

INTRODUCTION TO CULTURAL ANTHROPOLOGY - ANTH 101 (Fall 2007)

Lectures: Mondays & Wednesday, 2:15-3:35pm – Loree 022, Douglass Campus

Sections: Once a week according to registration schedule

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COURSE DESCRIPTION: Using lectures, films and discussion, this course surveys the key areas of inquiry in contemporary cultural anthropology. Questions addressed include: What is anthropology? What do cultural anthropologists study? What is the role of fieldwork and ethnography in their work? What is culture? How do ideas about culture contribute to practices of difference and inequality? What is the role of culture in shaping social organization, economic pursuits, relationships with the environment, political strategies, religious beliefs, and other dimensions of human life? How do we study local people in relationship to global processes and structures such as colonialism, capitalism, and development? What topics are contemporary cultural anthropologists studying and writing about? This course is a prerequisite for most upper-level anthropology courses and a requirement for anthropology majors.

COURSE OBJECTIVES: After taking this course, students will be able to:

- Understand patterns of diversity and similarity in human societies.
- Grasp the role of culture in shaping the lives of societies and individuals.
- Critically evaluate and practice cultural relativism.
- Identify, explain and historically contextualize the fundamental concepts, modes of analysis, and central questions of cultural anthropology
- Connect ethnographic fieldwork and anthropological theory.
- Use anthropological concepts and examples to reframe contemporary social issues.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS: Student grades will be based on 100 points divided as follows: three exams (20 each), three exercises (10 each), and the best two out of three pop quizzes (5 each).

Exams: Each exam will consist of 50 multiple choices and fill in the blank questions that address material covered in lectures, discussions, films and course readings since the last exam. Exams will be taken using Scantron sheets. Exam III will only cover material from the last third of the course, *it is not a comprehensive exam*.

Exercises: Three exercises will be assigned, discussed and submitted to your TA as part of your mandatory recitation sections. Each exercise is worth 10 points, or 10% of your final grade, and the grading criteria will be specified on the exercise sheet.

Pop Quizzes: Three pop quizzes will be given at the beginning of class throughout the semester. They will consist of five short-answer questions based on the readings assigned for that class. Only the best two grades out of three will count towards your final grade.

COURSE POLICIES:

Attendance: Although the lecture class is too large to monitor attendance, exam questions will address material covered in class but not in the readings, so regular attendance is highly recommended. **Attendance at recitation sections is required.** More than two unexcused absences and/or late arrivals (defined as more than 15 minutes after class has started) from recitation section will lower your grade by 10 points.

Exams: On exam days, you are **required** to bring **your student ID** and a **pencil**. NO CHEATING will be tolerated, and anyone found cheating will receive an “F” grade for the class. Only TWO MAKE-UP TIMES will be scheduled for Exam I and II. To qualify to take a make-up exam during these times, you must contact the TAs or Prof. Hodgson within **24 hours** of missing the exams, and have a letter from your Dean as proof of an excused absence (those defined by University rules, such as a documented medical problem). If you miss **Exam I or II** with an approved excused absence, you must take the make-up during one of the two scheduled make-up times -- no exceptions will be made. If you miss **Exam III** with an approved absence, you will receive a “Temporary” “T” grade for the class and have to take a different version of the exam during the first week of classes in January -- no exceptions will be made.

Pop Quizzes: If you are late to class and arrive after the pop quiz has started, or if you are absent from class on the day a pop quiz is given, whatever your excuse, you will not be able to take a make-up.

Exercises: You must bring a typed, printed copy of each exercise to your recitation section class on the date it is due -- *no late exercises will be accepted*. If you have to miss a class in which an exercise is due, you must put a copy in your TAs mailbox (on the 3rd floor of the Ruth Adams Building) by the end of the class you missed. *No email attachments will be accepted*.

Films: If you miss a class where a film is shown, the films will be available on reserve for one week from the date of the class showing at the Media Center in the basement of Kilmer Library on Livingstone Campus. The title and call number of each video are listed on the syllabus. Call ahead to make an appointment: 732-445-4980. There will be questions on all films on each exam.

