

Course Syllabus
Applied Anthropology
SYD 6901-U01 Special Topics - Applied Anthropology

Fall 2004. Tuesdays 2:00 to 4:45
University Park Campus
Florida International University

Course web page: <http://www.fiu.edu/~wiedmand/courses/appliedanthro/>

Version of August 30, 2004

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Applied Anthropology uses anthropological perspectives, methods and theories to solve human and environmental problems. This course is designed to prepare students to conduct research, teach, and practice applied anthropology in both academic and nonacademic settings. It emphasizes the theory, methods and skills necessary for successful professional roles working with non-profit institutions, companies, and governments to plan, implement, and evaluate programs, products, services, policies, and laws. It will focus on effecting policy changes at the international, national and local levels. Through an examination of the ongoing and dynamic interaction between theory and practice we will move towards a theory-practice synthesis.

REQUIRED BOOKS

Ervin, Alexander M

2005 Applied Anthropology: Tools and Perspectives for Contemporary Practice. Boston:
Allyn and Bacon. ISBN 0-205-41409-5.

Hill, Carole E. and Marietta L. Baba, Editors

1999 The Unity of Theory and Practice in Anthropology: Rebuilding a Fractured Synthesis.
NAPA Bulletin 18. Washington: American Anthropological Association.

Nolan, Riall W.

2002 Anthropology in Practice: Building a Career Outside the Academy.
Lynne Rienner Publishers.

Sabloff, Paula. Editor

2000 Careers in Anthropology: Profiles of Practitioner Anthropologists.
NAPA Bulletin 20. Washington: American Anthropological Association.

INSTRUCTOR

Dennis Wiedman, Ph.D. Associate Professor. Department of Sociology and Anthropology.

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Email communication must be within WebCT. I try to respond to emails within three days.

REQUIREMENTS

Following a seminar format, course participants are expected to actively engage in class discussions by being prepared to discuss the assigned readings and by leading presentations and discussions. Items are submitted via WebCT. Components of the course are as follows:

Discussion of Readings: Participants will take turns leading discussion on course readings. The readings and presentation dates will be assigned in the first two weeks of the semester. To focus the discussion, write a 250 word summary of the assigned reading concluding with two discussion questions. Submit to course participants within WebCT by 5:00 PM the Sunday night prior to our Tuesday class. During class, summarize the readings and lead the discussion based on your insights.

Practitioner Profile: This component provides insights into the variety of career opportunities as well as the career tracks of leading practitioners in the field. Select an applied practitioner from Paula Sabloff's "Careers in Anthropology: Profiles of Practitioner Anthropologists," or alternates approved by the instructor. What influenced their applied career? Where are they now? What issues have they addressed since then? Have they influenced changes in processes, procedures or policies? Have they improved the human condition? What theoretical paradigm(s) guide their work? Write a 500-1000 word summary and make a presentation to the class. Submit via WebCT up until deadline of October 1, at 5:00 PM.

Career Portfolio: This is designed to refine the communication of your qualifications and skills. Compile a selection of your professional vision, experiences and philosophies into a presentable format including such items as a vision, resume, curriculum vitae, introductory letter, sample work, teaching and research philosophies. A series of projects throughout the semester will guide the development of your portfolio.

Enhancement of AppliedAnthro.net. This component enables you to become aware of the wide variety of applied and practitioner roles, and to discover the resources that professional organizations provide to practicing and applied anthropologists. AppliedAnthro.net is being developed by the AAA/SfAA Commission of Applied Anthropology to serve as a clearinghouse for the wide array of Internet information on applied anthropology. It is designed to bring information to the public, students and professionals. Review the web site and make recommendations for improvement by refining existing pages or suggesting new ones. Each student will focus on an employment sector or a set of on-line resources. To enhance these pages locate professional organizations, major publications, graphic images or related resources. Present your recommendations to the class as a MS Word, PowerPoint, or HTML file that can be shown via an LCD projector for class discussion. Items considered significant will be recommended to AppliedAnthro.net for implementation.

Issue Analysis: Becoming knowledgeable about a specific issue, how it has been addressed, and how it could be further addressed is key to applying anthropology. Write a 1000 word statement on a significant aspect or issue that could be addressed by applied anthropology. Summarize the relevant publications, critique the approaches, and discuss the opportunities and barriers. Highlight the theory and methods that have been used to address the issues and recommend perspectives and methods that could be used in the future.

Organizational Analysis: This final paper and presentation for the course brings together all the components of the course by addressing an issue that is important to an organization. It should be two self-contained items based on original social science research, such as rapid ethnographic assessment, interviews, document content analyses, etc. Part I should describe an organization's culture; its values, mission, goals, policies, funding, etc. Propose social science research that would provide the organization strategies to address a major issue. Ideally, an issue the organization considers important. In Part II articulate the theoretical paradigm that best explains the issue and the proposed research strategies citing books and articles where appropriate.

