ANTHR 397/573 LEC 800
Fieldschool for Ethnographic Sensibility
This is Not a Syllabus

Instructor: Dr. Marko Zivkovic
Teaching Assistant: Mirjana Uzelac, MA
Preceptors: Laura Porter, Craig Farkash, Jillian Hunchak
May 30 - July 9 2016
6 credits

Overview
Hone your ethnographic sensibility through sensorium training methods developed in visual arts, performance, music and mindfulness. Break your perceptual habits and develop acute receptivity to the nuances of the ways people move and interact, use things and spaces, organize their time, mix smells and tastes, sit in a bus, or hail a taxi. Become a sensitive instrument for registering surprises and noting patterns in order to ultimately transpose them into ethnographic writing, film, photography, sound, or performance. In its second year, the Fieldschool is aimed at anthropologists and other social scientists who want to develop their ethnographic sensibility with the particular focus on non-verbal, embodied patterns of everyday life, artists who want to explore the convergences between ethnographic and artistic training, and designers, architects, urban-planners and others interested in engaging with their practice in a culturally sensitive way.

Prerequisites
Undergraduate and graduate students in good standing from any discipline. Introductory course in socio-cultural anthropology preferable but alternative prerequisites will be considered. No prior ethnographic field experience is necessary.
No knowledge of Serbian language needed.

Classroom Activities
Each morning in class, we will discuss new exercises and in the afternoons students will embark individually or in groups on field activities to try them out. Students will record observations of life in Belgrade using notebooks as daily journals. In each class we will share our observations and discuss the previous exercises before learning the next ones.

Week One and Two: Spaces, Places, and Objects
Students are introduced to literature on urban spaces as a point of entry to ethnographic fieldwork. What is the Kafana? The Market? Domestic Spaces? The Central Square? Bus routes? What sounds do we hear in different parts of Belgrade?

Field Trip to Sirogojno Open Air Museum
Thursday, June 2, we take a bus from Belgrade to an open air ethnology museum in Sirogojno. During this trip students will be introduced to the rustentricity. We will eat rustic food, sleep in rustic-style accommodations, and explore some of the local artisan skills and trades. We will visit Kustirica's Drvengrad in Mokra Gora and Andrić Grad in Višegrad, Bosnia. Hikes and nature explorations are likely.

Week Three: Things and Body
Building on the first two weeks, students are introduced to authors who dissect the cultural usage of things, the ways in which people move them and are moved by them. Can we discern patterns and rhythms to human movement and gestures in Belgrade? In this week students start thinking about their independent field projects. A mini-ethnography is due at the end of the week.
Weeks Four and Five: Workshops and Independent Field Projects
Week four will be devoted to specialized workshops in drawing, photography, sound recording and documentary filmmaking. Students will develop their independent field projects and submit draft proposals. We will also introduce ethics and ethical dilemmas in doing fieldwork.

Week Six: Final Exhibition
During this week field projects continue and students plan and prepare the Final Exhibition. Individual consultations instead of formal classes.

Grade Breakdown

Class Participation: You are expected to be on time and present for KC Grad classes. The start time is generally 10 am, except where noted. End time is generally 1 pm, unless specified. Class Readings will be highlighted on the weekly syllabus we will provide, and reconfirmed in class. Participation in class discussions is expected. Attendance and participation in class will contribute 30% of your total grade.

Notebook Exercises: Three weeks of notebook notes are worth 15% of your grade.

Mini-Ethnography: 2-3 page paper is worth 15% of your grade.

Final Exhibition: Your contribution to the final exhibition on July 2nd is worth 20% of your grade.

Final Paper: Your final paper, due August 15, is worth 20% of your grade.

Reading list

Pre-departure readings


Required readings


Supplementary readings
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Schedule for Week 1

Monday, May 30
10:00 – 11:30 Introductions, focusing and embodiment exercises led by Draginja Mileusnić
11:45 – 13:00 Introduction to the course. Serbia & Belgrade in context Marko

13:30 Lunch at Proleće
15:00 Walk to Beogradanka & getting bus passes

Afternoon assignment: Pick one place (café, a bench in a park, a square, etc.) and stay there for one hour. Observe attentively. Write down what you observed in your notebook.

