

## Introduction to Cultural Anthropology (01.070.101.01-14, Spring 2008)

Lecture Mon and Thurs 12:35-1:55, Hickman 101, and Section according to schedule

**Instructor:** Professor Daniel Goldstein  
**Anthro Office:** 303 Ruth Adams, Douglass Campus  
**Telephone:** 732-932-9887 or 732-932-0534  
**Email:** [dgoldstein@anthropology.rutgers.edu](mailto:dgoldstein@anthropology.rutgers.edu)  
**Office Hours:** Mon 3:00-4:00; Thurs 2:00-3:15 or appt.  
**Office Hours held in:** Corwin B building, 106 Nichol Ave (Latin American Studies office), DC

**TAs:** Jane Park (Head TA) – [jjpark@rci.rutgers.edu](mailto:jjpark@rci.rutgers.edu)  
Sarasij Majumder – [sarasijm@gmail.com](mailto:sarasijm@gmail.com)  
Nell Quest – [101nell@gmail.com](mailto:101nell@gmail.com)  
Debarati Sen -- [dsen@rci.rutgers.edu](mailto:dsen@rci.rutgers.edu)  
**TA telephone:** messages at main office: 732-932-9886

**Course Description** This course is an introduction to the discipline of cultural anthropology, surveying many of the important areas of human society and culture that anthropologists study. The first part of the course considers the ways in which anthropologists have tried to understand culture through an application of the anthropological perspective, a distinctive way of looking at the world that makes anthropology a unique discipline. Awareness of the anthropological perspective means challenging our own assumptions and cultural preconceptions about ourselves, other peoples, and the world around us. We will also discuss techniques and philosophies of ethnographic data collection, and what these tell us about the study of culture. Then, using ethnographic case studies of cultures from around the world, the class will examine some critical areas of anthropological knowledge – with a particular emphasis on politics, law, family, and social inequality – to reveal our own cultural biases and explore other ways of living practiced by peoples around the world. The course concludes with a consideration of economic organization and globalization, and the processes that are changing the way we all live in the world today.

**Course Objectives** My principal goal in this course is for students to develop an appreciation for and understanding of cultural difference, and to gain a relativistic view of themselves and their own culture as one particular system among many. As the world becomes increasingly globalized and the boundaries between cultures blur, all of us can benefit from a perspective that sees no one culture or way of life as superior to another. By examining our own cultural practices and comparing them with those of other peoples, we can come to understand the roles of culture, power, and economics in shaping the taken-for-granted structures and meaning systems within which we live. Thus another goal of the course is to help students sharpen their critical faculties by developing an understanding of the variety of factors – including culture, history, power, politics, and social inequality – that influence and impact people's lives. Anthropology is uniquely capable of showing students the complexity inherent in all social life, and the impossibility of reducing explanation to single-factor causes.

**Course Requirements** Student grades will be based on 100 points divided as follows: three exams (20 points each), one short paper (15 points), the best three out of four pop quizzes (5 points each, 15 points total), and Section participation (10 points).

**Exams:** Each exam will consist of 50 multiple choice and fill-in-the-blank questions that address material covered in lectures, Section 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, i.e., it is not a cumulative exam.

**Short paper:** One three-page paper will be assigned, due the week of Thursday, April 24 (depending on your Section), worth 15 points, or 15% of your final grade. The grading criteria will be specified on the assignment sheet.

**Pop quizzes:** Four pop quizzes will be given *in Lecture* during the course of the semester; you may drop your lowest quiz grade, so that your three best quizzes count towards your course grade. ***No make up quizzes will be given.***

### Course Rules

**Attendance:** You are required to attend all class meetings. We cover a lot of material in class, all of it potentially appearing on the exams, so missing any class session can be costly. ***Attendance at recitation Section is also required.*** You are allowed two unexcused absences during the semester; thereafter, *each unexcused absence from Section* will lower your grade by 5 points.

