

Anthropology 497

Undergraduate Research

Project Director's Office Hours: Room HH 380; Monday–Thursday 11am–noon; Monday 2–3pm; or by appointment; phone 410-548-4502; e-mail earagan@salisbury.edu.

Spring 2009

Project Director: E. A. Ragan

This is a 4-credit-hour enhanced course, which will provide a more in-depth exploration of the subject.

Course Objective

This course is designed to encourage you to develop and carry out a project on an anthropological topic that interests you, but may not have access to in a traditional classroom setting. More importantly, it will allow you to participate in an aspect of academic life that should complement your classroom experience. By working independently on your own project, you will sharpen your skills of thinking logically, writing clearly, and speaking confidently on a topic about which you have become an expert.

The topic you choose is to be discussed at length with the project director, who will help you select and develop a project that can be completed in the space of a semester and may offer alternative approaches for you to consider. You will then be responsible for researching your topic, writing about your project and its findings in a paper suitable for publication, and finally by presenting your project in a public forum. You are expected to **meet with the project directly weekly** throughout the semester to ensure that you are progressing in a timely fashion, answer any questions you may have, and assist you with any difficulties that arise.

The Project

1. **Literature Research Component:** Using library and electronic resources you will conduct a literature search on the topic you are interested in. The search should be thorough enough that all major current papers pertaining to the topic are consulted; to ensure this, consult with the staff at Blackwell Library to be sure you are using all the journal databases and ILL options available to you. This is a time-consuming process, but it should be completed during the first 4 weeks of the semester.
2. **Primary Research Component:** Shaped by information provided by the literature search, you will **design a research project**. You should think about ways to make your project different from the ones you have uncovered during the literature search, so that your study will produce new insights into the topic. Why will this project be important? How will you test your hypothesis or identify significant patterns in your data? What implications might your findings have? You will be responsible for conducting the project as well as gathering and analyzing the data produced.
3. **The Paper:** A **draft** of your research paper is due **NO LATER THAN March 6th** and will be returned to you for revisions. **The final paper is due the last day of classes, May 12th**. The length of your paper will depend on the topic being researched, but should be no less than 20 pages of text. You should follow the guidelines spelled out in the "Writing Anthropology Papers" handout, and your paper **must be submitted to SafeAssign**, which can be found on the MyClasses site: there is a DRAFT option where you can check your paper for plagiarism without penalty, but you must submit it to the FINAL option for my review. Assignments will lose a **letter grade (10%) for each day** they are late.
4. **The Presentation:** An oral presentation of your research should be given at an appropriate national or regional conference, at an SU presentation forum, or as an invited speaker in an SU class. Your presentation should include a summary of your literature search as well as your own findings, with a conclusion that relates them to each other. The presentation should be at least 20 minutes in length, with time set aside for questions from the audience if allowed by the conference format.

Grading

Grading will follow SU policies for the 2008–2009 academic year. The final grade for the course will be based as follows:

Weekly meetings	15% of total grade
Literature research/primary research	15% of total grade
Paper draft	15% of total grade
Final paper	25% of total grade
Presentation	30% of total grade

Grade scale: A = 100–90; B = 89–80; C = 79–70; D = 69–60; F = 59–0

Writing Across the Curriculum

In conformity with Salisbury University policy aimed at developing writing skills in all courses, this course will allow you to develop and demonstrate those skills through the preparation and revision of your paper.

Academic Integrity

The best learning environment is one based on mutual respect and trust. However, the desire to achieve a good grade without doing the necessary work or tight schedules tempt some students to cheat on exams or to represent the work of others as their own. **Plagiarism and cheating** are acts of academic dishonesty, and will be prosecuted as such. Instances of academic dishonesty include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Plagiarism: presenting as one's own work, whether literally or in paraphrase, the work of another author.
- Cheating on exams, tests, and quizzes; the wrongful giving or accepting of unauthorized exam material; and the use of illegitimate sources of information.
- Turning in the same paper for multiple courses.
- Unsanctioned collaboration with other individuals in the completion of course assignments.

There are **no** mitigating circumstances to justify academic dishonesty. If you are unclear about what exactly might be considered dishonest, please ask me before turning in your work: **ignorance is not an acceptable excuse**. All violations of the university's Policy on Student Academic Integrity will be reported to the Dean of Students. Those committing minor, "careless" ("running a red light") plagiarism will be given a chance to rewrite their papers and penalized 25% on the grade, **once**; substantial, flagrant, or repeated violations will earn a grade of zero for the assignment and possibly an F for the course. Students who have two or more reported academic integrity violations are automatically reviewed for possible suspension or expulsion from the university.