

**Course Syllabus**  
**ANTH 411: Fieldwork**  
**(Archaeology, Physical Anthropology and Museum Studies)**

Prerequisites: ANTH 410W: Research Design

**Description**

ANTH 411 is an independent study course in which students conduct field research as proposed in ANTH 410W: Research Design. For a student enrolled in ANTH 411, the goal is to engage in the research tasks specified in the "Methods" section of their research proposal.

**Required Texts**

There are no required texts, except for readings that are assigned by directors of projects, such as archaeological or primate research field schools, or by internship directors.

Students may continue with reading identified during the research design stage. It may be appropriate to continue archival and library research, especially where the field setting provides access. All students are advised to consult the texts that were used in their methods courses as well as other books on methods in the social sciences. Moreover, it is important that students read "theoretical" or "topical" literature as well, particularly those articles and books that were listed in the proposal as "Works Still to be Read."

**Requirements**

In addition to conducting fieldwork as specified in the "Methods" section, there are a number of requirements.

1. Students may need to construct survey or interview guides for use in the field. These should be reviewed with the advisor before use.
2. Students must collect detailed fieldnotes and data of the following kind:
  - o Log. Keep a daily notebook of observations, reflections, spatial descriptions, excerpts from informal discussions, and analyses of events. Do this throughout the course of fieldwork.
  - o Survey Data. Collect excavation, ethological, demographic, and/or survey data as appropriate to the project.
  - o Interview Notes. Keep hand-written notes on research activities. Notes should be organized in a fieldbook and clearly labeled with date, subject, place of interview/observation, and any other relevant information. If you enter notes directly into a laptop computer or transcribe taped interviews into a word processor, print up hard copies of these interview notes to keep in a binder.

- Photographs.
  - Supporting library, archival, newspaper, or Internet research
3. Students may aim to accomplish additional tasks in the field, including:
- Transcribing audio-taped interviews (required if interviews are audio-taped)
  - Tabulating numerical data (required if surveys used)
  - Typing research notes into a word processing program or other program for managing text-based data (optional but strongly recommended)
4. Students must keep track of their research activities on a "Field Experience Calendar" (a monthly calendar, covering the 10-week research period, which indicates the specific tasks that you have accomplished and the days on which you have accomplished these tasks), and the amount of time devoted to research each day. This is required.
- For your calendar, print up blank calendar pages for the months that you will be doing your research. Then you can pencil in what you do as you proceed. You can access blank calendar pages for any given month through a word processing program like Microsoft Word.

5. Check in with your Advisor

Contact your advisor at the midpoint of your research with a brief progress report. Note what has been accomplished, what remains to be done, any problems you're having and how you solve them. Email if you're out of the country and have access; a letter (yes, people still write), a phone call (not a message!), or a visit. Alternatively, you might be in a situation to invite your advisor to visit you in the field—this can be a rewarding experience.

Contact your advisor again at the end of the field work period. Check in and submit:

- a copy of your field notes
- a revised "Methods" description (what you actually did); this will become part of your thesis.

**Grading**

Your grade for this course will be calculated as follows. See above for more details on what is expected of you for each item.

<u>Item</u>	<u>Percentage of grade</u>
Midterm report	20
Methods description	30
Overall quality of fieldwork	50
	100%