Academic Integrity: All students must strictly adhere to the Rutgers Academic Integrity Policy which identifies and defines violations of cheating, fabrication, facilitating academic dishonesty, plagiarism, and denying others access to information or material. Full definitions of each of these violations, as well as the consequences of violating the Academic Integrity Policy are available as part of the student handbook. For details see:

<http://ctaar.rutgers.edu/integrity/policy.html#Integrity>

Classroom expectations:

- All cell phones must be turned off
- No playing games or cards
- No headphones or listening to music
- Be prepared to discuss
- No reading the newspaper or other non-course material

COURSE WEBSITE: There is a Sakai website (sakai.rutgers.edu) that accompanies this course from which students can download course materials (syllabus, exercises, lecture outlines) and receive announcements. If you have trouble accessing the site, please consult your TA.

ASSIGNED TEXTS (available at the Douglass Student Coop Bookstore & Rutgers University Bookstore):

James Spradley & David McCurdy, *Conformity and Conflict: Readings in Cultural Anthropology*. New York: Longman. TWELFTH EDITION – no other edition is acceptable. [CC in course outline]

The following additional required readings are available on Sakai under the “Resources” link [RR in course outline]:

- RR-1: Horace Miner. “Body Rituals among the Nacirema.” *American Anthropologist* 58(3): 503-507.
- RR-2: Gary Ferraro. 2008. “The Growth of Anthropological Theory.” *Cultural Anthropology: An Applied Perspective*, 7th ed. Thomson/Wadsworth, pps. 67-87.
- RR-3: Jules Henry. 2004. “American Schoolrooms: Learning the Nightmare.” From Gary Ferraro, ed. *Classic Readings in Cultural Anthropology*. Thomson Wadsworth, pps. 75-83.
- RR-4: Yolanda T. Moses. 2008. “Thinking Anthropologically about ‘Race’.” From Philip Carl Salzman & Patricia C. Rice, eds. *Thinking Anthropologically*, 2nd ed. Pearson/Prentice Hall, pps. 94-105.
- RR-5: Serena Nanda. 2003. “Hijra and Sadhin: Neither Man nor Woman in India.” From Suzanne LaFont, ed. *Constructing Sexualities: Readings in Sexuality, Gender and Culture*. Prentice Hall, pps. 192-201.
- RR-6: Gilbert Herdt and P.J. Stoller, 1990. “Sambia Sexual Culture.” *Intimate Communications*. New York: Columbia University Press, pps. 53-84.
- RR-7: Micaela di Leonardo. 2008. “The Female World of Cards and Holidays.” From Clare L. Boulanger, ed. *Reflecting on America*. Pearson/A.B., pps. 107-118.
- RR-8: Lincoln Keiser. 2007. “The Vice Lords Today.” From George Spindler & Janice E. Stockard, eds. *Globalization and Change in Fifteen Cultures*. Thomson Wadsworth, pps. 73-96.
- RR-9: Penelope Eckert. 2004. “Symbols of Category Membership.” From Carol Delaney, ed. *Investigating Culture*. Blackwell, pps. 209-222,
- RR-10: Christopher Steiner. 1997. “The Invisible Face: Masks, Ethnicity and the State in Cote d’Ivoire.” From Roy Richard Grinker & Christopher Steiner, eds. *Perspectives on Africa*. Blackwell.
- RR-11: Richard Wilk. 2008. “Consuming America.” From Clare L. Boulanger, ed. *Reflecting on America*. Pearson/A.B., pps. 79-84.
- RR-12: James Ferguson (with Larry Lohmann). 2006 “The Anti-Politics Machine: ‘Development’ and Bureaucratic Power in Lesotho.” From William A. Haviland, Robert J. Gordon and Luis A. Vivanco, eds. *Talking About People*. McGraw Hill, pps. 251-257.
- RR-13: Liliana R. Goldín. “Maquila Age Maya.” *The Journal of Latin American Anthropology* 6(1):30-57.

