

## Research Epistemology, Methods and Techniques

2015/2016

Code: 43142

ECTS Credits: 9

Degree	Type	Year	Semester
4313769 Anthropology: Advanced Research and Social Intervention	OT	0	1

### Contact

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### Teachers

Aurora González Echevarria

### Use of languages

Principal working language: spanish (spa)

### External teachers

Carles Feixa

William Jr. Christian

### Prerequisites

There are no previous requirements.

### Objectives and Contextualisation

- To know advanced epistemological and methodological knowledge.
- To combine different methodologies to reach relational and interpretative explanations which may allow an in-depth comprehension of our subject.
- To obtain a profound knowledge of some relational data gathering techniques and their organization.
- To reach a basic approach to audiovisual techniques so to be used in data gathering and further analysis.
- To know how audiovisual productions may be used as ethnographic documents.
- To be able to combine quantitative and qualitative techniques in specific ethnographic approaches.

### Skills

- Carry out ground-breaking, flexible research in anthropology by applying theories and methodologies and using appropriate data collection and analysis techniques.
- Continue the learning process, to a large extent autonomously
- Integrate knowledge and use it to make judgements in complex situations, with incomplete information, while keeping in mind social and ethical responsibilities.
- Know the methodological and epistemological developments in the fields of anthropology research and social intervention in contexts of cultural diversity.
- Make cross-cultural comparisons using the various procedures in anthropology.
- Make interpretations and relational explanations to assist in understanding specific ethnographic contexts.

- Systematically link up concepts, and theories within the discipline so as to analyse specific ethnographic contexts.
- Use acquired knowledge as a basis for originality in the application of ideas, often in a research context.
- Use information and communication technologies efficiently to acquire, create and spread knowledge.
- Work in teams, generating synergies in work environments where different people need to collaborate and coordinate themselves.

## Learning outcomes

1. Apply critical procedures to the correction of interpretative schema.
2. Critically analyse audiovisual documents as ethnographic documents.
3. Differentiate between theoretical concepts, concepts belonging to the culture of the anthropologist and those belonging to the culture under study.
4. Find original ways to combine ideas, based on the knowledge acquired, within research work on anthropology and social intervention.
5. Identify important elements in an interview, or in a particular ethnographic observation, that help to formulate judgments and reflect on social and ethical responsibilities in anthropology.
6. Identify the forms of cross-cultural comparison used in the formulation and development of anthropological theories.
7. Identify the most appropriate information-compiling techniques for drawing up life histories and biographies and in order to reconstruct social events through witness accounts.
8. Modify and amplify categories of analysis in context by applying a theoretically-oriented abductive contrastive logic.
9. Under the supervision of tutors, carry out all the stages of a research project and/or an intervention (documentation, reflection, analysis of data and writing) in the context of the anthropology master's dissertation.
10. Understand and use information and communication technologies in accordance with the ethnographic context chosen for study and/or intervention.
11. When comparing two theories, differentiate between comprehension of underlying cultural content and assessment of empirical appropriateness.
12. Work in coordination with other team members on the analysis of anthropological studies and on compiling and analysing ethnographic data.

## Content

1. Methodological and epistemological orientations in Anthropology.
  - 1.1. Theoretical tools to cancel the opposition between scientific methodologies and hermeneutic methodologies.
  - 1.2. Hermeneutics as ontology and as methodology. Interpretation procedures.
  - 1.3. Ethnographies as predicates of structure that integrate relationships between sociocultural structures, processes and meanings.
  - 1.4. Epistemological critique of ethnographies. Parallelisms and discrepancies between Fleck, Pike and Agar.
2. Life Histories.
  - 2.1. The concept of "Life history".
  - 2.2. The autobiographic imagination.
  - 2.3. The construction of the life history.
3. The Use of photography in anthropological documentation. Personal and familial images as ethnographic and historical source.

3.1. Multi-generational photographic material.

3.2. Multi-generational pictures. Images of presence and absence.

3.3. What is seen and what is not in a picture.

3.4. the life cycle of a picture.

4. Audiovisual Anthropology.

4.1. Audiovisual Anthropology: theoretical issues.

4.2. The audiovisual text. Audiovisual productions within research projects.

4.3. Ethnography and documentary.

4.4. Fiction: reflections and refractions.

4.5. Some examples of anthropological research combining ethnographic film, fiction and ethnography.  
Audiovisual technologies for Anthropological research: new formats.

## Methodology

- Lectures and master classes
- Reading and analysis of academic articles / reports
- Presentation / oral expositions
- Personal study
- Tutoring
- Essay preparation and writing.

## Activities

Title	Hours	ECTS	Learning outcomes
<b>Type: Directed</b>			
Lectures and master classes	56.25	2.25	2, 3, 11, 5, 6, 8, 10
Reading and analysis of academic articles / reports	25.5	1.02	5, 7
<b>Type: Supervised</b>			
Presentation / oral expositions	26.25	1.05	2, 1, 12, 10
Tutoring	30	1.2	9, 5
<b>Type: Autonomous</b>			
Essay preparation and writing	38	1.52	1, 4, 12, 10
Personal Study	49	1.96	3, 11, 6, 8

## Evaluation

Attendance and active participation in the classroom: 10-20%

Submissions: 20-30%

Individual Essay: 50-60%

The student must attend a minimum of the 80% of lectures in every block and submit all required evaluation evidences (essays, reports...), as well as the individual paper. Once this condition is fulfilled, the final module grade will be the result of the aforementioned proportions for every evaluable item. To pass the module the minimum grade is 5/10. Failing in the accomplishment of any evaluation requirements would result in the consideration of "not assessable". Exceptionally, the MA program Committee may consider duly justified cases and propose an alternative evaluation procedure.

The due date for the final individual paper in this module is 29 January 2016. (Please, check regularly the Virtual Campus).

All information concerning the evaluation evidences will be published in the module section of the Virtual Campus.

## Evaluation activities

Title	Weighting	Hours	ECTS	Learning outcomes
Attendance and active participation in the classroom.	20%	0	0	3, 11, 6, 8
Individual essay	50%	0	0	4, 7, 10
Submissions	30%	0	0	1, 4, 12, 10

## Bibliography

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