

Spring 2016 Syllabi for Introduction to Cultural Anthropology – 20218 ANT 110-004

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Office Hours: Tuesday from 2 pm – 4 pm; Thursday from 2 pm - 3 pm or by appointment

Timing: 11 am -12:15 pm; TR; Location: Candelaria 1220

Final Exam & Final Assignment: Thursday May 5, 10:45 am – 1:15 pm

Pre-requisite: *An Open Mind*

Course Description

This course introduces students to the field of sociocultural anthropology—the study of human cultures in their diversity and variation. For the most part, this class while understanding the past will direct its attention to contemporary societies and cultures. It examines a diverse range of issues, from the diversity of cultures, local biologies, gender & kinship, identity and difference, war and peace, gender, identity and human rights, to name just a few. The aim of this course is not to provide a collection of facts about these topics, but to expose students to some of the core concepts of anthropology like fieldwork and ethnography, and questions that guide sociocultural anthropological understandings of contemporary human societies. At the end of the course, you should be able to “think anthropologically” as you reflect on other cultures, as well as your own.

Another important component of this course is to make you grasp the wonderful implications of making Anthropology your major and a future career.

Learning Objectives

Student will be expected to understand:

- Anthropology as a field of study; culture as an analytic category in anthropology
- What does Anthropology do and do differently; what is an anthropological perspective; can Anthropology help in propagating a more accepting world and why?
- Components of culture and how all cultures and subcultures are integrated
- Existence and implications of cultural diversity across the globe
- Worldview of particular cultures, historically and in current times
- Ethnographic techniques and theory of cultural anthropological studies
- Similarities and differences in human cultures
- Categories of economic systems, family, marriage, kinship, gender, political systems, universal human rights, religion, and expressive culture
- Historical outcomes of colonialism, scientific knowledge, and development
- Anthropological mode of enquiry and using terms and concepts in class discussions, presentations and written assignments
- How to apply anthropological knowledge to the life outside classroom

Grading Policies

Attendance 15 points

Participation 2 points each (full-score depends on number of exercises)

Presentation	20 points
Midterm	30 points
Ethnography Project	50 points
Unannounced Quizzes	5 points each (max 6)
Final exam	30 points

Evaluations: 94-100% =A; 90-93%=A-; 87-89% =B+; 83-86%= B; 80-82% =B-; 77-79%=C+
73-76% = C; 70-72% =C-; 67-69%=D+; 63-66% =D; 60-62%= D-; 0-59%=F

A NOTE ON GROUPWORK

In this class we will be doing a lot of work based around groups. So please make sure you become a part of a group, which should only have 3-4 people. The group participants must remain constant throughout the semester and it makes sense that the same participants will also do the presentation together. During the first week please make a decision about group-members and give your group a name. At the start of second week I will expect you to hand me a sheet of paper with that name of your group, member-names, and their email contacts. Any group work you turn in during the semester must include the name of the group and full names of the group-members. In case any member/s is/are absent please mention the name/s and write "absent" against it.

Attendance (15 Points)

Your attendance and participation in all lectures is mandatory. You can miss two classes without any penalty. Any further absence will affect your grade. In case you need to miss a class for valid reasons please provide supporting documentation. I will do an attendance daily.

Participation (maximum points depend on how many activities we do; each activity is 2 points)

This class will involve general discussion, and short-class assignments (group-work/individual); both of which will ensure that you receive full points for **participation**. You can miss two participatory activities without any penalty. For the rest of absences make sure you talk to me in advance or in case of emergency contact me as soon as you get a chance. Participation will be assessed on two types of activities:

1) General Questions: You will have to sign up for this exercise. Each group will bring for specific sessions questions or reflections to class. These question/reflections will pertain to the readings for that day. During the entire semester each group should at least participate ***2-3 times in this type of exercise***. This exercise may also involve finding news and current events that fit the theme we might be working on that day.

2) Short-class assignments: These assignments will not be announced in advance. These activities may include writing about readings, videos, lectures or other topics that may be of interest. You will also have film worksheets and other in and out of class assignments that will also be a part of your participation score.

Presentation (20 points)

Students will take part in a group presentation, which will be based on a topic relevant to the curriculum. We will form groups in the first week of class and schedule presentations as per convenience of each group. Each group will turn in a list of participants and let me know if anything changes pertaining to any member leaving or joining. Each Presentation should be of at least 10 - 15 minutes duration. Keep me updated of your progress! Detailed rubric will be posted. Please turn a hardcopy of your presentation with the names of the group-members.

Ethnography Project (50 points)

Students are required to conduct a 3-part ethnographic research project. This assignment is designed to assess your grasp of the core concepts of anthropology in a phased manner. A rubric will be posted and discussed in class in order to complete this assignment.

