Spring 2019  
**HUMA 5770 Field Research: Theory and Practice**

Course instructor: Ma Jianxiong  
E-mail: hmjxm@ust.hk  
Time & Venue: Room 2126D, Tuesday, 19:00-21:50  
Office: Room 3340  
Office Hours: Wednesday, 15:00-18:00

**Descriptions:**  
In this course we explore theories, methods, and techniques in ethnographic field research. The current discussions on writing ethnography and textural representation are also covered in the course. Students are required to start their field research projects at the beginning of semester. The experiences and problems of students’ fieldwork will be examined in the seminar.

**Learning outcomes after completion of the course:**  
- Understand the anthropological approach of conducting field research.  
- Understand the advantages and limitations of the anthropological field research method.  
- Acquire a holistic perspective in conducting field research.  
- Master the basic field research techniques.

**Requirements:**  
- All course participants need to submit a one-page reading response paper on the required readings of each week before the class through email to the course instructor.  
- All course participants need to exercise doing field work and to submit the field notes each week.

**Texts:**  
Crang, Mike and Cook, Ian  

Hammersley, Martyn and Paul Atkinson  

Davies, Charlotte Aull  

Whyte, William Foote  

Shostak, Marjorie,  

**Seminar Topics, Readings, and Assignments:**

**Week 1 (February 12). Course organization, field work, nature of culture and ethnography**
Assignment: Review an ethnography and write an analysis of how the field data was collected, being used and presented in the ethnography. The first reading report is due on February 26.

Readings:
Haviland.  Ch. 2.
Ortner, Sherry B.

Geertz, Clifford

Watson, James L. and Rubie S. Watson

Week 2 (February 19).  No class, Fieldtrip (TBA).

Week 3 (February 26).  Choosing a field site; research proposal
Assignment due: field notes due on very weekend since week 3.

Readings:
Burgess, Robert G.

Conaway, Mary Ellen

Keyes, Charles F.

Reading Report Due: Ethnography: Principles in Practice (Hammersley & Martyn and Paul)

Week 4. (March 5). Participant-observation and Audio-visual recording
Readings:
Becker, Howard S. and Blanche Geer
Gans, Herbert J.

Frankenberg, Ronald

Whyte, William Foote.

Banks, Marcus

Collier, John, Jr. and Collier, Malcolm

Assignment due: A map of your field site (legends have to be provided). The map should reveal some forms of social relations. A short description of the map has to be provided (not more than a page).

Week 5 (March 12) Field notes
Assignment due: Photos of the field and activities.
Readings:
Burgess, Robert G.

Ottenberg, Simon

Werner, Oswald, and G. Mark Schoepfle

Reading Report Due: Street Corner Society (Whyte)

Week 6 (March 19) Interviewing and key informants
Assignment due: Short description of the field site.
Readings:
Burgess, Robert G.

Termblay, Marc-Adelard

Whyte, William Foote

Week 7 (March 26). Life history, oral history and local document (I)
Readings:
Angrosino, Michael V.

Burgess, Robert G.

Grele, Ronald J.

Week 8 (April 2). Life history, oral history and local document (II)
Readings:
Mandelbaum, David G.

Portelli, Alessandro

Watson, I.C.

Week 9 (April 9). Fieldwork ethic
Assignment due: Oral history report.

Readings:
American Anthropological Association
(http://www.aaanet.org/stmts/ethstmnt.htm)

(http://www.aaanet.org/committees/ethics/ethcode.htm)

Jarvie, I.C.

Joralemon, Donald

Thorne, Barrie
27.3:284-97.

Wax, Murray I.

Reading Report Due: Nisa: The Life and Words of a !Kung Woman & Return to Nisa (Shostak)

Week 10 (April 16). Strategies of analyses
Readings:
Geertz, Clifford


Pratt, Mary Louise

Jianxiong, Ma

Week 11 (April 30) Writing ethnography
Readings:
Clifford, James

Crapanzano, Vincent

Marcus, George E., and Dick Cushman

Throop, C. Jason & M. Murphy, Keith

Rabinow, Paul

**Week 12. (May 7) Project presentations**

**The research paper is due on May 20, 2019.**

**III. Course requirements and grading:**

Students are required to attend the seminar, to do presentations, to participate in class discussions, and to join fieldtrips. Assignments and the research paper should be submitted according to the schedule. All the assignments have to be typed and in double spacing.

**Grading Scheme:**

Assignments

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Class attendance, presentations, response papers</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Short description of the field site and research proposal</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Map of the field site</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Photos of the field and activities</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oral history report</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Review of ethnographies</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Field notes and journals</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research paper</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total:</strong></td>
<td><strong>100</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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**Documentary:**

*Margaret Mead and Samoa: The fake anthropology research unmasked by Derek Freeman*, GN671/S2/M37/1988; 51 mins.