

Anthropology 372: Visualizing Anthropology  
Fall 2011, Wednesday 1:30 — 4:20, Chambers B263

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This seminar introduces students to the tools necessary for making anthropological films. Students will conduct fieldwork and make a film on some aspects of the social and cultural behavior under investigation. Emphasis is placed on developing the critical skills needed for resolving some of the ethical, technical and aesthetic problems that may emerge during the documentation of social and cultural behavior. At the end of the semester the class will host an anthropological film and present them to the larger academic community.

Because of the vast amount of time and skill necessary in producing an ethnographic film, projects will be done within a group. While individuals within a group may specialize in a particular aspect of the project, I will expect everyone to have a strong working knowledge of all the various aspects of research and production. Much of the work for this course will be conducted outside the Connolly Media Lab and not during seminar meetings, especially in the latter half of the semester.

### Course Readings

Pink, Sarah 2007. *Doing Visual Ethnography*. Sage. ISBN:1412923484.  
Artis, Anthony Q. 2007. *The Shut Up and Shoot Documentary Guide: A Down & Dirty DV Production*. Focal Press; ISBN-10: 0240809351, ISBN-13: 978-0240809359  
Additional articles will be available on Blackboard.

### Course Requirements

The most important work in this course is to be prepared for each seminar meeting; this means having thoroughly read the material and being prepared to discuss particular points from the reading. Because this is a laboratory class, being prepared also means **having mastered the software or technical skills** expected for the meeting. Readings are due on the day listed in the class schedule. Your engagement with the material and mastery of the software and equipment is vital for the success of this learning experience.

*Seminar Participation: (10%)* Students are expected to attend all classes, do the readings and computer exercises prior to class, and **discuss the implications of the issues** in the classroom. Part of this grade will be determined from a self-examination conducted by the group.

*Discussion Board: (10%) Each week*, students will write a brief reaction towards a film that was reviewed, a reading, or a reflection of an incident from the filmmaking process. You should feel free to write whatever you feel is relevant. They are due prior to the start of each seminar meeting. I expect you to have also reviewed you're your peers have written – you may respond to what they have written, but I expect all exchanges to be as civil as if they were said in person during the seminar meeting. **LATE SUBMISSIONS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.**

*Photo Documentary (15%): (due 31 August 2011)* This is your opportunity to begin using images to tell a story. Using no more than twenty pictures (pecha kucha format), create a narrative about a particular place, event, or person. Limit the amount of staging and interference in the actual occurrence. You may not use text or audio to explain the scene – as much as possible, let your images (and your sequencing) tell the story.

*Film Proposal (8%): (due 31 August 2011)* This assignment is based on preliminary fieldwork observations and library research. The writing of this proposal will indicate to the instructors that you have obtained permission from the participants. In order to write this proposal the research team must have observed the site on at least two different occasions. Below are the requirements for this exercise:

- A concise statement of the research project and a justification for this research project.
- Describe the research site.
- List the dates the site was visited and the length of each observation period.
- Provide a demographic profile of the participants you observed.
- Describe the types of activities the group plans to videotape.
- Indicate two cultural beliefs underlying the social behavior to be videotaped.
- Indicate two major challenges or obstacles this project will present and suggest measures to counteract them.
- Critic two videos that deal with similar or related topic and indicate how your study differs.
- Briefly summarize four scholarly articles that deal with the same or a related topic and indicate how this literature influences your ideas.

**IRB Protocol (2%): (due 7 September 2011)** This is part of the film proposal. Prior to conducting each film project student must obtain the approval of the Davidson College Institutional Research Board. The protocol form is listed on the website of the Office of Contracts and Grants. The protocol must be approved by course instructors prior to submission to the IRB.

*Short Video: Filming and Editing Exercise (10%): (due 25 September 2011).* More on this project will be made available later during the seminar.

*Literature Review (10%) : (due 5 October)* The literature review is a more thorough examination and analysis of existing studies that are similar to your research interest. This review should include: An examination of the major theoretical and or methodological concerns within the literature. Discussion that outlines your theoretical concerns and how they either support or differ from existing studies. See the handout, available on Blackboard.

*Ethnographic Film Project: (35%)* This is the group ethnographic film. The film will be evaluated in terms of how successful it is in: portraying the ethnographic subject; the effectiveness of the narrative in exploring the social or cultural issue; the aesthetics of the filming and editing. The first draft of the film will be due on **9 November 2011**, while the final film will be due on **7December 2011**. The film will be submitted as a DVD, and will be accompanied by a group paper (film narrative), incorporating elements from the proposal and literature review.

