

UNIVERSITY OF WALES, LAMPETER

MODULE DESCRIPTOR

Department: Archaeology & Anthropology	Module Code: MARCH7120
Module Title:	Research Methods: Ethnography and Fieldwork (compulsory)
Level: 4	Term Taught: 1 or 2
No of Credits: 20	
Methods of assessment:	One 1500 word essay or critical literature reviews (25% of the module marks). One 4500 word essay (75% of the module marks).
Teaching Method(s):	Lectures, seminars, tutorials, fieldwork
Pre-requisite(s): None	
Co-requisite(s): None	Incompatibles: None
Taught through the medium of Welsh	No
Lecturer/Co-ordinator:	Nick Campion
Contact hours: 30 hours	Lectures per week: Module typically taught by distance and by intensive study school.
Agreed Teaching Slot(s):	
Syllabus: 1. An exploration of the emerging contemporary discipline of ethnoastronomy - or ethnoastrology. 2. Examination of the data concerning contemporary beliefs about the sky, astronomy and astrology. 3. Examination of the methodologies of qualitative research, chiefly interview and/or questionnaire, as well as participant observation, within the context of theoretical frameworks such as grounded theory and the principles of phenomenology. 4. Investigation of recent trends in anthropological and sociological research, including such models as auto-ethnography and transpersonal research. 5. Exploration of the insider/outsider question, with reference to the 'etic/emic' model and notions of 'distance-near' and 'distance-far', and the development of strategies to avoid personal bias.	
By the end of the module and associated assessment students will be able to: 1. Demonstrate an understanding of the cultural context of contemporary astronomical, astrological or cosmological belief.	

2. Apply the techniques and methodologies of qualitative research to gather and critically interpret research findings in the subject area in the light of the existing scholarly literature and relevant theory and method.
3. Demonstrate a systematic understanding and a critical awareness of issues at the forefront of the principles of ethnographic and qualitative research.
4. Display strategies for dealing with incomplete data and contested knowledge and attitudes, and propose original hypotheses on the basis of research findings.
5. Consider and describe both their own and other people's experience and ideas with fairness and integrity, recognising their own bias and preconceived ideas and reflecting maturely on other peoples' beliefs, behaviour and opinions.

Transferable and other skills involved

Critical thinking, including evaluation of primary and secondary evidence.

Written communication

Independent, self-directed study and time management.

The ability to reach fair and balanced conclusions based on evaluation of the evidence.

Self-reflexive skills and the ability to identify one's own bias.

Main recommended texts:

Bell, J., *Doing your Research Project* (Buckingham: Open University Press, 2002).

Bennett, Gillian, *Alas Poor Ghost: Traditions of Belief in Story and Discourse* (Utah: Utah University Press 1999), [first published as *Traditions of Belief: Women, Folklore and the Supernatural Today* (London: Penguin 1987)].

Berg, B., *Qualitative Research Methods for the Social Sciences* (London: Allyn & Bacon, 1995).

Blain, Jenny, *Nine Worlds of Seid-Magic: ecstasy and neo-shamanism in North European paganism* (London: Routledge, 2002).

Braud, William and Rosemarie Anderson, *Transpersonal Research Methods for the Social Sciences* (London: Sage 1998).

Brewer, J.D., *Ethnography* (Buckingham: Open University Press 2000).

Bryman, Alan, *Quantity and Quality in Social Research* (London: Routledge, 2001).

Bryman, A. and R. Burgess, eds., *Analysing Qualitative Data* (London: Routledge, 1994).

Campion, Nicholas, 'Prophecy, Cosmology and the New Age Movement: the extent and nature of contemporary belief in astrology' (PhD thesis, University of the West of England

2004).

Cresswell, John W., *Qualitative Inquiry and Research Design, Choosing Among Five Traditions* (London: Sage 1998)

Davies, C. *Reflexive Ethnography: a Guide to Researching Selves and Others* (London: Routledge, 1999).

Etherington, Kim, *Becoming a Reflexive Researcher: Using Ourselves in Research* (London: Jessica Kingsley 2004)

Flood, G., *Beyond Phenomenology: Rethinking the Study of Religion* (London: Cassell 1999)

Glaser, B.G., *Theoretical Sensitivity: Advances in the Methodology of Grounded Theory* (Sociology Press, 1978).

Greenwood, S., *Magic, Witchcraft and the Otherworld: An Anthropology* (Oxford: Berg, 2000).

Hamilton, Malcolm, *The Sociology of Religion: Theoretical and Comparative Perspectives* (London: Routledge, 1995).

Homan, R., *The Ethics of Social Research* (London: Longman 1991).

Luhmann, T.M., *Persuasions of the Witch's Craft: Ritual Magic in Contemporary England* (Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 1989).

McCutcheon, R., *The Insider/Outsider Problem in the Study of Religion: A Reader* (London: Cassell, 1999).

McLeod, John, *Practitioner Research in Counselling* (London: Sage 1999).

McLeod, John, *Qualitative Research in Counselling and Psychotherapy* (London: Sage 2001).

McLeod, John, *Doing Counselling Research*, 2nd ed. (London: Sage 2003).

Malinowski, B., *Magic, Science and Religion, and Other Essays* (London: Doubleday, 1954).

Manen, Max van, *Researching Lived Experience: Human Science for an Action Sensitive Pedagogy* (Albany: State University of New York Press 1990)

Moran, Dermot, *Introduction to Phenomenology* (London: Routledge 2000).

Moustakas, Clark, *Phenomenological Research Methods* (London: Sage 1994).

Penslar, Robin Levin, *Research Ethics: Cases and Materials* (Bloomington and Indianapolis: Indiana University Press 1995)

Silverman, David, *Doing Qualitative Research: A Practical Handbook* (London: Sage

Publications, 2002).

Sokolowski, Robert, *Introduction to Phenomenology*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press 2000.

Spinelli, Ernesto, *The Interpreted World: An Introduction to Phenomenological Psychology* (London: Sage, 1989).

Twiss, S. and W. Conser, *Experience of the Sacred: Readings in the Phenomenology of Religion* (New Hampshire: University Press of New England, 1992).

Wosket, Val, *The Therapeutic Use of Self: Counselling Practice, Research and Supervision* (London: Routledge 1999).

Evaluation (including student evaluation):

Module evaluation form

Internal review

Biennial and quinquennial review

Date when first introduced: 2007