**Lateness:** Please come to class on time – it is very disruptive to professor and classmates when students arrive late to class. *Students arriving late to Lecture or Section will have to wait in the hall until such time as the instructor admits them to the classroom*, usually about 15 minutes after the start of class. Do not open the door if it is closed. Two late arrivals to Section count as one unexcused absence, which after two unexcused absences will count as

minus 5 points against your final grade (see "Attendance," above). Students arriving more than 15 minutes late *will not be admitted to Lecture or Section*, which will count as an unexcused absence.

**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 exam. Only TWO MAKE-UP TIMES will be scheduled for Exams I and II. To qualify to take a make-up exam during these times, you must contact your TA or Prof. Goldstein within **24 hours** of missing the exam, 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 **Midterm 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" grade for the class and will have to take a different version of the exam during the first week of classes in September -- 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.

**Short Paper:** You must bring a typed, printed copy of your paper to your Section on the date it is due -- *no late papers will be accepted*. If you have to miss class on the day the paper is due, you must put a copy in your TAs mailbox (on the 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 Livingston 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://caar.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
- Show courtesy to instructors and other students

**Course Website:** There is a Sakai website (<https://sakai.rutgers.edu>) that accompanies this course, from which students can download course materials (syllabus, readings, lecture outlines) and receive announcements. If you have trouble accessing the site, please consult your TA.

**Course Readings:** There are three sources for readings in this class, listed in the syllabus as follows:

CC - James Spradley & David McCurdy, *Conformity and Conflict: Readings in Cultural Anthropology*. New York: Longman. 2008 EDITION – no other edition is acceptable. This book is available for purchase at both the Douglass Student Coop Bookstore and Rutgers University Bookstore.

SR – Sakai Readings. These are available through the course Sakai site under "Resources." These readings are:

SR-1: Miner, Horace. "Body Ritual among the Nacirema."

SR-2: Purdum, Elizabeth D., and J. Anthony Paredes. "Rituals of Death: Capital Punishment and Human Sacrifice."

SR-3. Goldstein, Daniel M. "Desconfianza and Problems of Representation in Urban Ethnography."

SR-4: Malinowski, Bronislaw. "The Essentials of the Kula."

SR-5: Lappé, Frances Moore, and J. Collins. "Why Can't People Feed Themselves?"

SR-6: Loewen, James W. "The Truth about the First Thanksgiving."

SR-7: di Leonardo, Micaela. "The Female World of Cards and Holidays."

SR-8: Goldstein, Daniel. "Names, Places, and Power: Collective Identity in the Miss Oruro Pageant, Cochabamba, Bolivia."

SR-9: Friend, Tad. "The Perfect Gift."

SR-10: Nietschmann, Bernard. "When the Turtle Collapses, the World Ends."

CC-Online – Several readings are available through [www.MyAnthroKit.com](http://www.MyAnthroKit.com), a supplement to *Conformity and Conflict*. You must login using the code that came with your textbook. These readings are:  
 CC-Online-1: Weatherford, Jack. “Blood on the Steppes: Ethnicity, Power and Conflict.”  
 CC-Online-2: Eames, Elizabeth A. “Navigating Nigerian Bureaucracies.”  
 CC-Online-3: Spradley, James, and David McCurdy. “Law and Order.”  
 CC-Online-4: Bestor, Theodore C. “How Sushi Went Global.”  
 CC-Online-5: Williamson, Nathan. “Illegal Logging and Frontier Conservation.”  
 CC-Online-6: Fuentes, Annette, and Barbara Ehrenreich. “Women in the Global Factory.”