While we will work together on various issues and projects, your papers are your own individual work. All work is subject to the Davidson College Honor Code as stated in the student handbook. If there are individual accommodations for special needs, please let me know and authorize the Dean of Students to contact me so that we can work something out.

**Course Schedule** (subject to modification)

24 Aug	<p align="right">Course Introduction</p> <p><b>Media Lab Work:</b> Introduction to the lab, group formation, brainstorm ideas, how to write a proposal, Lynda.com gear and expectations, storyboarding/outlining.</p>
31 Aug	<p align="right">Documentary Film in Anthropology</p> <p><b>Reading:</b> Pink, Part 1: Thinking About Visual Research Benjamin essay (optional); Pinney essay (optional) <b>Media Lab Work:</b> Introduction to Canon XHA1s, introduction to the Zooms, shooting technique, in-class shooting assignment, importing footage <b>Reading/Viewing:</b> Lynda.com Premiere Pro CS5 essential training, (Introduction, Chapter 1, Chapter 2, Chapter 3) <a href="http://www.lynda.com/Premiere-Pro-CS5-tutorials/essential-training/59974-2.html">http://www.lynda.com/Premiere-Pro-CS5-tutorials/essential-training/59974-2.html</a> <b>Assignment:</b> Discussion Board Post; Photo documentary, Documentary Proposal</p>
7 Sep	<p><b>Reading:</b> Pink, Part 2: Producing Knowledge <b>Media Lab Work:</b> Exporting out of Premiere CS5.5, (Photo Documentary), saving to Susan, review photo documentary, review chapter 3, Review proposals, introduction to audio for video <b>Reading/Viewing:</b> Lynda.com (Chapter 4) <b>Assignment:</b> IRB Due Storyboard/outline for final project; Discussion Board Post</p>
14 Sep	<p><b>Reading:</b> TBD <b>Media Lab Work:</b> review chapter 4, review “video process” and copyright, Advanced audio for video <b>Reading/Viewing:</b> Lynda.com (Chapter 5,6) <b>Assignment:</b> Discussion Board Post</p>
21 Sep	<p><b>Media Lab Work:</b> Introduction to lighting for video, organizing your footage <b>Reading/Viewing:</b> Lynda.com (Chapters 7, 8, 9, 10)</p>
28 Sep	<p><b>Media Lab Work:</b> Review chapters 7, 8, 9, 10, Advanced lighting for video, Advanced shooting, Introduction to working with audio in Premiere <b>Reading/Viewing:</b> Lynda.com (Chapter 11) <b>Assignment:</b> 48 hour video project (DUE on Susan on Friday by 4:30pm), finalize proposal</p>

5 Oct	<p><b>Media Lab Work:</b> Review 48 hour video project, Review finalized proposals</p> <p><b>Assignment:</b> Shooting schedule (rough idea), START SHOOTING</p> <p>Literature Review Due</p>
12 Oct	<p><b>Media Lab Work:</b> Review Chapter 11, Using mixed media in Premiere, Production Q&amp;A</p> <p><b>Reading/Viewing:</b> Lynda.com (Chapter 14)</p> <p><b>Assignment:</b> Shooting schedule, Have something shot for your video</p>
19 Oct	<p><b>Media Lab Work:</b> Review Chapter 14, Production Q&amp;A, Review shooting schedule, Review footage</p> <p><b>Assignment:</b> Have something ready to edit in your project</p>
26 Oct	<p><b>Media Lab Work:</b> Review timeline, Production Q&amp;A, Review footage</p> <p><b>Reading/Viewing:</b> Lynda.com (Chapter 15)</p> <p><b>Assignment:</b> Have something on the timeline edited</p>
2 Nov	<p><b>Media Lab Work:</b> Review edited footage on the timeline, Production Q&amp;A</p> <p><b>Reading/Viewing:</b> Lynda.com (Chapter 16)</p>
9 Nov	<p><b>Media Lab Work:</b> Review Chapter 16, Making a final cut, Using Audition/Encore, Production Q&amp;A</p> <p><b>Assignment:</b> Extreme rough cut ready</p>
16 Nov	<p><b>Media Lab Work:</b> Production Q&amp;A, Review extreme rough cut, Have a rough cut by the end of class</p>
23 Nov	Thanksgiving Holiday – No Class
30 Nov	<p><b>Media Lab Work:</b> Production Q&amp;A, Review rough cuts</p> <p><b>Assignment:</b> Final Cut (Due by the start of next class)</p>
7 Dec	<p><b>Media Lab Work:</b> Review Final Projects</p> <p>Film Narrative Due</p>