University of Gdańsk

Subject card

Subject name and code	Methods of Field Research – lecture, PG_00200586		
Field of study	Ethnology		
Date of commencement of studies	October 2026	Academic year of realisation of subject	2026/2027
Education level	Bachelor's studies	Subject group	Obligatory subject group in the field of study Subject group related to scientific research in the field of study
Mode of study	full-time studies	Mode of delivery	at the university
Year of study	1	Language of instruction	Polish
Semester of study	2	ECTS credits	4.0
Learning profile	academic	Assessment form	exam
Conducting unit			
Name and surname of lecturer (lecturers)	Subject supervisor	dr Kamil Pietrowiak	
	Teachers	dr Kamil Pietrowiak	

Lesson types	Lesson type	Lecture	Tutorial	Laboratory	Project	Seminar	SUM
	Number of study hours	30.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	30
	E-learning hours included: 0.0						

Learning activity and number of study hours	Learning activity	Participation in didactic classes included in study plan	Participation in consultation hours	Self-study	SUM
	Number of study hours	30	2.0	68.0	100

Subject objectives	To familiarize students with the basic methods of field research in cultural anthropology. To develop skills in conducting ethnographic research.

Learning outcomes

Course outcome	Subject outcome	Method of verification
[ETNOL3_W02] Has an advanced and detailed knowledge about terminology, theories, and methodology of culture and religion studies (in the area of ethnology and cultural anthropology)	the student has a well-structured knowledge of anthropological field research methods	[SW4] test/exam - oral or written [SW1] oral statement/ conversation/discussion
[ETNOL3_K05] Is aware of the dilemmas associated with practicing the profession	the student is aware of the challenges involved in the work of an anthropologist	[SK1] oral statement/conversation/ discussion [SK4] test/exam - oral or written [SK8] observation of student's independent or team work
[ETNOL3_U04] Is able to use information and communication technologies, multimedia and online resources. They are able to critically evaluate and analyse the online resources they use	the student is able to use new technologies in the anthropologist's workshop	[SU1] oral statement/conversation/ discussion [SU4] test/exam - oral or written [SU8] observation of student's independent or team work
[ETNOL3_U08] Has the ability to argue substantively using the views of other authors and to formulate conclusions	The student is capable of discussing the arguments.	[SU1] oral statement/conversation/ discussion [SU4] test/exam - oral or written [SU8] observation of student's independent or team work
[ETNOL3_K06] Is convinced of the importance of behaving in a professional manner, reflecting on ethical issues, and observing professional ethics	the student recognises the ethical dimension of personal and professional behaviour	[SK1] oral statement/conversation/ discussion [SK4] test/exam - oral or written [SK8] observation of student's independent or team work
[ETNOL3_U10] Can effectively plan and organise their work individually and in a team	the student has the ability to plan and carry out independent work	[SU1] oral statement/conversation/ discussion [SU4] test/exam - oral or written [SU8] observation of student's independent or team work
[ETNOL3_U02] Is able to apply appropriate research tools and methods of the scientific toolbox of an ethnologist and cultural anthropologist in order to solve problems formulated by themselves or by others	the student has the ability to use anthropological methodology	[SU1] oral statement/conversation/ discussion [SU4] test/exam - oral or written [SU8] observation of student's independent or team work
[ETNOL3_K01] Knows the extent of their knowledge and skills, organises their work effectively, and critically evaluates the extent to which it has progressed	the student is conscious of his/her level of knowledge	[SK1] oral statement/conversation/ discussion [SK4] test/exam - oral or written [SK8] observation of student's independent or team work

Subject contents

1. Definition, purpose and types of field research.

2. Formulation of the research problem and research group.

3. Research planning and preparation of research tools.

4. types of observation.

5. types of interviews.

6. keeping a research diary.

7. foundational sources and their analysis.

8. autoethnography.

9. photography and film as research tools. Analysis of visual data.

10. field research in digital space. Methods and challenges of digital ethnography.

11. Ethical aspects and challenges of ethnographic research.

12. coding and data analysis.

13. interpretation and presentation of results.

Prerequisites and co-requisites

Assessment methods and criteria

Subject passing criteria	Passing threshold	Percentage of the final grade
active discussion during the lecture	51.0%	30.0%
oral or written exam	51.0%	70.0%

Recommended reading	Basic literature	Angrosino M., Badania etnograficzne i obserwacyjne, Warszawa, 2010 Buliński T., Kairski M. (red.) Teren w antropologii. Praktyka badawcza we współczesnej antropologii kulturowej, Poznań 2011 Charmaz C., Teoria ugruntowana. Praktyczny przewodnik po analizie jakościowej, Warszawa: PWN, 2009. Hammersley M., Atkinson P. Metody badań terenowych, Warszawa, 2000 Seria Niezbędnik badacza, PWN, Warszawa 2011
	Supplementary literature	Barley N., Niewinny antropolog, 1997 Rabinow P., Refleksje na temat badań terenowych w Maroku, Warszawa 2010 Badania jakościowe, T. 1 i 2, Dariusz Jelemniak (red.) Warszawa: PWN, 2012. Rose G., Interpretacja materiałów wizualnych. Krytyczna metodologia badań nad wizualnością, Warszawa: PWN, 2010. Surmiak A., Etyka badań jakościowych w praktyce. Analiza doświadczeń badaczy z osobami podatnymi na zranienie, Warszawa: Scholar, 2022.
	eResources addresses	
Example issues/ example questions/ tasks being completed	1. Introduction to field research: definitions, objectives and basic types. 2. Formulation of the research problem and selection of the participant group. 3. Research planning, preparation of tools and participant contact strategies. 4. Exercises in participant and non-participant observation. 5. Review and practice of different types of interviews: free, in-depth, narrative. 6. Keeping a research diary and documenting the research process. 7. Analysing secondary sources, including texts, documents and archival material. 8. Introduction to autoethnography and reflexivity in qualitative research. 9. Working with visual tools: photography, film and analysis of visual materials. 10. Methods and challenges of digital ethnography, coding, interpretation and presentation of data.	
Work placement	Not applicable	

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