

Community Organizations in Northern Ireland, Spring 2003
PSYC231/SOCI331
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ERES Password=Ireland

This is one of two core courses in the Bucknell in Northern Ireland Program. Students must register for one or the other of the two course numbers given above and they must also register for the other core course (PSYC330 or SOCI330). In this course students will participate in a field experience and that may be an organizational placement, a research project, or another creative project like filming of a videotape project. The other core course will include most of the assigned readings and will include lectures and tours. However, students are expected to put their readings and their experiences in the other course to work in this one.

The primary written assignment for this course is that students must write field notes that capture, summarize, and analyze all of the experiences you have in the community placement or setting. This does not mean that you will be keeping a time log of everything that you do. Rather, all of the experiences you have related to your field site are experiences that should be considered and included in your writing. If you are doing a project that involves data collection on your part (interviews, photo trips, sessions where you observe a social scene like a market) you still are expected to write reflective notes about what you did, how you felt, what you observed, and what you learned.

We have scheduled six days for students to work in community organizations. Students may find that they wish to do some of their work on some evenings or weekends. Students are expected to keep a written field notes log of these field experiences. You must hand in your field notes writing four times during the three weeks we spend in Northern Ireland at the times indicated in the course schedule below. We will provide detailed feedback on your writing and do so quickly so that it can inform your next writing. It is essential that you hand in your field notes on time and lateness will be severely penalized. After you have completed your four sets of field notes and received feedback, you must produce a final statement summarizing your field experience.

Most students will simply write a summarizing report on their field experience that tells what you learned and how your experience related to other aspects of your Bucknell in Northern Ireland experience (for example, you might reflect on the final panel that counts as part of the other core course). The final statement may be in some form other than a written report (it may be a videotape, for example) or it may be a composite of writing, photos, reports you have prepared for your host agency, or other materials that fits with your project.

At the end of each day where students are scheduled to work in their host organizations we will have an hour scheduled to discuss class materials, hear about your day, and share emotional reactions to all aspects of our experience in Northern Ireland. Some of these sessions will include discussions of specific topics like the importance and methods for protecting human subjects in our work or the technique of writing field notes. It is important that you also use these sessions to bring up any personal concerns you may have, to tell about anxiety producing or frightening experiences you have had, to

share worries about what lies ahead in the program, and to tell about the meaningful relationships you are developing in your field settings or even in your evening experiences.

The only readings for this course are two chapters from an unpublished manuscript by Carl Milofsky and Jo Anne Schneider, *A Guide to Ethnographic Field Research*. The whole manuscript is available on our ERES site. The required chapters will be part of the readings packet we distribute when we arrive in Northern Ireland.

Course Schedule

Tuesday, May 20	First visit to your host organization; short day (2 hours)
5:45-6:45	Group processing session: Discuss your first impressions and experiences in Northern Ireland. Share fears and worries. Share first impressions of your organization. Brief overview from instructors about risks of field research and concerns about protecting human subjects.
Thursday, May 22	First full day in community field placements.
3:45	Meet bus for trip to Drumcovitt House where we will have dinner, hike, and have our group processing session.
4:30-5:30	Group processing session. Do check in for 30 minutes. This is an opportunity for you to quickly tell how things are going and to share any serious concerns. We will have a timekeeper so that we can move efficiently from person to person. Discuss procedures for protecting confidentiality, protecting human subjects, and for protecting your personal safety in your field experiences. Briefly discuss how to write field notes since your first set of field notes is due at 5 pm, Friday May 23. **Reading** Milofsky and Schneider, Chapter Seven: "Ethics, Risk, and Some Emotional Consequences of Field Research"
Friday, May 23	5:00 pm, turn in your first set of field notes. TURN IN TWO COPIES. THEY MAY BE HANDWRITTEN OR TYPED. PUT YOUR NAME ON A COVER SHEET ONLY; DO NOT PUT YOUR NAME ON YOUR PAGES OF WRITING. WE MAY SHARE WHAT YOU HAVE WRITTEN SO DO NOT PUT YOUR NAME ON THE TEXT UNLESS YOU ARE WILLING TO HAVE OTHERS KNOW THAT IT IS YOU WHO HAS AUTHORED THIS MATERIAL.
Tuesday, May 27	Full day in your community setting.

- 4:30-6:00 pm Group processing session. We will have check-in for forty-five minutes with a timer to help us move from student to student. We will return your first set of field notes with comments. Discuss writing field notes.
- **Reading**** Milofsky and Schneider, Chapter Eight: “Writing Interpretive Field Notes”.
- Thursday, May 29 Full day in your community setting.
- 4:30-6:00 pm Group processing session. We will have check-in for one hour with a timer to help us move from student to student. Discuss writing field notes.
- Friday, May 30 5:00 pm, turn in your second set of field notes. **TURN IN TWO COPIES. THEY MAY BE HANDWRITTEN OR TYPED. PUT YOUR NAME ON A COVER SHEET ONLY; DO NOT PUT YOUR NAME ON YOUR PAGES OF WRITING. WE MAY SHARE WHAT YOU HAVE WRITTEN SO DO NOT PUT YOUR NAME ON THE TEXT UNLESS YOU ARE WILLING TO HAVE OTHERS KNOW THAT IT IS YOU WHO HAS AUTHORED THIS MATERIAL.**
- Tuesday, June 3 Full day in your community setting.
- 4:30-6:00 pm Group processing session. We will have check-in for one hour with a timer to help us move from student to student. Return last week’s field notes. Discuss writing field notes.
- Wednesday, June 4 5:00 pm, turn in your third set of field notes. **TURN IN TWO COPIES. THEY MAY BE HANDWRITTEN OR TYPED. PUT YOUR NAME ON A COVER SHEET ONLY; DO NOT PUT YOUR NAME ON YOUR PAGES OF WRITING. WE MAY SHARE WHAT YOU HAVE WRITTEN SO DO NOT PUT YOUR NAME ON THE TEXT UNLESS YOU ARE WILLING TO HAVE OTHERS KNOW THAT IT IS YOU WHO HAS AUTHORED THIS MATERIAL.**
- Thursday, June 5 Full day in your community setting.
- 4:30-6:00 pm Group processing session. We will have check-in for one hour with a timer to help us move from student to student. Return field notes from yesterday. Discuss writing field notes.
- Friday, May 30 5:00 pm, turn in your fourth set of field notes. **TURN IN TWO COPIES. THEY MAY BE HANDWRITTEN OR TYPED. PUT YOUR NAME ON A COVER SHEET ONLY; DO NOT PUT YOUR NAME ON YOUR PAGES OF WRITING. WE MAY SHARE WHAT YOU HAVE WRITTEN SO DO NOT PUT YOUR NAME ON THE TEXT UNLESS YOU ARE**

**WILLING TO HAVE OTHERS KNOW THAT IT IS YOU
WHO HAS AUTHORED THIS MATERIAL.**

Monday, June 9

9:00-12:00, final visit to your community settings.

Friday, June 13

5:00 pm, final report due. You may turn this in before you leave Northern Ireland. If you have special needs for your project, you may talk to instructors about handing your materials in later.