

**DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY AND ANTHROPOLOGY**

**ANTH\*2230 REGIONAL ETHNOGRAPHY**

**Dr. Lauren Sneyd**

[lsneyd@uoguelph.ca](mailto:lsneyd@uoguelph.ca)

**TUES/THURS: 2:30-3:50**

**Selections from the required texts are available online from the university library:**

*Street Economies in the Global South*

*Street Food: Culture, economy, health and governance*

Additional readings will be available electronically on Courselink and Ares.

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course offers a survey of ethnographic studies on selected cultural/geographical area(s) of the world. Topics covered may include social, economic and political systems, the colonial encounter, and the theoretical, methodological and political contexts of ethnographic representation.

To cover themes connected to the above, the course is organized around the anthropology of work, markets and food. The theme focusing on street food economies and culture will highlight the principles of ethnographic methods that focus on studying social forces that generate, maintain and reshape people's lives in different locations. The course will introduce ANTH students to principles of research design, data collection techniques, and strategies for analyzing and interpreting research results in ethnographic texts. We will discuss the theoretical, methodological and political contexts of ethnographic representation.

The course format will consist of short lectures, audiovisual materials, and classroom discussion. Students are expected to come to class having completed the readings and prepared to contribute to these discussions. There will be two written assignments (one is a book review of an ethnography), a take-home exam, and weekly reading reflections. The assignments and the examination will assume knowledge gained from both the readings and the lectures, so class attendance is highly recommended. We will be using Courselink as an electronic resource for announcements and for the distribution of lecture slides (however, not all lecture material will be available on the slides). All assignments will also be submitted through Courselink using the electronic Dropbox.

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

First assignment 25%
Book review of an ethnography 35%
Take-home Exam 30%
Weekly reading reflections (10) 10%

## LEARNING OUTCOMES

1. Through lectures, readings, related audio visual materials and discussion, students will learn to *apply* theoretical knowledge to different ‘real life’ ethnographic studies to better understand the application of anthropology, and social science more broadly. Students will work to analyze, evaluate and apply anthropological theories to address contemporary, historical, social and global issues. Weekly class discussions and reflections are designed *to evaluate the application* of knowledge to the study of food markets.
2. The two written assignments require students to *apply* theoretical arguments to understanding and interpreting ethnographic texts. However, equally importantly, they demand that students create coherent and cohesive arguments to help *analyze and explain* the nature of the cases. Students will also critically reflect upon the personal and disciplinary limits of knowledge and develop an appreciation for uncertainty and ambiguity within interpretation and analysis.
3. The take-home exam requires that students *apply* knowledge acquired *throughout the course* (lectures, readings and audio visual materials).
4. The multiple writing assignments will help students improve their *written communication* and ensure academic integrity.