



COURSE UNIT DESCRIPTION

Course unit title	Code
CULTURE FIELDWORK FOR BETTER KNOWLEDGE COMMUNICATION	
Annotation	
This module will teach the practice of thick description, drawing on the work of Clifford Geertz and other anthropologists. These methods are defined as a way of conveying the cultural context and meaning that people give to actions, words, objects, etc. It is hoped that students who come from abroad and are not part of the local culture will be able to understand and explain the meaning of 'local' behaviour by applying insights from anthropology and communication studies. Students will also learn about the study of languages and cultures in the field of environmental communication, the importance of fieldwork in international relations	

Name of lecturer	Department
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Study cycle	Course unit level	Course unit type
Bachelor/Master studies	For students from abroad	Optional

Study method	Semester	Language of instruction
Lectures, seminars, individual work, reading of the relevant literature, cultural activities and educational excursions, writing fieldwork diary on a daily basis during studies, preparing of "thick description" at the end of semester, presentations.	Autumn/Spring	English (with options in German, Polish, Russian)

Requirements for students	
None required, but experience of social science or humanities approaches is valuable	Creativity for self-regulated learning

ECTS credits	The entire student workload	Contact hours	Self-learning hours
5	130	30	100

Aim of the module (course unit): competences foreseen by the study programme
In the 21st century, anthropological studies of the cultural fieldwork have taken on a new meaning. They are applied in the areas of international relations, political communication, heritage information and communication, etc. The aim of the module is to understand and apply, through teaching and learning, the principles of observation and recording in a chosen cultural field. It is expected that at the end of the semester a "thick" description will be produced as a field diary of an anthropologist. It should consist of a collage of narratives based on observation, experience, readings, quotations, and a variety of impressions. A thick description explains not only human behaviour but also its context. In this case, the context consists of a new environment, enriched with new linguistic and cultural experiences. It is therefore important to

understand this environment adequately and to convey the new knowledge and experience in an appropriate form. This module would therefore teach the practices of thick description, drawing on the work of Clifford Geertz and other anthropologists. These are defined as a way of conveying the cultural context and meaning that people give to actions, words, objects, etc. It is hoped that students who come from abroad and are not part of the local culture will be able to understand and explain the meaning of 'indigenous' behaviour by applying insights from anthropology and communication studies.

Learning outcomes of the module (course unit)	Teaching/learning methods	Assessment methods
- Knowing of cultural life in Vilnius and Lithuania, data collection in urban environment	Educational excursions. Fieldwork method.	Group discussion
- Knowing of theoretical works about culture fieldwork	Reading. Lecture and consultations. Online learning modules.	Control talking with teachers
- The course will encourage students to develop their analytical skills in response to a variety of kinds of texts	Team-based learning, deep reading and critical analysis	Chat with other students and teachers, debate and creative presentation.
- Ability to fix personal impressions as a prerequisite for creating of anthropologist's diary	Monitoring of everyday life and cultural events in the city with component of self-monitoring	Written reflections
- Ability to create a thick description from foreigner's perspective for knowledge communication	Individual work under supervision of teachers, presentation	Peer assessment

Themes							Tasks
	Lectures	Consultations	Seminars	Practical work	Total contact work	Individual work	
Introductory lecture. Nature of cultural studies: anthropological approach.	2				2		Talk show about personal experience in home country and abroad (student stories etc.). Reading literature: 2, p. 16-23; 6, see: https://www.academia.edu/5181772/Fieldwork_Doing_Anthropology_Around_the_World . Preparing for the seminar discussion
Relevant literature. Interpretive Theory of Culture and Ethnographic Method in Thick Description	2		2		4	18	Reading and comprehending literature; preparing for the seminar discussion: 1, see: http://hypergeertz.jku.at/GeertzTexts/Thick_Description.htm http://www.sociosite.net/topics/texts/Geertz_Thick_Description.php ; 7, see: https://www.discoveranth

