

ANT 110
CULTURAL ANTHROPOLOGY

SP. SEMESTER 2009
Jan. 12-May 8
Office Hours: MWF 10:00-2:00
T-TH-12:30-2:00
E-mail: joant55593@aol.com

Joan Trautman, Instructor
Office: Candelaria 2257

Phone: 351-1735

TEXTBOOK: required

Robbins, Richard. Cultural Anthropology: A Problem-Based Approach.
Thomas/Wadsworth. 5th Edition (paper).

Course Description (catalog): A course in the concept of culture, how cultural processes work, variation in cultural practices, the method of cross-cultural comparison and cultural change.

Course Description: The journey to remote and exotic peoples and places and back to the present, is the route cultural anthropologists have taken. To do so now still has a compelling importance if we are to understand present complexities; and if we are to find paths ahead to viable human futures. This purpose of this course is to make that journey with the purpose of understanding peoples of other cultures.

Goals: The goal of the course is to present the student with the basic concepts of Cultural Anthropology at the introductory level. The underlying goal of the course is to promote understanding of differences on a more Cultural Relativistic and less Ethnocentric level.

General Education Goals: As a General Education course, Cultural Anthropology will:

- 1) help the student understand the historical frameworks and the interactions between several diverse disciplines such as sociology, economics, political science and history.
- 2) Understand and apply research techniques such as fieldwork with participant observation, interviewing techniques and finding patterns of behavior.
- 3) Understand Western and non-Western cultures and values through cultural comparisons.
- 4) Understand the perspectives and concerns of different gender, ethnic and age groups.
- 5) Gain experience in writing and organizing thinking through reaction papers and other class assignments.

COURSE OUTLINE

DATES AND CORRESPONDING ASSIGNMENTS ARE APPROXIMATE

Foundation Concepts—Background Statements: Chapters 1, 2, 3, 4

1. What is Anthropology? What do Anthropologists Do?

Subfields of Anthropology: Cultural Anthropology; Archaeology; Linguistics; Biological Anthropology

How is Anthropology Unique—Holistic, Fieldwork, Comparative Method, Culture, Cultural Relativism

Assignment: pp. 1-36 (Robbins)

2. What is Culture?

Definition of Culture, Components of Culture, Cultural Processes, Characteristics of Culture, Ethnocentrism & Cultural Relativism

Assignment: Same as above.

3. Economic Anthropology

Basic Principles, Meaning of Progress & Development

Assignment: pp. pp. 39-77

4. Political Anthropology

Basic Principles, Construction of the Nation-State, Race & Violence, Globalization.

Assignment: pp. 81-111 (Robbins)

FIRST EXAM: APPROXIMATELY FEBRUARY 16 (WEEK OF)

5. Beliefs in the Supernatural (Cultural Construction of Reality)

Basic Principles, Social & Cultural Construction of Reality, Language, Witchcraft & Magic, How Do Beliefs Develop, Love & the Functioning of Society, Revitalization Movements, Tourism.

Assignment: pp. 144-181 (Robbins).

6. Patterns of Family Relations

Soap Operas, Composition of the Typical Family, How Are Families Formed and Maintained, Rules of Sexuality, Love & Wealth, HIV/AIDS

Assignment: pp. 157-193 (Robbins)

7. Cultural Construction of Identity

Concept of Personhood, Constructing Gender, Language, Gender Race, Rites of Passage, Communication of Identity, Body Image and Identity.

Assignment: 195-230 (Robbins)

SECOND EXAM: MARCH 16 (WEEK OF)

8. Cultural Construction of Social Hierarchy

Rationale for Social Inequality, Feminization of Poverty, Social Construction of Intelligence, Stratification by Gender, Hutterites.

9. The Cultural Construction of Violent Conflict

Justification for Violence, Conditions for Violence, Impact of War, Weapons of Mass Destruction, Suicide Terrorism

Assignment: 209-231(Robbins)

FINAL EXAM : MONDAY, MAY 4, 2009

GROUND RULES AND OTHER STUFF

1. All assigned textbook material, lecture material, and material presented in videos is “fair game” for exams. You are responsible for material presented in class when you are absent. I will not reteach the class during office hours nor will I loan lecture notes or videos. Provide yourself with a back-up for when you are not in class.
2. Attendance is critical. I take attendance. Students are responsible for assigning the attendance sheet. Attendance will count 20% of the grade or the same as an exam.
3. There will be 3 exams given during the course of the semester. Each will be announced a week in advance. There will also be many reaction papers during the course of the semester. These will also be counted as attendance.
4. This class will be lecture, discussion, and a lot of working in groups. As the book suggests, there will be opportunities for extra activities as well. Class participation will be very important for these activities.
5. Making the class interesting depends on your participation. You should read assignments, and be prepared. Participation will make a difference in borderline cases.
6. If you bring something to eat or drink to class, please clean up after yourself
7. Make-up exams will be given only in the case of a formally excused absence—either through a doctor or other official (Dean of Students). This process is not necessary during regular class sessions. You are either in class or not. Reaction papers cannot be made up. You do not need to inform me of your non-attendance on a daily basis.
8. Perhaps one of the most important things I’ve learned from traditional peoples is their respect for the world and all its inhabitants. For that reason, cell phones should have their ringers turned off before entering the classroom and students who talk on cell phones, text message, play video games, look at pictures or communicate via cell phone in any way will be asked to leave. Students who talk during class, read novels or newspapers or work on other subjects will also be asked to leave.
9. Computers will not be allowed in the classroom either.
10. Letter grades will be assigned according to the 10- point scale.

90-100= A
80-89= B
70-79= C
60-69= D
below 60= F

11. If you are having trouble with the class, please see me. I am here to help.

NOTICE

Students who believe that they may need accommodations in this class are encouraged to contact the Disability Access Center (970) 351-2289 as soon as possible to ensure that accommodations are implemented in a timely fashion.