Part 1 - 10 points/500-900 words due on 11 Feb 2016

Part 2 - 15 points/1000-1500 words due on 24 March 2016

Part 3 - 25 points/2000-3000 words due on 5 May 2016

NOTE: Make sure you record the word-count on the assignment

Midterm Exam (30 points)

There will be a midterm examination during regular lecture time on 10 March 2016. It will consist of multiple-choice questions only. A study guide will be posted for your convenience. Please note the date of the exam and clear your schedule now so you will be able to take it. There will be no early, make-up or late exams for the midterm.

Final exam (30 points)

Your comprehensive final exam to be held on 5 May 2016 will consist of short-answer, and multiple-choice questions. It is an open book exam and a study guide will be posted. See the top banner on the first page to confirm date of your finals. No early final examinations before the scheduled date and time will be allowed; plan your travel arrangements accordingly. In case of unforeseen emergency please come see me asap!

Unannounced Quizzes (30/5 points each)

There will be unannounced quizzes based on lecture and reading materials. I will try to have maximum 6 such quizzes depending on the schedule.

Extra Credits (up to 10 points)

There is an option of 5 extra assignments worth 2 points each. Your extra credits will be 400-700 word analyses/reflections, which must be based on - three events, one documentary and one theoretical/current issue. An event can be anything of relevance to anthropology happening on or off campus. The documentary and the current issue should also pertain to gender studies. Please come talk to me to make sure you are choosing relevant activities/topics for your extra credit. The extra credits should be turned in together preferably stapled. You can also turn in the extra credit assignments with the final paper (again, all preferably stapled together).

Course materials

In addition to articles, which will be posted on the course website the book prescribed for this course is: Delaney, Carol. *Investigating Culture: An Experiential Introduction to Anthropology*. Oxford: Blackwell, 2004 (Look for abbreviation "IC" throughout the schedule of classes)

Reading Resources

Additional reading is posted on the class website. Several readings are available online via the Library website and AnthroSource, the American Anthropological Association's online collection of journal articles. You must access AnthroSource to download these articles. One of the course objectives is to teach you how to use AnthroSource, and we will show you how to do so during lecture.

Improving Reading

You might sometimes think the assigned readings for this class are excessive and I might agree with you. However, if you check the schedule of weeks closely you will find that readings are spread throughout the semester and each class is complemented by one reading, which is a realistic reading load for the average college student. One very important thing that we will focus upon during the lectures is how to read smartly and quickly. I will be providing handouts and exercises for achieving better reading skills.

Making Anthropology your major and a future career

What Do Anthropologists Do? What kinds of jobs are available to anthropologists? Is anthropology for me? What after getting Anthropology major? These are some important questions we will explore together throughout the semester.

I have included three special classes that will be dedicated to understanding and exploring Anthropology as a major or a future career. We will learn about the scope of contemporary Anthropology as a fulfilling career, and acquire tools for breaking into the field, like how to write cover-letters, get internships or find your way to studying anthropology in grad school.

Please bookmark websites:

American Anthropological Association (AAA) at <http://www.aaanet.org/resources/students/>
More on careers in anthropology: <http://www.aaanet.org/profdev/careers/index.cfm> and
<http://www.thisisanthropology.com/index.cfm>

Email

I will use email often for a variety of reasons including but not limited to, sending information about changes in the weeks agenda, notifying students about an exercise, and maintaining contact with students. I encourage students to use email if they want more information about something mentioned in lecture, if they have a question about lecture material and assignments or if they have something to say about the day's lecture or film. I will respond quickly to your emails and will only use your university-designated email. If you have another email account, it is your responsibility to see to it that the mail in your other mailbox is forward to your University e-mail. Look for instructions for forwarding email on the blackboard or ask for technical help. I suggest you check your email mailbox at least three times a week.

Changes to the syllabus

I reserve the right to make changes to the syllabus at any point during the semester. If the syllabus changes, I will inform you and provide you with the revised syllabus.

Use of Technology

Use of mobile phones and laptops is not allowed unless otherwise directed. This policy ensures minimum distraction. If you fail to obey this rule it will count negatively towards your participation. You may however after seeking permissions use your laptops during class-exercises for quick research and also during exams to access course materials.

Student Code of Conduct

All students are expected to adhere to the University's *Student Code of Conduct*, designed to promote a safe and respectful learning environment. For more information about your rights and responsibilities as a UNC student see: http://www.unco.edu/dos/honor_code/index.html

Academic Integrity: Plagiarism/Consequences

It is expected that members of this class will observe strict policies of academic honesty and will be respectful of each other. Any instances in which cheating, including plagiarism and unauthorized use of copyrighted materials, computer accounts, or someone else's work is determined, will be referred to Student Services and will be investigated to its full extent. For more on definition of plagiarism and examples please visit: http://www.unco.edu/dos/honor_code/understanding_plagiarism.html

Students with disabilities

Any student requesting disability accommodation, please inform me immediately giving appropriate notice. Students are encouraged to contact Disability Support Services at (970) 351-2289 to certify documentation of disability and to ensure appropriate accommodations are implemented in a timely manner. Anyone needing a note-taker contact me immediately.

