ANTH 4931: Special Topics
The Role of MU Anthropology in Personal Formation and Career Preparation
(or) MU Anthropology Program Assessment
3 credits

Course Instructor: Dr. Alexandra Crampton
Office hours: Monday/ Wednesday 2-3, #410 Lalumiere Hall

Meeting Times: A one hour meeting per week, 5-6 pm on Thursdays. 1 hour for a client presentation scheduled for 4/21 from 2-3 pm. Most time will be spent "in the field" and doing research.

Required Materials:
- Nolan, R. W. (2017). Using anthropology in the world: a guide to becoming an anthropologist practitioner. Routledge.
- Additional required readings (posted on D2L)
  - Choice of 1 out of 3 of my articles that describe research design and methods as they unfolded
  - Ethnographic studies of U.S. college student experiences and perspectives:
    - Teti, Michelle, et al. "Using peer-ethnography to explore the health and well-being of college students affected by COVID-19." *International journal of qualitative studies on health and well-being* 18.1 (2023): 2261841.
    - Hamilton, Laura, and Elizabeth A. Armstrong. "*Paying for the Party*." *Inequality in the 21st Century*. Routledge, 2018.
    - Horowitz, Helen Lefkowitz. *Campus life*. Knopf, 2013.
    - Beste, Jennifer Erin. *College hookup culture and Christian ethics: The lives and longings of emerging adults*. Oxford University Press, 2018.

Course Description: The purpose of this course is to train students in anthropological research that engages a real-world question. The general question is how the MU anthropology program contributes to the university mission of student formation as "whole persons" and in preparation and progress for success (and careers) post-graduation. The course is designed as an academic seminar that meets weekly for an hour as well as a professional consultant project under the direction of Anthropology Career Readiness Network (ACRN), a nonprofit organization committed to helping students and faculty identify practical applications for anthropology in real-world careers. Course outcomes include a professional presentation for the Department of Social and Cultural Sciences as well as the Dean of Arts and Sciences. MU Anthropology program assessment will include strengths and weaknesses of the current MU program and proposals for strengthening the program as a standalone major, as part of an interdisciplinary major, and as a contributor to the Marquette Core Curriculum. This project is pursued within a national context in which academic anthropology programs have been shrinking and yet applied and professional anthropology associations have been growing.

Course Design: Students will work as co-researchers with the instructor as Principal Investigator. The project will be launched in the first 3 weeks of the semester and include weekly readings. Then, the project shifts into data collection through fieldwork, interviews, a survey and document collection about the MU Anthropology program as well as research to learn more about university mission and the wider contexts of career path exploration and development. The last few weeks of the course will be focused on developing and presenting a professional presentation for the "clients," who are the Department Chair of the Social and Cultural Sciences Department and the Acting Dean of the College of Arts & Sciences. In addition to the general research questions, students will collaboratively identify questions of interest, such as the role of AI in education and career preparation.

Course Learning Objectives:
- Students learn through readings, discussion and practice how to conduct and complete an applied research project using an anthropological approach

- Professional experience in conducting a project and presenting to clients
- Skills and experience working collaboratively on a research team
- Written and verbal communication skills through working on the above

Assignments and Assessment:

This course is designed as an applied anthropology project rather than a formal academic course. However, it will be necessary to assign letter grades. Grades will reflect completion of basic requirements to put 6 hours of data collection and 1 hour of team meetings in every week (students are allowed to miss up to 2 weeks of scheduled meetings without having to withdraw from the course). Here is how the research work will be graded: As part of data collection, students will write up field notes and analytic memos, as well as gather and analyze documents. A basic grade of a "B" will be fulfilled through completing 6 hours per week of research and one hour per week of meeting. Students will keep a log of how they spend their time. Grades beyond this basic "B" will be assessed at the midterm based on analytic memos and preliminary analysis papers. Details for each will be explained at least one week before each due date. The final course grade will further assess 2-3 more of such assignments as well as contributions to a final project, which is the presentation for the "clients" — the department chair and Dean. In addition, students interested in extra credit may work on grant proposals, conference abstracts/ presentations, public facing sharing of preliminary results (such as an MU ANTH blog), and/or an academic paper to submit by the end of the semester.

Grading Scale:

94-100= A	88-89=B+	78-79 = C+	68-69 = D+	<60 = F
90-93 = A-	84-87 = B	74-77 = C	60-67 = D	
	80-83 = B-	70-73 = C-		

Class Schedule of Meetings & Assignments:

Part One:
Getting Started, Weeks 1-2: Introductions, course expectations, and human subjects training
Read in Nolan, "A Few Things Before We Start" and Part 1: The Discipline
Readings on my ethnographic projects as examples of how fieldwork yields results
No Peace in the House, Ethnographic Refusal, Social Disability as Disaster
Readings from ethnographic studies of U.S. college experiences (see required readings)
Guest lecture from ACRN— the Anthropology Career Readiness Network
Students complete CITI training and review IRB requirements for human subjects research

Weeks 3-10: Research — data collection in three areas:
1. The student experience; participant observation in courses; interviews with students, MU Anthropology faculty, and MU Anthropology alumni. Comparative perspectives of students (both ANTH majors/minors and not), faculty, and alums
2. MU mission in liberal arts education and the Jesuit Apostolic Preferences
3. Career paths, career readiness, and the evolving job market (including assessing ever-changing role & importance of AI

Part Two: Research & Client Presentation Preparation
Weeks 11-14: Research continues. Shift of focus from data collection into analysis using Dedoose. The team project begins work on a professional presentation.

Part Three: Client presentation and course wrap up
Week 14: Client presentation for the Dean and Dept. Chair
Week 15: An oral exam based on pre-circulated questions.