

DRAFT February 5, 2020

Course code: ANTH 460/560
Course name: Ethnographic Field School
Course credits: 6
Course level: Undergraduate and graduate
Term: Summer I 2020

Instructor: Dr. Ricardo B. Contreras
Office hours: By appointment
Email address: contrerr@oregonstate.edu

Readings: The list of the scheduled readings is available in Canvas.

Course Description

In this class you will learn about ethnographic methods in an applied context by designing and conducting an ethnographic study of the Open Streets Corvallis event which will take place in Corvallis, Oregon, on August 16th 2020. The course will be divided into three phases:

- **Phase 1:** June 22nd – August 14th. Canvas exclusively. Lectures and readings.
- **Phase 2:** August 15th – August 21st. Corvallis, Oregon. Data collection, data analysis, elaboration of findings, and presentation of findings and recommendations.
- **Phase 3:** August 22nd - September 4th. Canvas exclusively. Conclusions.

Open Streets Corvallis (<https://openstreetscorvallis.org/>) is a program based in Corvallis that promotes building inclusive, livable, walkable, and bikeable neighborhoods by closing a mile of city streets to motorized traffic once a year for residents to recreate, exercise, and express themselves through art, music, and physical activity. You are going to research the event through ethnographic methods, collecting data, analyzing it, and presenting findings and recommendations to program organizers. To do this, in Phase 1 we will work in Canvas to learn about ethnography in applied settings, data collection and analysis methods. In Phase 2, we will all meet in Corvallis to collect the data, and analyze it, produce findings, and present those findings and recommendations to program organizers. And, finally, in Phase 3 we will work in Canvas on conclusions.

At the conclusion of this ethnographic field school, you will be able to:

- Explain what it means to use ethnographic research in an applied setting
- Explain different methods of data collection and analysis
- Apply ethnographic methods of data collection
- Perform a qualitative analysis of research data using software
- Transform research data into findings and recommendations
- Report findings and recommendations to program stakeholders

The instructor will be available to meet, by appointment and through video-conferencing, with students during Phase 1 and Phase 3, and in-person during Phase 2.

Assignments

Assignment 1. Analyze qualitatively sample research data using the software ATLAS.ti. You will be asked to analyze qualitatively a set of text and graphic files using ATLAS.ti. You will learn the software in class prior to this assignment.

Assignment 2. Write the ethnographic research project design. Working in teams of two, you will create the research design for the ethnographic study. The design will include the following:

- Description and background information on Open Streets Corvallis
- Ethnographic methods: literature review
- Research objectives
- Data collection methods
- Data analysis methods
- Presentation of findings and recommendations

Assignment 3. Field notes of the data collection experience. On the Monday right after the data collection day, you will write field notes describing and reflecting upon the experience.

Assignment 4. Poster and poster presentation with findings and recommendations. After analyzing the data, in teams of two you will present your findings and recommendations to the Open Streets Corvallis program organizers. Use one of the official OSU poster templates, which can be downloaded from here: <https://communications.oregonstate.edu/brand-guide/using-brand/downloads>

Assignment 5. Final executive summary with key findings, conclusions, and reflections. After the poster session, you will write a short executive summary with key findings, conclusions, and reflections. The instructor will give you a report template.

Grading

Item	Percentage	Points each submission	Total
Assignment 1.	20	100	100
Assignment 2.	20	100	100
Assignment 3.	20	100	100
Assignment 4.	20	100	100
Assignment 5.	20	100	100
TOTAL	100		500

Grading scale

A = 450 to 500 points

B = 400 to 449 points

C = 350 to 399 points

D = 300 to 349 points

F = 299 and below points

Class Schedule

Phase	Week	Topic	Activity	Assignment Due
Phase 1: Canvas	6/22-6-28	Introduction	Video lecture	Personal introduction in Canvas (not graded)
	6/29-7/5	The Open Streets Corvallis program	Video lecture Readings Websites	
	7/6-7/12	Ethnographic research methods and research design	Video lecture Readings	
	7/13-7/19	Data collection methods	Video lecture Readings	
	7/20-7/26	Data collection methods	Video lecture	
	7/27-8/2	Analysis methods	Video lecture Video tutorials of ATLAS.ti Data analysis exercise	Assignment 1-Data analysis exercise
	8/3-8/9	Analysis methods	Data analysis exercise	
	8/10-8/14	Logistics of data collection	Video lecture	Assignment 2-Research design
Phase 2: Corvallis	8/15-8/21	Data collection	a. Working in teams, data collection at Open Streets Corvallis (8/16) b. Working in teams, data analysis elaboration of findings and recommendations (8/17-8/20) c. Working in teams, poster presentations (8/21)	a. Assignment 3-Field notes (8/17) b. Assignment 4-Poster (8/20)
Phase 3: Canvas	8/22-8/30	Writing the executive summary	Video lecture	
	8/31-9/4	Conclusion	Video lecture	Assignment 5-Final executive summary

