

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:

Briller, Sherylyn H. and Goldmacher, Amy. 2009. *Designing an Anthropology Career: Professional Development Exercises*. Lanham: AltaMira Press.

Ellick, Carol and Joe Watkins. 2011. *The Anthropology Graduate's Guide: From Student to a Career*. Walnut Creek, CA: Left Coast Press.

Fiske, Shirley. 2008. Working for the Federal Government: Anthropology Careers. *NAPA Bulletin* 29(1): 110-130. American Anthropological Association.

Guerron-Montero, Carla (ed). 2009. Careers in 21st Century Applied Anthropology. *NAPA Bulletin*, 29(1). Arlington, VA: The American Anthropological Association.

Gwynne, Margaret A. 2003a. *Applied Anthropology: A Career-Oriented Approach*. Boston: Pearson Education.

Gwynne, Margaret A. 2003b. *Anthropology: Career Resources Handbook*. Boston: Boston: Pearson Education.

Mosse, David (ed.). 2011. *Adventures in Aidland: The Anthropology of Professionals in International Development*. Berghahn Books.

NAPA. 2009. *Annals of Anthropological Practice Special Issue: Careers in 21st Century Applied Anthropology: Perspectives from Academics and Practitioners*. 29(1): 1–210. Arlington, VA: The American Anthropological Association.

Strang, Veronica. 2009. *What Anthropologists Do*. New York: Berg Publishers.

Stephens, Richard W. 2002. *Careers in Anthropology: What an Anthropology Degree Can Do for You*. Boston: Allyn and Bacon.

Sunderland, Patricia and Rita Denny, 2007. *Doing Anthropology in Consumer Research*. Walnut Creek, CA, Left Coast Press.

Terry-Sharp, Kathleen, Keri Brondo, and Linda Bennett. 2009. Anthropology Faculty Job Market Report. *Anthropology News* 50(5): 34-36.