ANTHROPOLOGY 7984
PROSEMINAR
Fall 2012

Course Coordinator: Dr. Ruthbeth Finerman
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COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This series of workshops promotes professional development, and prepares graduate students to plan, execute, document, and evaluate effective practicum assignments. Emphasis is placed on collaboration, engagement, and capacity building to benefit community partners. Topical units review the fundamentals of collecting and analyzing project data, and strategies to conduct projects that strengthen knowledge, experience, and proficiency in applied anthropology.

COURSE GOALS:
1. To master key principles of anthropological praxis for career development and community engagement.

2. To plan for successful practica which benefit both students and community partners.

3. To prepare for effective project implementation, data collection and analysis, setting and tracking benchmarks, and evaluation of the practicum project in relation to deliverables.

4. To promote professional growth in anticipation of post-graduate employment and/or study.

REQUIREMENTS: Grading will be based on satisfactory completion of the following:
1) Attendance at and participation in weekly workshops
2) One curriculum vita
3) One self-evaluation and draft proposal for a practicum project

COURSE STANDARDS:
1) Attendance: Students are expected to attend all meetings; unexcused absences and/or failure to attend 3 or more workshops may result in a grade of Unsatisfactory.

2) Comportment: Respectful debate, questions, and shared perspectives are both welcome and expected. Unprofessional behavior such as tardiness and use of cells/texting is not permitted. Students should meet with the instructor to discuss any course concerns or special requests.

3) Special Needs: Students with disabilities and those with other needs are welcome; please inform the instructor of any requests early in the term.
COURSE SCHEDULE

Week 1 (8/29): ANTHROPOLOGICAL PRACTICA AND PRAXIS
Objective: understand practicum’s role in applied anthropology and community engagement

Week 2 (9/5): PRACTICUM PLANNING
Objective: learn to set goals, find a partner agency/supervisor, and draft practicum agreements

Week 3 (9/12): COLLABORATION AND PROFESSIONALISM
Objective: learn to work across disciplines & sectors, and meet supervisor/agency expectations

Week 4 (9/19): PRACTICUM TROUBLESHOOTING
Objective: learn to anticipate and address challenges with practicum projects and personnel
*ASSIGNMENT 1 DUE: Curriculum Vita Project

Week 5 (9/26): WRITING AND COMMUNICATION SKILLS
Objective: build skills to prepare technical reports, policy briefs, executive summaries, and making effective presentations to non-academic and non-anthropological audiences.

Week 6 (10/3): DATA COLLECTION PART I: QUALITATIVE METHODS
Objective: build basic skills to plan and collect high quality observation and interview data

Week 7 (10/10): DATA COLLECTION PART II: QUANTITATIVE METHODS
Objective: build basic skills to plan and collect high quality survey data

Week 8 (10/17): DATA ANALYSIS PART I
Objective: explore the fundamentals of managing data and interpreting findings

Week 9 (10/24): DATA ANALYSIS PART II
Objective: explore the fundamentals of presenting findings

Week 10 (10/31): PRACTICUM EVALUATION
Objective: learn to assess inputs and outcomes, and offer effective and feasible recommendations

Week 11 (11/7): PRACTICUM DELIVERABLES
Objective: learn how to prepare practicum reports and practicum presentations
*ASSIGNMENT 2 DUE: Self-Evaluation and Draft Practicum Proposal

Week 12 (11/14): POST-PRACTICUM PLANNING
Objective: learn effective job/post-graduate study search, application, and interview strategies

Week 13 (11/21): NO CLASS (AAA MEETINGS)

Week 14 (11/28): NO CLASS – ATTEND PROFESSIONAL PANEL IN 7255 SEMINAR

Week 15 (12/6): PRACTICUM FORUM (Note: meets Thursday, 11am-1pm in MN 320)
Objective: learn models for creating and conducting practica from other graduate students
RESOURCES:


