**American University of Central Asia**

**Anthropology, Technology and International Development**

**Program**

**Thesis Writing 1: Literature Review and Research Design**

**Syllabus[[1]](#footnote-1)**

**Spring 2022 Semester**

Thursday 17:00-19:45pm

Instructor: Prof.Ch.Turdalieva

Email: [turdalieva\_c@auca.kg](mailto:turdalieva_c@auca.kg)

**Zoom Meetings**

https://zoom.us/j/92062116622?pwd=bnBBSDRMRXVxREVLYnl2QnhMbjJPdz09

**Office Hours:** Monday at14:00-15:00PM and by appointment

**A key word to access the E-course is ANTH512**

C**ourse overview:** A diploma thesis is an integrated compendium of a student research, which includes literature review, reading, writing, and potentially the analysis of the data collected at the first-hand fieldwork. *In the Thesis Writing 1 Course*, students will identify the research proposal, research questions and write the draft of their literature review and the research methodology chapter. They will also conduct some qualitative and quantitative research by taking preliminary interviews and observations related to the chosen topic. Structurally, the course will be taught in the format of a seminar class, where students will share their research progress and findings with classmates. Students should also work in close collaboration with the thesis advisor in order to make adequate progress toward the thesis accomplishment.

**Learning goal.** The main goal of the course is to assist students on their efforts to produce original anthropological research that contributes new perspectives and ideas to Anthropology and its sub-fields. Ideally, the general requirement for the diploma thesis is to provide 30-40 pages of a written text.

**Learning objectives**

• Learn what the appropriate sources for academic writing and research

• Learn how to formulate a research question and hypothesis

Work with the literature and make its review

Learn how to write an academic text by lining the proper reasoning, citing and giving arguments

Develop own research contribution by analyzing the empirical data and accessible materials

Learn how to manage a research thesis by effective time management and planning

**Course Readings:**

Syllabus and course readings are available on the E-course.

**Assignments**

**Class Activities (10%)** The course will be taught in the context of a seminar class and your attendance and active engagement are critical for your learning progress and grade. Three or more absences without medical excuses (spravka) over the course will get an “F” for the course.

**Midterm (10%).** The midterm exam will be covered by the multiple choice test consisting of 10 questions.

**Literature Review Progress (35%)** The main goal of this course is to work out an original, clearly argued, and polished Honors Thesis. Students will analyze two academic papers or book chapters and share them with me through the opening the google drive doc. Each paper must be coded and presented using the **template below**. At the end of the course, at least 20 works should be presented with full analysis sections. The length of your paper or book chapter review should be three pages long, double space, Times New Roman.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Paper ID | Author  (last name) | Year of  publication | Paraphrase of idea or direct citation | Page number | Keywords |
| 01 | Johnson | 2016 | “Bishkek has a very diverse community of expats: international NGO consultants, teachers, businessmen, artists and volunteers.” | 05 | Expats - profiles |
| 01 | Johnson | 2016 | Expats have their own places for socialization in the city. Very often, these are coffee shops. | 11 | Expats – places of socialization |

**Peer Reviews (20%).** A peer review and discussions of each students’ progress will be made in class. Each student will read the other student’s work and offer thoughtful and reasonable feedback writing it in the google drive doc.

**Presentation (10%).** Student will reflect a class-presentation based on his/her research and deliver it to the groupmate. The class-presentation can be presented orally or in a PPT format.

**Research Methodology Chapter (15%).** A Research Methodology chapter will thoroughly describe and justify all research methods a student plans to use in his/her research. Students need to be fully prepared to start conducting the research and collecting data by the end of the course.

**Course requirements and policy**

**Working with your thesis supervisor**

Early in the semester, all students will be assigned their thesis supervisors from the members of our faculty. You must meet with your supervisor to discuss your research interests. In this meeting, you and your thesis supervisor also have to come to an agreement about the frequency of meetings and submission of your progress. Please, remember that your collaboration with supervisor is crucial for the successful completion of your thesis. If you find difficulties establishing proper contact with your supervisor, please, report to me or to the department chair as soon as possible.

**Defense with the faculty committee**

At the end of semester, you will have to prepare a power-point presentation and present your proposal to faculty committee with the purpose of getting feedback and recommendations before you start your fieldwork.

