ANTHROPOLOGY 310
ETHNOGRAPHIC FIELDWORK METHODS

This seminar teaches the craft (and art!) of anthropological field research by asking students to conduct actual ethnographic investigations of some aspect of Worcester-area culture, or Holy Cross culture. Students design their own projects; the thematic focus of your study is up to you, although of course I shall give you abundant advice and guidance here. If students wish, some of you can work in teams of 2 to 3. Typically these projects last for a number of weeks over the course of the semester. Each student will write a lengthy paper (generally, 25 to 27 pages, double spaced, with a minimum of 25 pages), based on their research questions, their fieldwork findings, and their methodological insights. When students work in teams, their final ethnographic paper is correspondingly longer (see abundant handouts on these final papers).

Another required part of the seminar is for you to present your research findings in conference-style format (15 to 20 minute talks) during this year's Holy Cross Academic Conference. We'll pick a conference presentation day and time for our class early in the seminar that works well for all of us. Since these presentations (to a general campus audience) come some two weeks before your final versions of your papers are due, your talks will be in the nature of 'research in progress' reports. We'll have much discussion of these presentations in class, in office hours, and in practice run-throughs of your talks with me and your colleagues.

As part of your weekly work, you'll read and discuss in class some of the classic methods literature in cultural anthropology. You'll be able to draw on these sources as references in writing your ethnographies. We'll also read and discuss at length a series of illuminating, exemplary ethnographies, each of which will raise different questions about *doing fieldwork* and *writing culture*. We'll also be looking quite closely at some of the work on the ethics of anthropological research, as we go through the semester. In fact, in every class session every Monday we'll make a point to bring up ethical issues in the design of fieldwork in anthropology and/or in the writing of research findings.

The final projects and the form the final papers take are very much in your own hands. The seminar class as a whole and I as your professor will be helping you to craft the best possible text and the best possible list of sources for your work. Your ethnographies will typically involve the identification and use of at least 10 sources that go beyond the syllabus. A source here would be a journal article or a book chapter, for instance. See handouts and class discussion of this as we go through the semester.

Some of you may want to incorporate photographs or even video or website design work into your projects and that is encouraged.