Schedule of Classes

PLEASE NOTE: 1) Readings are due the day they are listed. 2) Only excerpts are assigned for some readings, pay attention to that. Assignments/Readings are subject to change. Thank you.

WEEK 1: What is Anthropology?

- 12 Jan: Mechanics/Introductions
- 14 Jan: IC, Page 1-33; Discussion; Short Video Boas or Mead

WEEK 2: History of Anthropology

- 19 Jan: History of Anthropology
- 21 Jan: continue discussion of history reading
- Video The Shackles of Tradition – Franz Boas (52 minutes/view in parts)

WEEK 3: Fieldwork and Ethnography

- 26 Jan: The Subject, Method and Scope of this Inquiry from Malinowski, Bronislaw. 1922.
 - *Begin thinking about your ethnography project*
- 28 Jan: Continue same readings. Video - Stories from the Jungle, Bronislaw Malinowski (approx. 60 minutes)
 - ***Post/Discuss Rubric/Sample of Ethnography project.***

WEEK 4: Spatial Locations

- 2 Feb: How do we situate ourselves in space? IC page 33-64
- 4 Feb: The American front Porch, Sue Bridwell, IC page 64-74

WEEK 5: Time is all we have

- 9 Feb: Cultural Notions of Time, IC Page 80-109
- 11 Feb: Time is for Savoring, Ellen Goodman IC page 109 -133
 - ***Submit Part 1 of project***

WEEK 6: Language: We are what we Speak

- 16 Feb: Is language quintessentially human, IC page 135-168
- 18 Feb: Ursula Leguin, She unnames them, Alna Dundes Seeing is believing IC page 169-174

- *Ethnography & Ethnographic writing (Handout will be posted on BB)*

WEEK 7: Relatives and Relations

- 23 Feb: Notion of Kinship, IC page 175-208
- 25 Feb: Penelope Eckert, Symbols of Category membership, IC page 209-221, Page 227
 - Will you marry me (documentary)

WEEK 8: Our Bodies, Our Selves

- 1 March: Are we our bodies or do we have bodies? IC page 229-264
- 3 March: Horace Miner, Body Rituals among the Nacirema IC page 265-269
 - Reading Darkest Austria /Documentary Darkest Austria
 - *Post study guide for midterm*

WEEK 9: Midterm

- 8 March: Review
- 10 March: Midterm

Spring Break March 12-20

WEEK 10: Food for thought

- 22 March: What constitutes food? IC page 271-310
- 24 March: Jill Dubisch, You are what you eat, IC Page 311-319
 - We will also decide on a day set aside for FIELDWORK
 - *Submit Part 2 of Assignment*

WEEK 11: Clothing Matters

- 29 March: Clothing does more than cover your body, IC Page 321-359
- 31 March: Julio Ramos Ribero Alienation IC Page 360-366

WEEK 12 – Anthropology of women or Feminist Anthropology

- 5 April: Milton Kay, 1979, Male Bias in Anthropology
- 7 April: Ortner, Sherry B. Is female to male as nature is to culture?
 - Two Spirits Documentary / FIELDWORK (or TBA)

WEEK 13: Perspectives on Gender, Sexuality and Identity

- 12 April: Sex and Temperament in Three Primitive Societies, Margaret Mead; The Prettier Sex: Understanding Gender Roles in Russia
- 14 April: Gender in Science: Emily Martin “The Egg and the Sperm” & Don Kulick, The Gender of Brazilian Transgendered Prostitutes.

WEEK 14: Engaged Anthropology and the Wider World

- 19 April: Scheper-Hughes Nancy, 1995, The Primacy of the Ethical: Propositions for a Militant Anthropology Current Anthropology, Vol. 36, No. 3
- 21 April: Why Anthropology as a major and a career?
- Post Study Guide

WEEK 15: Final Review

- 26 April: Final Review
- 28 April: Discuss Ethnographic Essay

WEEK 16: Finals Week

- Final Exam & Final Assignment: Thursday May 5, 10:45 am – 1:15 pm; Submit Final paper and extra credit assignments (Stapled together).

STUDENT INFORMATION SHEET

- **Course:** ANT 110
- **Timing:**
- **Name:**
- **Year in school:**
- **Major:**
- Have you taken any other course/s in this department before? If yes, please name?
- Primary reason for taking this class (it will not be held against you):
- What do you know about Anthropology? What do you expect to learn from this class; list 3 specific things?
- As per the first discussion of the syllabus do you think it suffices your expectations or would like to include some aspect that you found is missing currently? Please specify?

Thanks you for taking the time to fill this survey. All the best