Tuesday, May 31
10:00 – 11:00 Focusing & language games (preparation for the Farmer's Market) Draginja

Afternoon assignment: Pick a different place. Limit yourself to two sensory modalities and switch between them. Use Hall and Goffman readings to further limit your observations. Write it in your notebook.

19:00 – 21:30 Boat cruise in the Turtle. Assemble at KC Grad at 18:30.

Wednesday, June 1
8:00 – 10:00 Farmer's Market tour & exercise. Be ready at 8:00AM at the Hostel.
10:00 – 11:00 Focusing, language & other games Draginja

18:00 – ???? Meeting your host families & Belgrade anthropology students.

Thursday, June 2
10:00 – 11:30 Preparation for the field trip to Sirogojno @ KC Grad.
12:00 – 16:45 Bus trip to Sirogojno. Introduction to rusthenticity (See Farkash 2015). We will eat rustic food, sleep in rustic-style accommodations, and explore some of the local artisan skills and trades. We will visit Kusturica's Drvengrad in Mokra Gora and Andrić Grad in Višegrad, Bosnia. Exercises with Draginja. In-depth discussion of readings. Movie nights. General chilling. Hikes and nature explorations are likely. Bring your passports and swimsuits!!! Return to Belgrade June 7. Readings for Sirogojno:

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Schedule for Week 2

June 2 – June 7  Sirogojno excursion

Wednesday, June 8
Free day

Thursday, June 9
10:00 – 10:30 Focusing exercises led by Draganja Mileusnić
10:30 – 11:45 Sirogojno experience discussion; notebook feedback
12:00 – 13:00 In-class exercise: describe a familiar object


Assignment to be completed by Monday June 13: Pick one common, everyday object in your home-stay family and describe it minutely. You can use Mezzanine or Paraphernalia as a model.

Friday, June 10
10:00 – 10:30  Assembling at KC Grad, brief introduction to the mapping exercise
10:30 – 13:00 (flexible) Neighborhood mapping exercise (in three or four groups each led by a native)


Over the weekend assignments:
1. Write up the mapping exercise;
2. Continue the everyday object assignment due Monday, June 13
3. Start on body technique assignment due Friday, June 19.

Body technique assignment:

There are several ways you can go about this assignment. One is to pick a body technique that is ubiquitous (frequently used & easy to observe) in your homestay family. It is best to pick something that strikes you as different from the way you do things and that is, moreover, relatively easy to teach (i.e. vegetable chopping, fruit peeling, putting on shoes, clothes, etc.). Try to describe it as closely as you can in words. If possible, try to get your host to teach you how to do it. Prepare to demonstrate in class.

Another way is to pick an ubiquitous gesture, body technique, embodied practice, manner of behaving or bodily communication observable in public. Embracing, summoning/beckoning, greeting, smoking, drinking, carrying objects, etc. are some of examples. Describe in words as closely as you can. Try to imitate and prepare to demonstrate in class. Here are some helpful readings (beside Mezzanine which is a treasure-trove of body technique descriptions):


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Schedule for Week 3
Dale Pesmen’s Workshops

Monday, June 13
10:00 – 11:00 Everyday object assignment presentations
11:15 – 13:00 Dale Pesmen: introduction to workshops

Homework:
Spend a bit more time on your collection of paper. See if you can get a variety of sources, colors, etc. Again, no need to bring 100 items; 20 or something is fine. We will be pooling our resources, so if any of your foundlings are precious to you, make copies so you can keep one to use yourself.

Read for Tuesday:
http://www.nytimes.com/2016/04/03/magazine/a-too-perfect-picture.html?emc=eta1&_r=1
Robert Pirsig: excerpt from Zen in the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance

Tuesday, June 14 DP: Constraints
10:00 – 14:00 KC Grad (yes, an extra hour)
Bring your digital camera (could be your phone)

Homework:
Read for Wednesday:
- Overdetermination (1 p)
- Polyvalence (definition)
- Freud on Dreams (1 p)
- Harries: “The Veil of Isis” from The Meaning of Modern Art

Take photos (using what we discussed in class) and print a couple of your favorites to bring Wednesday. Write a short informal paragraph (250 words max) on what Harries’s own main idea/personal critique is in “The Veil of Isis.” Don’t spend a ton of time on it.

Wednesday, June 15 DP: Getting Things for Free
10:00 – 14:00
Bring your whole paper collection!
Bring your homework photos and thoughts on Harries.
Please bring scissors if you have access to a pair.

