

Spring 2017 Syllabi for Introduction to Cultural Anthropology – 20209 ANT 110-004

Instructor: Dr. Ather Zia; ather.zia@unco.edu, 970-351-4580; Office: Candelaria 2241

Timing: 12:30 pm- 1:45 pm; TR; Location: Candelaria 1220

Office Hours: Tuesday & Thursday from 10:55-12:25 or by appointment

Final Exam & Final Assignment: Wednesday May 3, 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	30 points approx. (1 per class)
Blogs	42 points approx. (3*14 points)
Presentation	20 points
5 Quizzes	50 points (10 points minimum)
Ethnography Project	50 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

Attendance (30 points)

I will do an attendance daily. 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.

Participation (42 points)

You will have to turn in a weekly blog, which will count towards your participation score. At the beginning of each week you will write a 200-400-word blog and post it online on the blackboard about readings and topics we are discussing that week. You are free to discuss the readings or add any extra information. Each Monday night, 11:59 pm will be the deadline to turn in the blog. Each blog is worth 3 points. This is a big part of your classwork, which assesses your engagement with the curriculum.

5 Quizzes (50 points/10 points each)

There will be 5 quizzes; multiple choice answers. Please make sure you do all of them on the day they are due. No late exam will be allowed except with prior permission (documentation will be required). The exam will be available online.

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 Feb 9

Part 2 - 15 points/1000-1500 words due on March 23

Part 3 - 25 points/2000-3000 words due on April 27

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

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. Please note that groups will choose topics as per theme of the week.

Without fail turn in a copy of your presentation online on your blackboard (each student separately) on the day you present. **If you do not upload a copy it will cost you 5 points.**

Extra Credits (up to 10 points)

There is an option of 5 extra assignments worth 2 points each. Your extra credits will be 400-500 word brief analyses/reflections, which must be based on - three events, one documentary and one theoretical/current issue. An event can be anything of relevance to gender studies 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. For list of activities and events check our Facebook page, the university website or the events calendar

<http://calendar.unco.edu/calendar/EventList.aspx?fromdate=2%2f9%2f2015&todate=4%2f9%2f2015&view=DateTime>

UNC Anthropology on Facebook

Join for class updates and other news here: <https://www.facebook.com/UNCanthropology/>

Late Assignments policy

If you have any difficulty please make prior arrangements with regards to submission of assignments at a later date. If anything personal or technological comes up at the last moment please contact me through phone, or email at the first opportunity you get. With a valid reason and some form of evidence we should be able to find a solution. I am willing to work around any disruptions in your schedule provided you stay proactive and contact me asap. As a rule if you turn your work within a week of the deadline passing, you will be graded minus 7 points.

What will you be tested on?

All readings for the class, videos and lecture slides use will be tested.

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)

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 one reading complements each class, 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.

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

Shut your cell-phone please. 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 for note-taking, exercises for quick research and also during exams to access tests and course materials. I reserve the right to come by and take a look at the screens to ensure focus on class related tasks. If I do come by, please do not take it personally.

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) Blogs are due online, at the start of the week by Tuesday 11:59 pm. 3) Readings/documentaries are subject to change. Thank you

WEEK 1: What is Anthropology?

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

WEEK 2: History of Anthropology

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

WEEK 3: Fieldwork and Ethnography

- 24 Jan: The Subject, Method and Scope of this Inquiry from Malinowski, Bronislaw
 - *Begin thinking about your ethnography project*
- 26 Jan: Continue same readings. Video - Stories from the Jungle, Bronislaw Malinowski (approx. 60 minutes)
 - ***Discuss Rubric/Sample of Ethnography project/Quiz 1***

WEEK 4: Spatial Locations

- 31 Jan: How do we situate ourselves in space? The American front Porch, Sue Bridwell, IC
- 2 Feb: continue

WEEK 5: Time is all we have

- 7 Feb: Cultural Notions of Time, & Time is for Savoring, Ellen Goodman IC
- 9 Feb: Continue - ***Fieldwork & Submit Part 1 of project online***

WEEK 6: Language: We are what we Speak

- 14 Feb: Is language quintessentially human, & Ursula Le Guin, She unnames them, Alna Dundes Seeing is believing IC
- 16 Feb: Continue and ***Quiz 2***

WEEK 7: Relatives and Relations

- 21 Feb: Notion of Kinship, & Penelope Eckert, Symbols of Category membership, IC
- 23 Feb: Continue & Will you marry me (documentary)

WEEK 8: Our Bodies, Our Selves

- 28 Feb: Are we our bodies or do we have bodies? IC & Horace Miner, Body Rituals among the Nacirema IC
- 2 March: Continue & Reading Darkest Austria /Documentary Darkest Austria

WEEK 9: Ethnographic Writing

- 7 March: Ethnography & Ethnographic writing (Handout will be posted on BB)
- 9 March: Bring your writing / **Quiz 3**

Spring Break March 11-19

WEEK 10: Food for thought

- 21 March: What constitutes food? IC & Jill Dubisch, You are what you eat, IC
- 23 March: Continue and **Submit Part 2 of Assignment**

WEEK 11: Clothing Matters

- 28 March: Clothing does more than cover your body, IC & Julio Ramos Ribero Alienation IC
- 30 March: Continue same readings

WEEK 12 – Anthropology of women or Feminist Anthropology

- 4 April: Milton Kay, 1979, Male Bias in Anthropology & Ortner, Sherry B. Is female to male as nature is to culture?
- 6 April: Continue readings
 - Two Spirits Documentary
 - **Quiz 4**

WEEK 13: Perspectives on Gender, Sexuality and Identity

- 11 April: Sex and Temperament in Three Primitive Societies, Margaret Mead & Gender in Science: Emily Martin “The Egg and the Sperm”
- 13 April: Continue same readings

WEEK 14: Engaged Anthropology and the Wider World

- 18 April: Scheper-Hughes Nancy, 1995, The Primacy of the Ethical: Propositions for a Militant Anthropology Current Anthropology, Vol. 36, No. 3
- 20 April: continue / Discuss Assignment

WEEK 15: Anthropology as a career

- 25 April: Why Anthropology as a major and a career?
- 27 April: Continue / **Submit Final Assignment online (open till 11:59 pm)**

WEEK 16: Finals Week

- 3 May: Final Exam Quiz 5 at 10:45 am – 1:15 pm