

Ethnographic Field School in Belize

<http://cfaa.nku.edu/ethnographic-field-school/>

The Center for Applied Anthropology (CfAA, <http://cfaa.nku.edu>) at Northern Kentucky University (NKU, <http://nku.edu>) organizes an annual ethnographic field school in Belize directed by Douglas Hume (Associate Professor of Anthropology) every June in collaboration with the NKU International Education Center - Office of Education Abroad and Cooperative Center for Study Abroad (CCSA, <http://ccsa.cc/>). The following information is for the June 2016

Ethnographic Field School in Belize:

- Location: Orange Walk District, Belize
- Dates: Departing May 31 and returning June 28 2016 (30 days/ 29 nights)
- Price: T.B.A. (includes airfare, ground transportation, accommodations, breakfast, dinner, and excursions)
- Tuition: Waived for NKU students. For CCSA consortium students, check with your campus study abroad office. For non-CCSA consortium students, please contact the CCSA.
- Priority Deadline: mid-February 2016 (\$100 reduction in the program price by means of a reducing the application fee to \$150)
- Application Deadline: late February 2016 (regular application fee of \$250)
- Credit: 3 hours (undergraduate or graduate)
- Sample Syllabus: ANT 365 and 565 2016 Syllabus Draft (<http://goo.gl/lheZnl>)
- Sample Schedule: ANT 365 and 565 2016 Schedule Draft (<http://goo.gl/q10YuU>)
- Sample Packing List: ANT 365 and 565 2016 Packing List Draft (<http://goo.gl/CG5Orr>)

Course Description

This course immerses students in Belizean culture and trains them in contemporary anthropological field methods. Students will gain valuable research skills (e.g., ethnographic interviewing and qualitative data analysis) to apply anthropology in their future careers (e.g., applied anthropology or other social/behavioral discipline), an appreciation for Belizean cultural diversity, and further their personal growth. While in Belize, students will be primarily engaged in guided applied ethnographic fieldwork. Students will learn about the local culture by doing participant-observation and conducting ethnographic interviews in a community-based research project. Students will learn research ethics, unobtrusive observation, participant observation, field note writing and coding, ethnographic and life history interviewing, ethnolinguistic data collection, community mapping, rapid assessment procedures, qualitative data analysis, and other ethnographic methods in addition to basic ethnographic writing.

This program will contribute to the education of students by training them in ethnographic methods and by exposing them to a non-western culture. Students are expected to gain skills that may be used in applying anthropology or other socio-behavioral sciences in their future careers, gain an appreciation for cultural diversity, and further their personal growth. Field experiences such as this project can also improve the likelihood that students will be admitted to graduate school.

This course is being taught as a 300 (upper-undergraduate) and 500 (graduate) level course in anthropology with a maximum of 12 students. Students will earn three credit hours for participation in the ethnographic field school. This course will not fulfill NKU's general education requirements, but may be applied to NKU's anthropology major or minor requirements. Students should check with their own institution for what, if any, requirements this course fulfills.

Each spring, students will be encouraged to present our findings in a scholarly panel at the Anthropologists and Sociologists of Kentucky Annual Meeting. NKU students will be encouraged to present their findings at NKU's spring Celebration of Student Research and Creativity. Students who wish to learn additional ethnographic analysis methods or prepare a short ethnography for publication may arrange independent studies with the director, Douglas Hume.

Community-based Research Project

The ethnographic field school, as part of the CfAA, is partnering with the Sugar Industry Research and Development Institute (SIRDI) in Orange Walk Town, Belize. Among other things, our partner is interested in our contribution in understanding the household economy and agricultural knowledge of sugar cane farmers in the Orange Walk District village communities. SIRDI will use our results and recommendations to develop and conduct workshops for farmers on agricultural techniques, economics, health, and other community development topics.

Program Excursions

In addition to conducting community-based research, we plan to visit the Belize Zoo, Banqitas House of Culture, Cuello's Distillery, Lamanai Maya Ruins (via boat on the New River), Nohoch Che'en Caves Branch Archaeological Reserve (Cave Tubing), and the Tower Hill (Sugar Cane) Factory. Locations are subject to change and may be canceled due to weather or other factors beyond our control.

Costs

The price above includes round-trip transportation from designated cities, airport transfers, accommodations, daily breakfast and dinner, program excursions, and health insurance. Tuition is waived for NKU students. For CCSA consortium students, check with your campus study abroad office. For non-CCSA consortium students, please contact the CCSA.

A minimum of \$200.00 should be budgeted for beverages, lunches, and snacks beyond the daily breakfasts and dinners included in the program price. Additionally, approximately \$100.00 should be budgeted for required course materials. Participants should also budget additional funds for personal expenses such as souvenirs, based upon their individual spending habits.

All prices are subject to change in the event of unanticipated increases in airfares, monetary exchange rates or other changes in program costs.

Students are required to bring a laptop computer with them that is WiFi capable.

How can this course count towards major requirements at other universities?

This course is an ethnographic methods course and can count towards major requirements in anthropology, sociology, and other social/behavioral sciences. The official course description reads as follows:

- Cross-cultural field training in ethnographic field methods, qualitative data analysis, and ethnographic report-writing.

After successful completion of this course, students will have:

- developed a basic understanding of Belizean culture,
- formulated an understanding of ethical and validity issues in ethnographic research,
- practiced skills in research design and ethnographic methods of data collection,
- applied basic ethnographic research methods in a non-western culture,
- engaged in a community-based research project, and
- analyzed ethnographic data resulting in an ethnographic monograph.

For more information, please see the ANT 365 and 565 2016 Syllabus Draft (<http://goo.gl/lheZnl>) and ANT 365 and 565 2016 Schedule Draft (<http://goo.gl/q10YuU>).

How have students used this field experience to further their educational and career goals?

Students who have taken part in this field school have directly used this experience to:

- contribute as an author with other students from the field school in a report that is given to community partners in Belize and published on the Center for Applied Anthropology web site,
- orally present research findings with other students from the field school at the Anthropologists and Sociologists of Kentucky Annual Meetings,
- present a poster with other students from the field school at the Celebration of Undergraduate Research at Northern Kentucky University, and
- co-author a publication in a peer-reviewed journal with the field director (Dr. Douglas Hume).

Students who have taken part in this field school have indirectly used this experience to:

- bolster their application to graduate school,
- as a study abroad and service component of their resume, and
- as evidence of the ability to do field research abroad for other anthropological and archaeological field research opportunities.

More Information

Our web site (<http://cfaa.nku.edu/ethnographic-field-school/>) contains the following information:

- Advising Information, Field School Benefits, Funding Opportunities, Photo Album, Movie Album, and Student Recommendations!

For more information about the ethnographic field school in Belize see the links below.

- NKU International Education Center - Office of Education Abroad (<http://goo.gl/94n4fo>)
- Cooperative Center for Study Abroad (<http://ccsa.cc/>)
- Ethnographic Field School in Belize Facebook Group (<http://goo.gl/32KjCn>)