							ropology.org.uk/
How to be an anthropologist? Data about lifestyle, habits and beliefs and tools for documentation and communication	2		2		4	12	Preparing of anthropologist's diary. Reading and comprehending literature: 7, see https://www.discoveranthropology.org.uk/ ; 2, p. 24-37
Studies across languages and cultures in environmental communication fieldwork. Ethnographic fieldwork in international relations	2		2		4		Reading literature: 3, p. 36-56; 4, p.1300-1327
Lost in the City? Psychological impact and variety of techniques to gather data	2		2		4	10	Reading and comprehending literature. 6, see: https://www.academia.edu/5181772/Fieldwork_Doing_Anthropology_Around_the_World . Exploring of urban environment.
In Vilna veritas: city of strangers. Traumatic memory. Cultural norms and ceremonies	2		2		4	10	Educational excursions with tasks and questioning. Reading and comprehending literature. 8, p. 10-25; also: https://www.15min.lt/en/article/culture-society/vilnius-city-of-strangers-528-285102
Practical problems. Variety of techniques to gather data	2	2	2		6	20	Data collection and analysis, short presentation. Literature: 2, p. 62-75.
Final lecture. Essence of Multi-Sited Research. Issues.	2				4	30	Summarizing of fieldwork, preparing of thick description, final presentation. Discussion about experience in this module.
Total:	16	2	12		30	100	

Assessment strategy	Weight in %	Deadlines	Assessment criteria
Participation in lectures, educational excursions and seminars	30	Whole semester	Active participation. Projects and presentations.
Communication skills	20	Whole semester	The ability to communicate information, arguments, and analyses accurately and reliably, orally and in writing to a range of audiences.
Thick description of personal culture fieldwork: essay 1500-	50	End of semester	Originality and suitability for publication in mass media.

2000 words (without bibliography)			
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Author	Year of issue	Title	No of periodical or volume	Place of printing. Printing house or internet link
Compulsory literature				
1. GEERTZ, Clifford	1973	Thick Description: Toward an Interpretive Theory of Culture	The Interpretation of Cultures: Selected Essays, p. 3-30.	New York: Basic Books http://hypergeertz.jku.at/GeertzTexts/Thick_Description.htm http://www.sociosite.net/to pics/texts/Geertz_Thick_Description.php
2. BLOMMAERT, Jan, JIE, Dong	2012	Ethnographic Fieldwork : A Beginner's Guide		2nd edition. Bristol, UK : Multilingual Matters. 2020 (Available in Vilnius University Library)
3. BANERJEE, Paulami, SOWARDS, Stacey	2022	<u>Working across languages/cultures in international and environmental communication fieldwork</u>	Journal of international and intercultural communication, Vol.15 (1), p. 36-56	DOI: 10.1080/17513057.2020.1850844
4. NAIR, Deepak	2021	“Hanging Out” while Studying “Up”: Doing Ethnographic Fieldwork in International Relations International Studies Review	Vol.23 (4), p.1300-1327	DOI: 10.1093/isr/viab001
Additional literature				
5. SMIDCHENS, Guntis	2014	The Power of Song: Nonviolent National Culture in the Baltic Singing Revolution		University of Washington Press (Available in Vilnius University Library) Preview: https://books.google.lt/books?id=TfOAgAAQBAJ&lpg=PA3&dq=The%20Power%20of%20Song%3A%20Nonviolent%20National%20Culture%20in%20the%20Baltic%20Singing%20Revolution&pg=PR3#v=onepage&q&f=false
6. FERA, Nafisa (Ed.)	2013	Fieldwork: Doing Anthropology Around the World		The Royal Anthropological Institute of Great Britain and Ireland https://www.academia.edu/5181772/Fieldwork_Doing_Anthropology_Around_the_World

7. FERA, Nafisa (Ed.)	2017	Discover Anthropology [Website]		The Royal Anthropological Institute of Great Britain and Ireland https://www.discoveranthropology.org.uk/
8. BRIEDIS, Laimonas	2016	Vilnius: City of Strangers		Vilnius: Baltos lankos (Available in Vilnius University Library)