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

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

Nolan, Riall W.

Sabloff, Paula. Editor
INSTRUCTOR
Dennis Wiedman, Ph.D.  Associate Professor. Department of Sociology and Anthropology.
Phone 305-348-2262. Office: University Park DM, 336B. Biscayne Bay AC 1, 310.
Office Hours: By appointment or UP - Tues. 10 to 12 PM.   BBC - Thurs. 10 to 12 PM.
Email: Wiedmand@fiu.edu   Web Page: www.fiu.edu/~wiedmand
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](http://www.aaanet.org/pubs/style_guide.htm)

**GRADING**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Presentation of Readings</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Practitioner Profile</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Enhancement of AppliedAnthro.net</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Issue Analysis</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Organizational Analysis</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Career Portfolio</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overall Course Participation</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**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.
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.
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.
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
Projects: “Issue Analysis” WebCT deadline by October 22, 5:00 PM.

Week Nine: October 26
Readings: Nolan, Chapter 4, Getting In: Finding Your Job.

Week Ten: November 2
  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

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