Class Policies

Class Attendance and Participation:

It is mandatory to be physically present in Corvallis between 8/15 and 8/21. During that week, you will participate in data collection activities on 8/16, data analysis activities (8/17-8/20), and in the oral presentation of posters (8/21). Absence from any of these activities will be penalized with a non-passing grade for the class. If there are reasons beyond your control that preclude you from participating in these activities, please submit documentation explaining the circumstances.

Policy on Late Work:

I hope all students submit assignments in time and late assignment policy will be strictly enforced in course. For each week past the deadline, 5 points will be deducted from your grade.

Core Institutional Policies

Academic Honesty

Cheating, plagiarism, or fabrication are acts of academic dishonesty and, in accordance with OSU's policy on academic dishonesty, will not be tolerated. Members of the college community are expected to be honest and forthright in their academic endeavors. To falsify the results of one's research, to present the words, ideas, data or work of another as one's own, or to cheat on an examination corrupts the essential process of learning. Anyone caught engaging in any form of academic dishonesty will fail the course. OSU Academic Dishonesty Policy: <http://oregonstate.edu/admin/stucon/achon.htm>

Student Conduct Expectations

Please refer to the OSU Code of Student Conduct:

http://studentlife.oregonstate.edu/sites/studentlife.oregonstate.edu/files/code_of_student_conduct.pdf

Discrimination

We are committed to encouraging a caring and supportive atmosphere in the classroom and to promoting a campus climate that understands and respects the needs of a culturally, ethnically, physically, and socially diverse student body. In addition, Oregon State is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Institution. The implications of this, as well as my personal dedication to fostering diversity, is that there will be no discrimination in this class on the basis of any of the categories covered in the college's anti-discrimination policy. Please let me know as soon as possible if you feel that you have been treated unjustly; I will evaluate the situation and take appropriate action.

Students with Disabilities

Accommodations for students with disabilities are determined and approved by Disability Access Services (DAS). If you, as a student, believe you are eligible for accommodations but have not obtained approval please contact DAS immediately at 541-737-4098 or at <http://ds.oregonstate.edu>. DAS notifies students and faculty members of approved academic accommodations and coordinates implementation of those accommodations. While not required, students and faculty members are encouraged to discuss details of the implementation of individual accommodations.

Students' Basic Needs

Any student who has difficulty affording groceries or accessing sufficient food to eat every day, or who lacks a safe and stable place to live, and believes this may affect their performance in the course, is urged to contact the Human Services Resource Center (HSRC) for support (hsrc@oregonstate.edu, 541-737-3747). The HSRC has a food pantry, a textbook lending program and other resources to help. Furthermore, please notify the professor if you are comfortable in doing so. This will enable them to provide any resources that they may possess.

NOTE:

This syllabus is subject to change based on the needs of the class. When there is a change, it will be posted on the Canvas course website (check for announcements) with the date of the change updated in the syllabus file name. Students are responsible for checking for updates.

Bibliography

Brennan-Horley, Chris, Susan Luckman, Chris Gibson, and Julie Willoughby-Smith. 2010. "GIS, Ethnography, and Cultural Research: Putting Maps Back into Ethnographic Mapping." *Information Society* 26 (2): 92–103. <https://doi.org/10.1080/01972240903562712>.

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- Eyler, Amy A, J Aaron Hipp, and Julie Lokuta. 2015. "Moving the Barricades to Physical Activity: A Qualitative Analysis of Open Streets Initiatives across the United States." *American Journal of Health Promotion* 30 (1): e50–58. <https://doi.org/10.4278/ajhp.131212-QUAL-633>.
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- Murchison, and Julian M. 2010. *Ethnography Essentials*. San Francisco, CA: Jossey-Bass.
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