Anth 161: World Cultures
An Introduction to Cultural Anthropology

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Course Description:
Anthropology is the study of human beings from biological, archaeological, cultural and linguistic perspectives. This course is intended to give students an introduction to the anthropological study of human cultures, and the field of cultural anthropology broadly. We will investigate ways of comparing and contrasting the structures of social relationships and belief systems that operate in different cultural settings, aiming to, in the words of Melford Spiro, “…make the strange familiar, and the familiar strange…” (1995). We will seek to put in context the worldviews and belief systems of a diversity of the world’s people, while simultaneously investigating our own, aiming to overturn previously held notions and prejudices that perpetuate misunderstandings and conflict.

In particular I hope students come out of this course with an appreciation for both the diversity as well as the commonality in human experience. Even if you do not plan to go further in the field, anthropology has a lot to offer you as a human being. Anthropological insight is applicable to many fields: health care, law enforcement, education, business, art, music and many more. My goal in teaching an introductory course is to share with you what anthropology has to offer everyone. It is an inherently fascinating field, and as you discover other cultures I encourage you to turn that gaze inward and discover things about yourself. I truly hope you enjoy this process of discovery and look forward to exploring the world with you!

Course Objectives:
After completing this course, you should:
1. Be able to explain and apply key concepts in cultural anthropology
2. Understand the process and issues of anthropological fieldwork
3. Be able to put in context certain cultural practices
4. Understand some of the commonalities shared by all cultures as well as the diversity of human experience
5. See the modern applicability of anthropology and an anthropological way of thinking
Required Readings:
1. World Cultures textbook, a composite of selected readings from:
   a. Introducing Cultural Anthropology 5th edition by Lenkeit
   c. Annual Editions Article Collection edited by Angeloni
2. Monique and the Mango Rains by Kris Holloway
3. Other readings will be posted on Blackboard under ‘Readings’

Requirements and Grade Evaluation:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Exams and Assignments</th>
<th>Weight</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Journal/Discussion (150 pts)</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exam 1 (100 pts)</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<td>Exam 2 (100 pts)</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Essay on Holloway (100 pts)</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exam 3 (100 pts)</td>
<td>25%</td>
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Total points possible = 550 100%

Final grades will be assigned using a straight scale: 100-90 = A, 80-89 = B, etc. Plus and minus distinctions will be made.

Weekly Lesson Plan: Each week we have a general topic that we cover (see below). You should start with the week’s readings, then watch and listen to the associated lectures. In addition, each week you will have specific assignments that need to be completed. Occasionally, video clips will be included for you to watch.

Readings: Most readings are found in the World Cultures text. Both chapter and page numbers are provided for your convenience (you can always double check via the text’s table of contents). Additional (+) readings are found in the World Cultures text, or are posted on Blackboard (BB). In addition, the ethnography “Monique and the Mango Rains” by Kris Holloway (KH), is a required text and must be completed by the beginning of Week 7.

Journal/Discussion: On Blackboard you will keep a weekly reading journal interpreting the cultures and practices discussed in supplemental articles (go to ‘Tools’ on the course menu to access your journal). This is intended to keep you up-to-date on the required readings and to give you space to respond to course material. If done well this will help immensely with the exams. In addition, you will occasionally post assignments to the discussion board, allowing you to share your perspectives with other students. Journal and discussion assignments are worth 10 points each. There are 15 journal/discussion assignments worth 10 points each (150 pts).

Exams: Administered via Blackboard, exams will be open notes/open book, but must be done INDIVIDUALLY. You will have from the beginning of each week until MIDNIGHT on Sunday to complete the tests. They will be a combination of multiple choice, True/False, fill in the blank and short answer. There are 3 exams worth 100 points each (300 pts).
Essay: A written essay will be assigned for the ethnography Monique and the Mango Rains. You will be asked to write a review of the book using course concepts (gender, kinship, ethnographic method, etc.). You will need to upload an electronic version onto SafeAssign via Blackboard. The essay is worth 100 points.

Late Assignment Policy: Late assignments will not be accepted except in the case of a severe illness, injury, or family emergency. If you should run into one of these exceptional situations, you are required to notify me by email BEFORE THE DUE DATE FOR THE ASSIGNMENT. You may also call me if need be. We will discuss your situation and any possible accommodations that might be warranted.

Weekly Lesson Plan Schedule

Here is how the course is organized into weekly lessons. Each week you have readings, lectures, and assignments to complete. Please review the entire lesson plan so that you are familiar with what we will be covering in this course.

Week 1: Anthropology, Culture, and how it is studied

Lecture 1: Introductions & Review Syllabus

BB    Body Ritual Among the Nacirema
KH    p1-24

Lecture 2: What is Anthropology and How is it Studied?
Lecture 3: Culture, Ethnicity, & Race

Assignment: 1. Discussion – Intro Self – pick photo/Avatar and provide short description of why you are taking this course.
2. Journal – Nacirema – Apply the concepts of Ethnocentrism and Cultural Relativism in an analysis of the article. Use examples to support your points.
Week 2: How do Anthropologists do their thing?

