

# Honors Assignment

## Purpose:

This assignment is meant to give you experience with a monograph-length ethnography in the area of environmental anthropology. Since ethnography is the primary format for research expression in cultural anthropology, this experience will deepen your expertise with the field. You will also gain practice reading a large and probably unfamiliar type of academic research and focusing on the most important aspects efficiently.

Writing a book review demonstrates your ability to identify important claims in a work, elaborate on their context, reflect on the reading experience, and apply the research and its presentation to new audiences. It also demonstrates your ability to communicate effectively within the constraints of a particular genre that is common in academia and in the general public discourse.

Sharing your thoughts on the book in conversation and in a brief presentation also demonstrates your effective communication skills, as well as your ability to listen to the comments and question of others, connect what they have said to what you know, and respond meaningfully.

## Task:

Choose one of the following ethnographies relating to environmental issues in India:

Anand, Nikhil. 2017. *Hydraulic City: Water and the Infrastructures of Citizenship in Mumbai*. Durham, NC: Duke University Press. [open access ebook]

Besky, Sarah. 2013. *The Darjeeling Distinction: Labor and Justice on Fair-Trade Tea Plantations in India*. Vol. 47. Berkeley, CA: University of California Press. [IUCAT ebook]

Fortun, Kim. 2009. *Advocacy after Bhopal: Environmentalism, Disaster, New Global Orders*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. [IUCAT ebook]

Thottathil, Sapna E. 2014. *India's Organic Farming Revolution: What It Means for Our Global Food System*. Iowa City, IA: University of Iowa Press. [IUCAT ebook]

Whitmore, Luke. 2018. *Mountain, Water, Rock, God: Understanding Kedarnath in the Twenty-First Century*. Berkeley, CA: University of California Press. [open access ebook]

Read the book. Focus on the introduction and conclusion of the ethnography and at least one middle chapter.

Prepare a 400- to 650-word book review using the guidelines provided by the Writing Center at UNC Chapel Hill (at <https://writingcenter.unc.edu/tips-and-tools/book-reviews/> and appended on the following pages). Submit this review on Canvas by **Monday, April 8**. Your review will be run through Turnitin to yield a similarity report.

Mutually decide with me on a time to meet together with me and the rest of the Honors students in the course to discuss the ethnographies for approximately 20-30 minutes in a friendly manner, like an "Honors Book Club."

Create a single slide and be prepared to explain to the class the context of your ethnography and something you found interesting in an informal 3-5 minute presentation (date after April 8, to be determined).

**Assessment:**

This assignment must be completed and submitted for the course to meet the requirements of an Honors course.

I will assess the assignment out of 20 points total, which will be figured into your course grade via Canvas.

The components of the assignment break-down as follows:

<b>Component</b>	<b>Due Date</b>	<b>Points</b>
Book review	Monday, April 8	15
“Honors Book Club” conversation	TBD (after April 8)	2
Brief in-class presentation	TBD (after April 8)	3

I will post a rubric based on the book review guidelines mentioned above on the Canvas assignment.

Please get in touch with me if you have trouble or questions. I can help you develop strategies for reading efficiently and structuring your work.