

GEOC Program Plan for Information Literacy

Major Program: Anthropology

Briefly describe how Information Literacy will be taught within your major program. List courses in which these skills will be embedded.

The Information Literacy Requirement for Anthropology majors is satisfied by completion of either ANTH 249 (Field Research in Social Settings) or ANTH 268 (Cultural Research). We interpret the Senate requirement to mean that "information literacy" does not refer strictly to library research skills but has specific and variable meaning within different disciplines. In Anthropology, we believe that the information literacy skills that we impart to our majors involve not just library-based research but also include the collection, organization, coding, and analysis of qualitative and quantitative data. Ethnographic data may take many forms, from lengthy narrative texts to demographic counts, and analysis ranges from content interpretation of texts to statistical testing of social and cognitive relationships. The two courses named both focus on sociocultural data processing. In these courses, students build on the information literacy they have gained in other courses by preparing a term research report based on both library-based and ethnographic field research. ANTH 249 presents a broad survey of methodological options and focuses on the collection of field data in various formats. ANTH 268 focuses more on the collection and quantitative analysis of cognitive data.

Among these classes' specific learning goals are:

By being guided through the steps of writing and revising proposals for their term projects, students will gain experience in framing viable field research hypotheses.

In the project formulation and implementation process, students will decide upon the nature and the extent of information needed to obtain valid answers to their research questions, using both library resources and ethnographic sources.

Principles regarding research ethics will be put into practice, including steps to shield the identity of interviewees and protect the confidentiality of information gathered through first-hand observation and interviews.

Beginning with the research proposal and continuing through the active research stage of their term projects, students will develop plans for accessing needed information from existing sources and via selection of appropriate ethnographic methods.

In the analysis and write-up stages of their projects, students will gain experience in organizing, evaluating and analyzing information as well as in drawing conclusions from the project data and assessing the data's limitations.

Are all these courses required of your students? If not, how will you assure that all students attain the exit expectations for Information Literacy?

Either ANTH 249 or ANTH 268 is required of all our majors, and both courses are designed to impart the skills described above.

Date of Approval by Faculty Committee ___1 May 2006_____

Date of Approval by School/College C&C Committee_____

Major Program contact person _____Professor Jocelyn Linnekin_____

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