COURSE OUTLINE

- We 9/5** **Introduction**
- Mo 9/10** **What is Anthropology?**
CC- pp.1-5, CC-1 (Spradley)
RR-1 (Miner)
- We 9/12** **Culture**
CC-2 (Lee), CC-31 (Shandy)
Film: Blue Collar and Buddha (2-3995; 57 mins)
- Mo 9/17** **Ethnographic Fieldwork**
CC-4 (Sterk), CC-5 (Gmelch)
- We 9/19** **History of Sociocultural Anthropology [EXERCISE 1 DUE IN SECTIONS]**
RR-2 (Ferraro)
Film: Franz Boas, 1858-1942 (2-967; 60 mins)
- Mo 9/24** **Theories of Culture**
Reread RR-2 (Ferraro)
- We 9/26** **Anthropology & Communication**
CC- pps. 59-62
CC-6 (Thomson), CC-7 (Spradley & Mann)
Film: Invisible Walls (D-41; 12 mins)
- Mo 10/1** **Language, Cognition & Culture**
RR-3 (Henry); CC-8 (Schildkrout), CC-9 (Tannen)
- We 10/3** **Culture & Difference**
RR-4 (Moses); CC-23 (Fish)
Film: Ethnic Notions (2-568; 58 mins)
- Mo 10/8** **EXAM I**
- We 10/10** **Ritual, Religion & Worldview**
CC – pp. 295-298
CC-28 (Gmelch), CC-29 (Dubisch), CC-30 (Leavitt)
Film: Witchcraft among the Azande (2-5119; 53 mins)
- Mo 10/15** **Kinship**
CC – pps. 178-181
CC- 16 (Scheper-Hughes), CC-17 (McCurdy),
- We 10/17** **Marriage & the Family [EXERCISE 2 DUE IN SECTIONS]**
CC-18 (Geertz), CC-19 (Wolf)
Film: We Are Family (2-3998; 57 mins)
- Mo 10/22** **Sexuality**
RR-5 (Nanda), RR-6 (Herdt & Stoller)
Film: XXXY (TBA; 13 mins)
- We 10/24** **Gender**
RR-7 (di Leonardo); CC-20 (Fernea & Fernea), CC-21 (Friedl)
Film: Through Chinese Women's Eyes (2-3397; 53 mins)

- Mo 10/29** **Beyond Kinship**
 CC-pps. 219-222
 RR-8 (Keiser), RR-9 (Eckert)
- We 10/31** **Law, Politics & Social Order**
 CC-pps. 261-263
 CC-24 (Sutherland), CC-26 (Harris)
Film: Little Injustices (2-957; 59 mins)
- Mo 11/5** **Citizenship & Nation-States**
 RR-10 (Steiner)
- We 11/7** **EXAM II**
- Mo 11/12** **Ecology & Subsistence**
 CC-pps. 102-106
 CC-10 (Lee), CC-12 (Reed)
Film: The Hunters (D-42; 70 mins)
- We 11/14** **Economic Systems [PART 1 of EXERCISE 3 DUE IN SECTIONS]**
 CC-pps. 143-145
 RR -11 (Wilk); CC-13 (Cronk)
- Mo 11/19** **The World System: Development & Conservation**
 CC-34 (Turner); RR-12 (Ferguson w/Lohmann)
Film: Amazon Journal (2-2757; 58 mins)

***no class on Wed 21 Nov because of Thanksgiving schedule in which Fri classes are held on Wed ***

no sections on Wed 21 Nov or Thurs 22 Nov because of Thanksgiving schedule

- Mo 11/26** **Capitalism & Culture**
 CC-14 (Weatherford), CC-15 (Bourgeois)
- We 11/28** **The World System: Capitalism [ALL OF EXERCISE 3 DUE IN SECTIONS]**
 RR-13 (Goldin)
Film: The Global Assembly Line (2-1327; 58 mins)
- Mo 12/3** **Global Processes & Local Identities**
 CC-pps. 341-343
 CC-32 (Brennan), CC-33 (Condry)
- We 12/5** **Anthropology in Everyday Life**
 CC-pps. 387-390
 CC-35 (Patten), CC-36 (McCurdy), CC-37 (Omohundro)
Film: Anthropology: Real People, Real Careers (36 mins)
- Mo 12/10** **Anthropology at Rutgers**
- We 12/12** **Conclusion & Review**
- Fri 12/21** **EXAM III (8am-9:30am, Place TBA)**