

Sept. 9 Briggs: Acknowledgements, Introduction & Chapter 1

Sept. 11 Briggs: Chapter 2  
Powdermaker **(R&S 4)** "A Woman Going Native."

### WEEK 3

Sept. 16 Briggs: Chapter 3-4

Sept. 18 Bateson and Mead **(R&S 28)** "Balinese Character: A Photographic Analysis."  
Geurts **(R&S 31)** "On Rocks, Walks and Talks in West Africa: Cultural categories and an Anthropology of the Senses."

### WEEK 4

Sept. 23 Briggs: Chapter 5

Sept. 25 Briggs: Chapter 6  
Scheper-Hughes **(RS 14)** "Ire in Ireland"

### WEEK 5

Sept. 30 Degérando **(R&S 1)** "The Observation of Savage Peoples"  
Boas **(R&S 2)** "The Methods of Ethnology"  
Malinowski **(R&S 3)** "Method and Scope of Anthropological Fieldwork"

Oct. 2 Lassiter: Introduction-Chapter 2  
Bourgois **(R&S 20)** "Confronting the Ethics of Ethnography: Lessons from Fieldwork in Central America"  
American Anthropological Association **(R&S 23)** "Code of Ethics"  
California State University, Sacramento **(S)** "Guidance and Procedures for the Protection of Human Subjects Institutional Review Board (IRB)"

**October 3-5 [CALIFORNIA INDIAN CONFERENCE](#) University Union, Sacramento State**

### WEEK 6

Oct. 7 Lassiter: Chapters 3 – 5  
Deloria **(R&S 11)** "Custer Died for Your Sins"  
King **(R&S 12)** "Here Come the Anthros"  
Lassiter 2002 **(S)** "Commentary: Authoritative Texts, Collaborative Ethnography, and Native American Studies"

Oct. 9 Lassiter: Chapters 6 – 9

**WEEK 7**

Oct. 14 Lassiter: Chapters 10-12  
Feld **(R&S 30)** “Dialogic Editing: Interpreting how Kaluli Read *Sound and Sentiment*.”

Oct. 16 Lassiter: Chapters 13 — Epilogue

**Saturday, October 19** [AUBURN BIG TIME — POWWOW](#) *Gold Country Fairgrounds*

**WEEK 8**

Oct. 21 Lassiter **(S)** “Moving Past Public Anthropology and Doing Collaborative Research.”

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*Recommended Reading:* Matsutake Worlds Research Group **(R&S 27)** “A New Form of Collaboration in Cultural Anthropology: Matsutake Worlds.”

Oct. 23 **Midterm Exam**

**WEEK 9**

Oct. 28 Sturm: Chapters 1-2  
Shaery-Eisenlohr **(R&S 5)** “Fixing and Negotiating Identities in the Field: The Case of Lebanese Shiites.”

Oct. 30 Sturm: Chapter 3-4

**WEEK 10**

Nov. 4 Sturm: Chapter 5  
Favret-Saada **(R&S 33)** “The Way Things are Said.”

Nov. 6 Sturm: Chapter 6  
El Guindi **(S)** “Suckling as Kinship: The Case of Qatar.”

**WEEK 11**

Nov. 11 **Veteran’s Day**

Nov. 13 Sturm: Chapters 7-8  
Robben **(R&S 10)** “The Politics of Truth and Emotion among Victims and Perpetrators of Violence.”

**WEEK 12**

Nov. 18 Jacobs-Huey **(S)** “The Natives are Gazing and Talking Back: Reviewing the Problematics of Position, Voice, and Accountability Among ‘Native Anthropologists’ ”  
Ranco **(S)** “Toward a Native Anthropology: Hermeneutics, Hunting Stories, and Theorizing from Within.”

Nov. 20 Ramirez: Introduction – Chapter 2

**WEEK 13**

- Nov. 25 Gupta and Ferguson **(R&S 24)** "Beyond 'Culture': Space, Identity, and the Politics of Difference."  
D'Alisera, JoAnn **(S)** "Field of Dreams: The Anthropologist Far Away at Home."

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Recommended Reading: Marcus **(S)** "Ethnography in/of the World System: the Emergence of Multi-sited Ethnography."

- Nov. 27 Ramirez: Chapter 3  
Willard **(S)** "Indian Newspapers, or 'Say, Ain't You Some Kind of Indians?' "  
Biolsi **(S)** "Imagined Geographies: Sovereignty, Indigenous Space, and American Indian Struggle."

**WEEK 14**

- Dec. 2 Ramirez: Chapter 4  
La Farge **(S)** "Termination of Federal Supervision: Disintegration and the American Indians."  
Slagle **(S)** "Unfinished justice: Completing the Restoration and Acknowledgement of California Indian Tribes."  
Middleton **(S)** "Across the Interface of State Ethnography: Rethinking Ethnology and its Subjects in Multicultural India."

- Dec. 4 Skidmore **(R&S 37)** "Scholarship, Advocacy, and the Politics of Engagement in Burma (Myanmar)."  
Mahmood **(R&S 17)** "Anthropology from the Bones: A Memoir of Fieldwork, Survival and Commitment."  
Nash **(R&S 15)** "Ethnology in a Revolutionary Setting."

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Recommended Reading: González **(R&S 38)** "'Human Terrain,' Past, Present and Future Applications."

**WEEK 15**

- Dec. 9 Ramirez: Chapter 5 – 6  
Dec. 11 Ramirez: Chapter 7 – Epilogue

**WEEK 16**

- Dec. 16 (M) Final Exam (12:45-2:45 pm)

\* This schedule is subject to change at the instructor's discretion.

NOTE: ANY CHANGES IN THE COURSE SCHEDULE WILL BE POSTED TO **SacCT**.