**Plagiarism**

Plagiarism will not be tolerated during the course.Plagiarism is the appropriation of another person’s ideas and representing them as your own original work. You must either paraphrase the sentence by putting it completely in your own words and citing it with the proper footnote, endnote or in text citation, or put the quotation marks or make block quotation if you use the direct words of the source without any change with the following footnote, endnote or other citation after the copied words. All information must be cited. Always cite a legitimate source. Wikipedia is not a legitimate source. Books published by university presses and academic papers found on AUCA and other databases are legitimate sources.

**Grading system**

Your final grade will be determined as follows:

100-96 = A; 95-91 = A-; 90-86 = B+; 85-81 = B;80-76 = B-;75-71 = C+;70-66 = C;65-61 = C-;60-56 = D+;55-51 = D;50-46 = D-; 45 and lower = F

**Course Policy Behaviour**

Please turn off your mobile phones and other electronic devices before coming to class. Please come to class on time. Coming late for class or leaving before the class ends will be considered as an absence.

**Course readings and materials**

All course materials are hang up on the E-course. The key word is ANTH512

**Course Schedule**

**Week 1. Introduction to the Course**

**Film activity:** video about thesis writing for Anthropology major:

**Readings and sources:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d7NGhwAasls>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1O_Go1KzAyE>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SFMi6gorFrI>

Ethics in Anthropology https://www.americananthro.org/ethics-and-methods

**Week 2. How to define the research problem and topic?**

See online resources on using the library to identify own topic

**Activity:** write a one-page memo on your research problem answering questions as follows:

What is the purpose of your thesis? Why it is important? Who is your target group and how do want to explore the topic?

**Readings and sources:** Russel B. (2006). The research methods in Anthropology, New York: Altamira, pp.28-69.

American Anthropological Association https://www.americananthro.org

Anthropology, Technology/Urbanism International Development Programs’ Senior/MA thesis guide

Anthropology and the Study of Culture

[www.pearsonhighered.com/assets/samplechapter/0/2/0/5/0205260012.pdf](http://www.pearsonhighered.com/assets/samplechapter/0/2/0/5/0205260012.pdf)

**Week 3. Reviewing the Literature and Defining Own Contributions**

**Class Activity:** analyzing two papers and sharing them with class

**Readings and sources:** Russel B. (2006). The research methods in Anthropology, New York: Altamira, pp. 96-109.

Guide for Writing in Anthropology at https://www.wlv.ac.uk/

**Week 4. Structuring Literature Review**

**Class activity:** Prepare an annotated bibliography of the research topic

**Readings and sources:** The literature review in research, on the E-course.

**Week 5-6. Collecting preliminary data**

Explore your topic through the short fieldwork.

**Readings and sources:**

Russel B. (2006). The research methods in Anthropology, New York: Altamira.pp.169-413.

Handbook on Methods of Anthropology (2015). New York: Rowman.

***Midterm due!***

**Week 7. Working with data and its processing**

**Readings and sources:** Sardan J. (2015). The Policy of Fieldwork: Data Production in Anthropology and Qualitative Approach in book: Epistemology, Fieldwork, and Anthropology, researchgate source.

Russel B. (2006). The research methods in Anthropology, New York: Altamira, pp. 451-649.

**Week 8-9. Ethnographic writing**

**Readings and sources:** Kottak K. (2015). Cultural Anthropology. Appreciating diversity. Michigan University Press, Introduction, Part1.

Ghodsee K. (2016). Writing Ethnographies that Everyone Can Read. The University of Chicago Press.

**Week 10. Remembering main theoretical foundations in Anthropology**

**Class activity**: Guest lecture

**Readings and sources:** Doda Z. (2005). Introduction to Sociocultural Anthropology. Debub University. pp.38-51.

Kottak K. (2015). Cultural Anthropology. Appreciating diversity. Michigan University Press, Introduction, Part2.

**Week 11**

**Writing Research Methods Chapter: Qualitative and Quantitative**

**Approaches in Anthropology**

**Readings and sources:** Anthropology scholars share their thoughts on Anthropology in modern time by writing a recent book “Writing Anthropology “https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1k6NMbdWWHE

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1DoQEGWrEdc

Russel B. (2006). The research methods in Anthropology, New York: Altamira, pp. 451-649.

***Research Methodology Chapter due!***

**Week 12-13**

**Peer reviews of groupmates’ drafts (in class)**

***Peer Reviews due!***

**Week 14-15**

**Presentations of the draft of literature review and the research methods chapter**

***Presentations due!***

1. This syllabus may be changed in inessential parts (e.g. replacement of reading assignments); students will be notified of any such change in advance. Some parts of the syllabus are adapted from the syllabus of Prof. E.Nasritdinov. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)