



**Intercultural Encounters:
Through an Anthropological Lens
Dr. Anat Hecht**

Course Number: 702.2967

Class Time: TBA

Class Location: TBA

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Course Description

In an increasingly mobile and cosmopolitan world, intercultural encounters play a significant role. Israel in general, and Haifa in particular offer a unique opportunity to explore and experience such encounters at first hand. The course introduces students to the field of intercultural encounters from an Anthropological perspective. The sessions address a verity of theoretical and methodological issues, such as: cultural diversity, identity and belonging, interculturality, self and other, sameness and difference, tolerance, conflict and dialogue; accompanied by the art and craft of qualitative research, from ethnography, material culture and narrative analysis to in-depth interviewing.

Special emphasis is consequently placed upon the qualitative study of intercultural encounters and identities within an overall ethnographic framework, which merges both narrative analysis and material culture exploration. The weekly sessions will be accompanied by several selected readings, songs, movie-clips, photos and other means of enhancing the class presentations and discussions. However, the main emphasis will be on the “hands-on” experience and practice of *doing* qualitative research, rather than merely reading about it on a theoretical level. Students will therefore be expected to complete a series of practical, ethnographic exercises and small-scale research assignments, as well as share their experiences in class.

Course Requirements (Overview)

- Weekly Reading & Written Response Notes.
- Active Class Participation & Critical Reading / Viewing.
- “Food for Thought” Assignments & Ethnographic Exercises.
- Mid-Term Paper & Classroom Oral Presentation (PowerPoint).
- Final Term Paper (Individual, In-Depth Interviewing & Analysis).

Final Grade Distribution (Overview)

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| ➤ Active Participation & Response Notes | 10% |
| ➤ “Food for Thought” Assignments & Exercises | 20% |
| ➤ Mid-Term Paper & Classroom PowerPoint Presentation | 30% |
| ➤ Final Term Paper (Individual, In-Depth Interviewing & Analysis) | 40% |



Course Requirements & Assignments

The course is designed as an interactive, “hands-on” seminar and therefore requires students’ participation in assignments and class discussions. This entails responding to the course readings, lectures, presentations, songs, movie-clips and other viewed materials, as well as sharing experiences of ethnographic exercises and research assignments with their fellow classmates.

Consequently, students are required to submit weekly response notes for each text we review. This includes choosing and transcribing two or three sentences, or an entire paragraph, which you consider particularly significant to understanding the issues being discussed that week in class. After each quote, write a short response, stating the importance of the passage you choose, and in what way was it meaningful for you, both academically and personally, in terms of the critical thoughts and intellectual / cultural / emotional responses it evoked.

In addition, students are required to submit written accounts of their ethnographic exercises and small-scale research assignments, as well as share these experiences in class.

The response notes and research assignments will not be corrected for grammar, spelling, etc., nor will they be graded. However, students will receive constructive comments on notes and, in particular, on the ethnographic exercises they present in class. All response notes, research assignments and ethnographic exercises must be submitted (via email) the weekend before we discuss these specific texts or assignments in class. These jointly constitute 30% of the overall grade. Points will be deducted for notes, exercises, assignments and papers that are handed in late, or not at all.

Students are further required to submit an individually written mid-term paper, which will summarize and demonstrate the theoretical readings, as well as the practical aspects discussed and experienced thus far. The written paper will be submitted (via email) and presented in class, as a PowerPoint presentation. This constitutes an additional 30% of the overall grade.

The most crucial component is the final, individual, term paper, which constitutes 40% of the overall grade. This final paper will be based on conducting, transcribing, and analyzing in-depth, life-story interviews, reflecting informants’ intercultural encounters, experiences and identities. The final paper must be submitted (via email) by the last day of term, at the latest.

All of the obligatory reading materials (as well as some of the recommended reading) have been scanned for your use and are available online, as part of the course’s website on Moodle. Copies of books and articles are also available at the University’s library. An extensive, full syllabus and a week-by-week session summary, incorporating the weekly required (and recommend) readings, as well as the detailed, ethnographic exercises and research assignments, are also available on the course’s website.

Looking forward to our sessions!
Warm Wishes,
Anat