### Course Schedule

R 24 Jan	Introduction to the Course
M 28 Jan	What is culture? What is cultural anthropology? Read: CC pp. 1-5, CC-1 Spradley, CC-5 Gmelch, SR-1 Miner
R 31 Jan	What happens when different cultures encounter one another? Read: CC-3 Bohannon, CC-31 Shandy Film, “Cannibal Tours” (2-2625)
M 4 Feb	Do we have culture? Read: CC-27 Freed and Freed, CC-28 Gmelch, CC-29 Dubisch Film, “Witchcraft among the Azande” (2-5119)
R 7 Feb	What role do rituals play in organizing our worlds? Read: CC pp. 295-98, CC-30 Leavitt, SR-2 Purdum and Paredes Film, “Trobriand Cricket” (D-26)
M 11 Feb	How do anthropologists study other people? Read: CC-2 Lee, SR-3 Goldstein
R 14 Feb	What are some useful models for trying to understand culture? Read: CC pp. 58-62, SR-4 Malinowski Film, “Off the Verandah” (2-2520)
M 18 Feb	What can this anthropology do for me? Read: CC pp. 387-90, CC-36 McCurdy, CC-37 Omohundro Special presentation: Dr. Andrew J. Brown, Cultural Logic Film: “Anthropology: Real People, Real Careers”
R 21 Feb	Do we need history to understand culture? Read: SR-5 Lappé and Collins; SR-6 Loewen Film, “The Last Tasmanian” (2-2000)
M 25 Feb	How does language shape the way we think about and act in the world? Read: CC-7 Spradley and Mann, CC-8 Schildkrout, CC-9 Tannen Special presentation: Prof. Laura Ahearn, Rutgers University
R 28 Feb	<b>Exam I</b>
M 3 Mar	Is kinship still relevant in the modern world? Read: CC pp. 178-181, CC-16 Scheper-Hughes, CC-17 McCurdy Special presentation: Ms. Jane Park
R 6 Mar	How are families organized? Read: CC-18 Geertz, CC-19 Wolf Film: “Daughter from Danang” (10-356)

M 10 Mar	Does gender matter? Read: CC pp. 219-222, CC-20 Fernea & Fernea, SR-7 di Leonardo Film: “Through Chinese Women’s Eyes” (2-3397)
R 13 Mar	How does inequality appear in different societies? Read: CC-21 Friedl, CC-22 Small
M 24 Mar	How do race and ethnicity operate in the world today? Read: CC-23 Fish, CC-Online-1 Weatherford Film: “Ethnic Notions” (2-568)
R 27 Mar	What kinds of political systems do we find around the world? Read: CC pp. 261-63, CC-26 Harris, CC-Online-2 Eames
M 31 Mar	How does the law function in other societies? Read: CC-24 Sutherland, CC-Online-3 Spradley and McCurdy Film: “Little Injustices” (2-957)
R 3 Apr	Why are cities around the world growing so rapidly? Read: SR-8 Goldstein Special presentation: Ms. Nell Quest
M 7 Apr	<b>Exam II</b>
R 10 Apr	How does the environment influence livelihoods? Read: CC pp. 102-106, CC-10 Lee, CC-12 Reed Film: “N!ai: Story of a !Kung Woman” (2-1638)
M 14 Apr	How are non-capitalist economic systems organized? Read: CC pp. 143-45, CC-13 Cronk, SR-9 Friend Film: “Ongka’s Big Moka” (327)
R 17 Apr	How are capitalist economic systems organized? Read: CC-15 Bourgois, SR-10 Nietschmann Special presentation: Mr. Sarasij Majumder
M 21 Apr	Passover Holiday – No Class Today
R 24 Apr	What is globalization? Read: CC pp. 341-43, CC-33 Condry, CC-Online-4 Bestor Special presentation: Ms. Debarati Sen
M 28 Apr	What impacts does globalization have on local communities? Read: CC-14 Weatherford; CC-Online-5 Williamson Special presentation: The Chiapas Media Project
R 1 May	How is the global economy organized? Read: CC-Online-6 Fuentes and Ehrenreich Film: “The Global Assembly Line” (2-1327)
M 5 May	How have indigenous communities responded to globalization? Read: CC-32 Brennan, CC-34 Turner Film: “The Kayapo” (2-1405)
TBA	<b>Exam III</b>