

Introduction to Cultural Anthropology 070:101 (4 credits)

Monday, Thursday 12:35pm-1:55pm HCK-101

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Office: RAB 308

Office hours: Mon 2:00-3:00pm or by appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION - Cultural anthropology is concerned with understanding and explaining similarities and differences among groups of people living all over the world. As the branch of anthropology dedicated to the study of cultural diversity, cultural anthropology's primary goal is to understand social differences (whether cultural, ethnic, "racial," gender, sexual, class, or religious) and their relationship to political, economic, linguistic, historical, and other social realms. This course introduces students to the anthropological study of cultural difference and to anthropological ways of understanding the world. It surveys the basic concepts and research methods of the field and the key areas of inquiry in cultural anthropology today. This course helps students comprehend the world as others see it and it encourages them to see themselves as part of a large, interconnected world. Through cultivating students' cross-cultural awareness and critical thinking about such differences, this course helps prepare them for living in an increasingly diverse and global world. This course is a prerequisite for many upper-level anthropology courses and a requirement for majors.

DEPARTMENT LEARNING GOALS <http://anthro.rutgers.edu/undergrad-program/departments-learning-goals>

CA1) Students gain knowledge that will allow them to identify, explain, and historically contextualize the primary objectives, fundamental concepts, modes of analysis, and central questions in their major field and demonstrate proficiency in their use of this knowledge

CA2) Students are able to demonstrate proficiency in the use of critical thinking skills

CA3) Students are able to demonstrate proficiency using current methods in their major fields, including library research skills

CA4) Students are able to express themselves knowledgably and proficiently in writing about central issues in their major field

CA5) Students are able to express themselves knowledgably and proficiently in speaking about central issues in their major field

SAS CORE CURRICULUM LEARNING GOALS MET BY THIS COURSE

IIB: Areas of Inquiry: Social Science and History

- Understand the bases and development of human and societal endeavors across time and place.
- Explain and be able to assess the relationship among assumptions, method, evidence, arguments, and theory in social and historical analysis.

B2: Social Analysis

- Understand different theories about human culture, social identity, economic entities, political systems, and other forms of social organization

COURSE SPECIFIC LEARNING OUTCOME GOALS

- to provide an overview of key concepts and methods in cultural anthropology [CA1, SAS-B2]
- to encourage critical thinking on key anthropological and social scientific debates [CA2, SAS-IIB & B2]
- to critically analyze explanations for cross-cultural similarities and differences [CA1,2, SAS-IIB & B2]
- to become familiar with both the universal processes through which human beings constitute themselves through culture, and the great diversity of cultural forms that result [CA1, SAS-IIB]
- to critically analyze issues of ethnographic authority and the politics of representation and display of cultural, racial, ethnic, gender, and class difference [CA2]
- to examine the changing ways anthropologists have studied distant and "foreign" peoples and assess this "we/they" dichotomy in the context of today's increasingly interconnected world [CA2, SAS-IIB]
- to conduct independent research and communicate it both orally and in writing. [CA3,4,5]

COURSE MATERIALS – most readings will come from the textbook, *Cultural Anthropology: A Toolkit for a Global Age* (available in the university bookstore in print and electronic formats). Other readings will be available on the course Sakai site. Read *before* class and come prepared to engage with the materials

ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING

Grade scale: **A** = 100-90; **B+** = 89-86; **B** = 85-80; **C+** = 79-76; **C** = 75-70; **D** = 69-60; **F** = 59 and below.

- **Vocab Quiz 20% [CA1]** – quick quizzes based on Monday’s readings. We will average your top 10 scores
- **Participation 24% [CA1,2,5]**- attend all classes and actively participate in section discussions
- **Lead Recitation Discussion 6% [CA1,2,5]** – A pair of special guest stars will help the Teaching Assistant liven up the weekly discussion. Bring in media, questions, or whatever it takes.
- **3 Exams 5%, 15%, *Final 15% = 35% [CA1,2,4, SAS-IIB & B2]** ***Final exam**-Thursday, 5/4 8:00am
- **Ethnographic Projects 3*5% = 15% [CA3,5, SAS-IIB]**- instructions/grading rubrics will be available on Sakai

ATTENDANCE AND ABSENCES – Use the University absence reporting website <https://sims.rutgers.edu/ssra/> to indicate the date and reason for your absence. It is your responsibility to find out what you missed in class.

There will be no makeup assignments, quizzes, or exams without a documented approved, excused absence. You must notify your professor before the due date. In addition to reporting your absence via SIMS, upload an image of your documentation to **dropbox** in **Sakai** to verify a mandatory sports event, medical or other emergency. Please consult the university’s absence policy:

<http://sasundergrad.rutgers.edu/academics/courses/registration-and-course-policies/attendance-and-cancellation-of-class>

COURSE COMMUNICATIONS – You must have an active email linked to your Sakai account. I will contact you personally via this email and course updates posted in Sakai will send automated emails to it. During inclement weather or other emergencies, check the class Sakai page and the Rutgers website

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY – You are responsible for adhering to these policies: <http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu>

The university’s Academic Integrity Policy prohibits cheating, fabrication, plagiarism, denying others access to information or material, and facilitating dishonesty and violations of academic integrity. Familiarize yourself with the university’s standards and speak with a faculty member if you have concerns or questions. I encourage you to take *a tutorial on plagiarism and academic integrity* and consult the library’s tip sheet on how to take notes to avoid accidental plagiarism. A student who plagiarizes any portion of an assignment will receive a zero on it and be referred to the university’s board to assess additional sanctions

Tutorial: <http://www.scc.rutgers.edu/douglass/sal/plagiarism/intro.html>

Tip sheet: http://www.libraries.rutgers.edu/rul/lib_instruct/instruct_document.shtml

CLASSROOM ETIQUETTE - Be in the classroom by the start of the class. If you are late, you may be marked absent and/or forfeit the opportunity to take a quiz. Students can expect to attend class in an environment free of disturbances, distractions, and any form of discrimination, and in which all class members are respectful of each other’s points of view. In a large lecture, there is not time for lengthy discussions of the sort that take place in smaller seminars, but students should feel comfortable asking questions and should be prepared to answer questions and engage in discussions in a respectful manner. Students who do not abide classroom etiquette may be asked to leave the class.

