

Sample Practicum Assignments & Submissions

Note: This assignment was designed for a 4th year undergraduate political science course titled “Conflict and Justice in Canada.” The course instructor in winter 2022, Courtney Jung, has given permission to share this sample assignment with the Ethnography Lab.

Course components and marks breakdown:

- (15%) Ethnography practicum: Students will be asked to conduct first-hand, independent research into an organization/movement/protest, and to report their findings. There are three assignments associated with the ethnography practicum (5% each).
 1. **A one-page proposal:** Describe the work you want to do, how you plan to do it, and what questions you want to answer through your research.
 2. **Fieldnotes:** A first-person account of what you did, how you did it, who you spoke to, what was easy, what obstacles you encountered, etc.
 3. **Report on your findings:** What did you learn? What is the answer to your question?
- (20%) Students will be asked to follow one ongoing issue/movement/conflict throughout the semester, and to provide two updates (10% each) on the issue over the course of the semester. These updates will take the form of a blogpost, uploaded to our class blog. Students are expected to regularly read the class blog to keep up to date on the issues we, as a class, are following.
- (50%) Final project: This might take a range of forms, to be discussed. Whatever form it takes, the work entailed would be equivalent to a 15-page academic paper.
- (10%) Class participation: My expectation is that every student will get full participation marks, by preparing for, attending, and participating in class at a high level of engagement.
- (5%) Students will also be expected to attend and participate in the following Trudeau Centre activities: PCJ Student Conference (3% of grade) and an Anti-Racism Workshop facilitated by U of T's Anti-Racism and Cultural Diversity Office.

Another Potential Submission for Practicum Assignments:

- **Fieldwork Report:** A general update from the field (500-750 words). If they interviewed people, then how did they reach them? Did the interview take place virtually or in-person? How did they feel about the interview? Any initial reflections they had? If they did some archival research, then it would include an update on what they found in that period of research, what sources did they fail to find, anything they wished to gain access to?
 - Guiding Questions/prompts:
 - What is one thing that surprised you about your fieldwork/research so far?
 - What is one thing that you couldn't access (this can include someone you couldn't interview) and why is this case?
 - What are your initial impressions about your interlocutors/interviewees/archival material?
 - Narrate on significant or remarkable incident from your fieldwork so far (this can be an interview excerpt, an archival excerpt, or a screenshot from your virtual ethnography)
 - How has the research journey so far changed your research puzzle?
 - What is your plan for next steps?

Rubric Guidelines:

	Excellent	Good	Average	Poor
Proposal is clear and includes a preliminary research puzzle/question				
Proposal identifies a field-site (or multiple sites)				
Relevance of the topic and proposal to the course theme				
Fieldnote describes the setting, social interactions, and transports the reader to the field-site				
Fieldnote includes students' reflections on the process of the research (challenges, limitations, etc)				
Fieldnote identifies key interlocutors/research participants and describes their role in the research project				
Final report/submission shows the research journey and development in research question/topic				
Final report synthesis students descriptions and observations from their field-site as well as their own reflections				
Final report is balanced between description and analysis of field-site				
Final report directly draws on/from firsthand fieldwork experience rather than existing texts or literature				