Readings:
3. Fieldwork: How are Data Gathered; p48-71
   + Shakespeare in the Bush; p71-75
   KH p25-45, & p47-59

Lecture 1: Theory & Methods I, Intro to Fieldwork
Lecture 2: Ethnographic Fieldwork

Video: Malinowski - http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2eB4BveCsII
Video: Tales from the Jungle; part 3 - http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N-sBTJMNrA
Video: Tales from the Jungle; part 5 – http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qAt3zhOjdtk

AAA Ethics Code – PDF on BB

Assignment: 1. Journal – Shakespeare in the Bush – Use the concepts of Emic and Etic to explain how and why the Tiv interpret Bohannan’s story the way they do.
2. Discussion – Using what you have learned about doing fieldwork, write a review of Kris Holloway’s initial experiences in Mali. Pick two specific examples (cite page #’s) and describe what was difficult for her, why, and how she dealt with it.

Week 3: Subsistence Strategies I

Readings:
5. Subsistence Strategies and Resource Allocation I; p76-99
   + Eating Christmas in the Kalahari; p100-103
   + The Ju/'hoansi; p104-123
   KH p60-83

Lecture 1: Foraging – The Original Lifestyle

Video: The Hunters – http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NKwqRCf1DeU

Assignment: 1. Journal – Eating Christmas in the Kalahari – What is the cultural significance of the reaction to Lee’s gift of an ox? Why was it “strangely comforting” to Lee?
2. Review Exam 1 Study Guide
3. Exam 1
Week 4: Subsistence Strategies II
Readings:  8. Subsistence Strategies and Resource Allocation II; p124-147
          + Why Can’t People Feed Themselves; p148-154
          + The Trobriand Islanders; p155-174
          KH  p85-102 & p103-122

Lecture 6:  Food Production & Systems of Distribution

Video: Tales from the Jungle, part 4 – http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=df9BlSbYiKY

Assignment:  1. Journal – Analyze the Kula Ring of the Trobriand Islanders – draw on video clips as well as readings and lecture. How does it work and why?
             2. Discussion - Find an online video clip about modern day food production in the U.S. (ex: industrialized agriculture, livestock production, local-food movements, etc.) and write a summary using key terms/concepts from lecture and readings. Be sure to include a link to the video in your summary.

Week 5: Marriage
Readings:  11. Marriage, Family, and Residence; p176-201
           + When Brothers Share a Wife; p202-206
           + Arranging a Marriage in India; p207-211
           KH  p123-138 & p139-153

Lecture 7:  Marriage – More than One Way

Video: Arranged Marriages in India – http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IFnWgfP8Exw

Assignment:  1. Journal – Drawing on Nanda’s article, “Arranging a Marriage in India” and the video, “Arranged Marriages in India” – What factors must be taken into account in arranging a marriage? Be sure to use key terms and concepts from lecture to support your analysis.
             2. Journal – Indentify and describe your ideal type of marriage. Based on your gender, detail what benefits and limitations the arrangement brings you and your family. Be sure to use key terms and concepts in your description.
**Week 6: Kinship**

Readings:  
14. Kinship and Descent; p212-233  
+ Death without Weeping; p234-238  
+ The Nuer; p240-258  
KH p155-163, & p165-180

Lecture 8: Kinship – The ties that bind?

Assignment:  
1. Journal – Write a review of “Death without Weeping.” In it, describe “mortal selective neglect”/ “passive infanticide” and how Scheper-Hughes explains the “delayed attachment” and “benign neglect” of mothers in Bom Jesus.  
2. Review Exam 2 Study Guide  
3. Exam 2

**Week 7: Gender & Sexuality**

Readings:  
17. Gender and Sexuality; p260-283  
+ The Hijras; p284-291  
+ Sexual Orientation Differences…p292-297  
KH p181-206, & p207-208

Lecture 9: Constructing Gender  
Lecture 10: Gender Diversity & Sexuality

Assignment:  
1. Discussion – Find and post an annotation of a web resource AND review a resource posted by another student. Be specific and use key terms and concepts to support your discussion.  
2. Essay Prompt for Mango Rains available on Blackboard.  
3. Essay Worksheet – for your benefit – start preparing – Draft upload will be available on SafeAssign via Blackboard.
Week 8: Political Organization
Readings: 20. Political Order, Disorder, and Social Control; p298-319
+ Ties that Bind; p 320-322
+ The Yanomami; p323-341

Lecture 11: Political Systems

Video: The Axe Fight –
http://anth.alexanderstreet.com.libproxy.uoregon.edu/view/765336

2. Discussion - Use the discussion board to help each other complete the Social Correlates worksheet.
3. Mango Rains Essay due: upload to SafeAssign

Week 9: Religion & Belief Systems
Readings: 23. Belief Systems; p342-367
+ The Secrets of Haiti’s Living Dead; p368-371
+ The Azande; p373-391

Lecture 12: Belief Systems – How do we Explain the Unexplainable?

Video: Strange Beliefs - http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8q9HyONL_10

Assignment: 1. Journal – Describe and discuss Azande witchcraft, sorcery and oracles. What functions do these practices provide the Azande? Be sure to draw on both the article and video to provide supporting examples.
2. Discussion – Define Ritual and provide a description of a common ritual practiced by your culture. Be sure to describe what the ritual provides (i.e., its function).
Week 10: Culture Change

Readings: 26. Culture Change and Globalization; p392-419
+ The Price of Progress; p420-427
+ Last of Their Kind; p428-429
+ The Tractor Invasion; p430-434

Lecture 13: Culture and Globalization

Video: TED Talk – Wade Davis – Cultures at the far edges of the world
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bL7vK0pOvKI

Assignments: 1. Review Final Exam Study Guide
2. Journal – write a review of the video and include your personal feelings and reactions to what Wade Davis has to say about the loss of the “ethnosphere.”

Final Exam: TBA