

Honors Fieldwork Methods

College of Music IFS Courses

**So... Whom do you want
to meet?**

Project description

- Ethnography of a musical activity in your community
- What is the role of that activity in people's lives

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Steps

- Research
- Proposal
- Research
- Fieldwork
- First draft
- Revision
- Final submission

Project description

- Ethnography of a musical activity in your community
- What is the role of that activity in people's lives

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A different kind of research

Ethnography

Description of the customs of people and individuals (the internet said so)

Fieldwork

Collecting information outside of the lab

(Need to know? Go ask!)

A different kind of research

Ethnography

Description of the customs of people and individuals (the internet said so)

Preparing for fieldwork

- Define your field... could be anywhere!
- Find people to talk to

What are some fields? Who might be able to give you insight into a community?

A different kind of research

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Preparing for fieldwork

- Define your field... could be anywhere!
- Find people to talk to
- Arrange times, places

Be respectful of these people's time and energy, they are giving you a gift.

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- Arrange times, places
- Gain access, permission

What types of projects may get sticky? What can you do?

A different kind of research

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Preparing for fieldwork

- Define your field... could be anywhere!
- Find people to talk to
- Arrange times, places
- Gain access, permission
- Do your research!

Ask yourself what you need to know, do some reading, come informed. Don't waste time.

Conducting an interview

Don't forget to:

- Introduce yourself and your project and ask for permission if you are recording
- Let the person across from you talk, but ask for clarification
- Summarize his or her points to be sure that you understand

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**Keep it open-ended: You don't know
where your fieldwork will take you**

Your project proposal

Parts of the proposal

- Topic
- Argument

Who will you work with?

What kind of music is it?

What do you hope to answer?

These can change, but keep me aware of major shifts.

Your project proposal

Parts of the proposal

- Methodology

Describe your research.

Is it feasible?

Will you participate?

Do you have permission,
technology, etc.?

Your project proposal

Parts of the proposal

- Analysis

What types of evidence will you need to make your argument?

How will you analyze it?

Your project proposal

Parts of the proposal

- Annotated bibliography

Follow the guidelines in the directions closely, especially regarding types of sources.

Analyze the structure of a musicology article as a model.

Your project proposal

Parts of the proposal

- Deadlines

Give three important self-imposed dates.

Deadlines for stages of research or major events.

Submission

First submission (draft)

- 4,000+ words (15 pages)
- Follow the guidelines and rubric closely
- Tell a story! And do it efficiently!
- Review the structure of the article you analyzed in your proposal

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Final submission

- Spend time revising
- Include any additional research you did
- Submit through the provided link

Submission

Tools to help?

- Your groups are all honors students
- Work together over the long haul
- Set deadlines and expectations for each other, don't fall behind
- Always ask questions

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