Participation: During class, and in WebCT, take an active role in discussing the readings, topics and issues. Students should be prepared to verbally and in writing demonstrate their comprehension of the class presentations and integration of the reading materials.

STYLE GUIDE

To promote your development of a professional writing style, in all written assignments use the style and format prescribed by the *American Anthropologist*. See the AAA Style Guide at http://www.aaanet.org/pubs/style_guide.htm

GRADING

Presentation of Readings	20
Practitioner Profile	15
Enhancement of AppliedAnthro.net	10
Issue Analysis	20
Organizational Analysis	20
Career Portfolio	10
Overall Course Participation	5
TOTAL POINTS	

ACADEMIC ETHICS

It is strictly prohibited to submit as one's own work material provided by a professional research agency, the Internet, or other persons. A grade of F for the course will be assigned to any student who violates these principles. The instructor also has the authority to consider academic misconduct charges that carry considerable penalties. Please consult the University student handbook for further information on plagiarism and its consequences.

Course Reading Schedule

Readings and Projects are to be completed by the date.

Week One: August 31: First Day of Class

Course Overview

Week Two: September 7

Readings: Ervin, Chapters 1, 2, 3.

Sabloff, Introduction, pages 1-4.

Nolan, Preface, Pages ix – xiii.

Hill and Baba, “Preface” by Laura Nader.

Projects: “Initial Vision”

Submitted via WebCT by 5:00 pm, Sept 5, and printed copy brought to class.

Week Three: September 14

Readings: Ervin, Chapters 4, 5, 6.

Sabloff, Section I: Practitioners in the Private Sector

Hill and Baba – “Strategic Issues for Rebuilding a Theory and Practice Synthesis,”
by Carole Hill.

Projects: “Resume”

WebCT deadline by 5:00 pm, Sept 12, and printed copy brought to class.

Week Four: September 21

Readings: Ervin, Chapters 7, 8, 9.

Sabloff, Section II: Policy, Human Rights and Advocacy Practitioners.

III: Government, Human Services and Museum Practitioners.

Hill and Baba: “Theories of Practice in Anthropology: A Critical Appraisal,” by
Marietta Baba.

Week Five: September 28

Readings: Ervin, Chapters 10, 11, 12.

Sabloff, Section IV: International Development Practitioners.

V.: Academically Centered Practitioners.

Hill and Baba, “The Rise of Anthropological Praxis,” by Kathryn Kozaitis.

Projects: “Practitioner Profile.” WebCT Deadline October 1, 5:00 PM.

Week Six: October 5

Readings: Ervin Chapters 13, 14, 15.

Nolan, Chapter 1: Anthropological Practice

Hill and Baba, “The Culture Concept and Applied Anthropology,” by Michael
Angrosino..

Week Seven: October 12

Readings: Ervin, Chapters 16 and 17.

Nolan, Chapter 2, Preparation for the Field.

Hill and Baba, “Culture Concepts in Business Anthropology of Quality Management,”
by Tomoko Hamada.

Week Eight: October 19

Readings: Nolan, Chapter 3, Career Planning

Hill and Baba, "Theory and Practice by Anthropologists," by James Peacock.

Projects: "Issue Analysis" WebCT deadline by October 22, 5:00 PM.

Week Nine: October 26

Readings: Nolan, Chapter 4, Getting In: Finding Your Job.

Hill and Baba, "Recasting the Debate: Development Theory and Anthropological Practice," by Peter Little.

Week Ten: November 2

Readings: Nolan, Chapter 5, Work Survival: Organizations, Management and Ethics.

Hill and Baba, "Theory and Practice in Environmental Anthropology," by Emilio Moran.

Week Eleven: November 9

Readings: Nolan, Chapter 6, Making it Count: Advancing the Profession.

Hill and Baba, "Reflections on Theory and Practice in Cultural Anthropology: Excerpts from Three Articles," by Fredrik Barth.

Projects: "Career Portfolio." WebCT deadline November 12, 5:00 PM.

Week Twelve: November 16

Topic: Student Presentations

Readings: Hill and Baba, "Theory-Practice Relations in Anthropology: A closing Commentary and Provocation," by Davydd Greenwood.

Week Thirteen: November 23

Topic: Student Presentations

Projects: "Vision" WebCT deadline November 22, 9:00 AM.

Week Fourteen: November 30

Topic: Student Presentations

Projects: "Organizational Analysis" WebCt deadline. November 29, 9:00 AM.

Week Fifteen: December 7

Topic: "Organizational Analysis" Presentations

Week Sixteen

Final Exam: "Organizational Analysis" Presentations