Homework:
Read for Thursday:
- John Ashbery: “As someone who likes travel.”
- Dale Pesmen: “A Boggy, Soggy, Squitchy Picture, Truly”

Prepare two printouts or photocopies of one paragraph from your notebook that you think has good ideas but may not be particularly well-written. Bring it on Thursday.
Thursday, June 16 DP: Kajmak
10:00 – 14:00
Bring two printouts or photocopies of a paragraph from your notebook, as described above.
Bring scissors if you have some.

Homework:
Read for Monday:
   David Foster Wallace: “Derivative Sport In Tornado Alley” from A Supposedly Fun Thing I’ll Never Do Again.
   Dale Pesmen: excerpts from Russia and Soul (pp. 4-6, 230-231)

Friday, June 17
10:00 – 11:00 Body technique assignment presentations
11:00 – 13:00 Andrija Stojanovic for Belgrade Sound Map: presentation and discussion

Over the weekend assignment:
See readings above.
Find another excerpt from your notebooks that you either like or that you think has promise, to bring and work with on Monday, June 20. One copy is fine, with some blank paper, but if you write on your laptop or tablet, bring that, definitely; it’ll help.
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**Schedule for Week 4**

**Monday, June 20**
10:00 – 14:00 Dale Pesmen workshop

Read:

- David Foster Wallace: Essay on Tennis from *A Supposedly Fun Think I’ll Never Do Again*

**Bring** a short piece of writing of your own, some material or a thought or observation, a paragraph or two, from your notes, that you feel you would like to take farther and develop, a fragment or note that touches on something you are actually interested in. Ideally you would bring your laptop or tablet, if you work on that; if necessary you can do the work on paper.

Also have the means to make and listen to a voice recording. Your phone is probably fine for that, or your laptop.

**Tuesday, June 21**
10:00 – 13:00 (flexible) Drawing workshop at Ivona’s studio in Novi Beograd, Gandijeva 100

**Wednesday, June 22**
10:00 – 11:30 (app) tour of the Serbian Orthodox Church Museum with Srdja Pavlovic and Bojan Popovic

**Thursday, June 23**
10:00 – 13:00 Belgrade Raw workshop

**Bring** no more than 20 photos (no larger than 6x9cm)

**Friday, June 24**
10:00 – 13:00 TBA
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Schedule for Week 5

Monday, June 27
10:00 – 11:00 Brainstorming the Exhibition (title, catalog, poster, technical and other issues)
11:30 – 13:00 Consultations at KC Grad (Marko, Mirjana & preceptors in attendance will be available to talk about your projects or anything at all)

Tuesday, June 28
10:00 – 12:00 Ethics of representation & recording of individual research projects (Dietlind and Marko would like to start recording you telling us about your projects in Belgrade for the final video)
Read:

Wednesday, June 29
10:00 – 11:30 Mirjana’s introduction to Nikola Tesla followed by the tour to the Nikola Tesla Museum (exact time of the tour to be announced)

Thursday, June 30
10:00 – 12:00 Final Exhibition Preparation Meeting & recording of individual research projects

Friday, July 1
13:00-16:00 Final Exhibition Setup time

Saturday, July 2
10:00 – 20:00 Final Exhibition Setup time
20:00 Exhibition opening

Sunday, July 3
14:00 – 20:00 Exhibition

Monday, July 4
14:00 – 17:00 Exhibition
17:00 – ??? Taking down the exhibition

Statements regarding student conduct from the office of the Dean of Arts
“The University of Alberta is committed to the highest standards of academic integrity and honesty. Students are expected to be familiar with these standards regarding academic honesty and to uphold the policies of the University in this respect. Students are particularly urged to familiarize themselves with the provisions of the Code of Student Behaviour (online at www.ualberta.ca/secretariat/appeals.htm) and avoid any behaviour which could potentially result in suspicions of cheating, plagiarism, misrepresentation of facts and/or participation in an offence. Academic dishonesty is a serious offence and can result in suspension or expulsion from the University.” (GFC 29 SEP 2003)

Specialized Support and Disability Services (SSDS):
Some specialized support services for students who require accommodations in this course due to disabilities affecting mobility, vision, hearing, learning, or mental or physical health are available in conjunction with Specialized Support and Disability Services, 2-800 Students’ Union Building, 492-3381 (phone) or 492-7269 (TTY).