ACCOMMODATIONS: Students seeking accommodations should consult the Office of Disability Services <http://disabilityservices.rutgers.edu/request.html> in Lucy Stone Hall on Livingston Campus, at dsoffice@rci.rutgers.edu or (848) 445-6800. Requests for accommodations must be submitted before tests or assignments to make arrangements. Students who suspect they may have an undiagnosed learning disability or other disability may visit the Office of Disability Services for assessment and guidance. The Graduate School for Applied and Professional Psychology offers testing for autism, attention-deficit/ hyperactivity disorder, learning disabilities, conditions such as anxiety or depression, post-traumatic stress disorder, traumatic brain injury, and other neuropsychological concerns <https://ods.rutgers.edu/students/gsappp-screening-eval-main>

I. Anthropology for the 21st Century

WEEK 1 – INTRODUCTION

(Thurs 1/19) Chapter 1, *Anthropology in a Global Age* pp. 7-18 (read by next week's section)

- What is Anthropology?
- Through What Lenses do Anthropologists Gain a Comprehensive View of Human Cultures?

View: My Favorite Martian. Season 1, episode 7. "A Loaf of Bread, a Jug of Wine and Peaches"

****no section this week –only come to Thursday's lecture***

WEEK 2 - ANTHROPOLOGY, GLOBALIZATION, AND CULTURE

(Mon 1/23) Chapter 2, *Culture* pp. 33-59, 61-62 (all readings should be done before class)

- What is Culture?
- How Has the Culture Concept Developed in Anthropology?
- How Are Culture and Power Related?
- How Much of Who You Are Is Determined by Biology and How Much by Culture?

(Thurs 1/26) Chapter 2, *Culture* pp. 66-70

- How is Globalization Transforming Culture?
- Chapter 1, *Anthropology in a Global Age* pp. 19-30
- What is Globalization and Why is it Important for Anthropology?
 - How is Globalization Transforming Anthropology?

In sections: Ice breaker. Form a group. Exchange email, phone numbers, and other interesting info.
Vocab Quiz 1: What is Anthropology? What is Culture? (review key terms of pages assigned through Monday 1/23)

WEEK 3 - ETHNOGRAPHIC METHODS

(Mon 1/30) Chapter 3, *Fieldwork and Ethnography* pp. 73-100

- What is Unique about Ethnographic Fieldwork?
- How did the Idea of Fieldwork Develop?
- How Do Anthropologists Get Started Doing Fieldwork?
- How do Anthropologists Write Ethnography?

View: (clip) Singer, A. and Dakowski, B. 1986 Off the Verandah: Malinowski (1884-1942) (52min) 2-2520



(Thurs 2/2) Chapter 3, *Fieldwork and Ethnography* pp. 100-109

- What Moral and Ethical Concerns Guide Anthropologists in Their Research and Writing?
- How Are Fieldwork Strategies Changing in Response to Globalization?

In section: Vocab Quiz 2: Fieldwork and Ethnography
Read to discuss in section: Miner, H. M. 1956. "Body Ritual among the Nacirema"
Groups: brainstorm moral/ethical conundrums you might encounter as an anthropologist
Work on Ethnographic Project 1 to be presented in section next week

WEEK 4 - LANGUAGE, CULTURE, AND POWER

(Mon 2/6) Chapter 4, Language pp. 113-124

- What is Language and Where does it Come from?
- Can Language Shape Our Ways of Thinking?
- How do Systems of Knowledge Intersect with Language and Communication?

Explore: <http://www.deborahannen.com/>

View: "Language and Relationships" Sept 13 2016. <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/videos/2016-09-23/language-and-relationships-charlie-rose>

(Thurs 2/9) Chapter 4, pp. 124-150

- What are the Effects of Globalization on Language?
- How is the Digital Age Changing the Way People Communicate?

In section: Vocab Quiz 3: Language

****Groups: Present project 1 to class.**

Review for exam

(Mon 2/13) ** EXAM I **

Please bring your student ID and pencils. No makeup exams permitted.

II. Unmasking the Structures of Power

WEEK 5 - RACE and RACISM

(Thurs 2/16) Chapter 6, Race and Racism pp. 195-212

- Do Biologically Separate Races Exist?
- How is Race Constructed Around the World?

Explore: AAA Statement on Race

<http://www.americananthro.org/ConnectWithAAA/Content.aspx?ItemNumber=2583>

View: *Brazil in Black and White*. 2012. PBS.

In section: (No quiz this week)

Discuss in section Goldstein, Donna. 1999. "Interracial" Sex and Racial Democracy in Brazil. American Anthropologist. 101.

WEEK 6 – RACE, ETHNICITY, AND NATIONALISM

(Mon 2/20) Chapter 6, Race and Racism pp. 212-235

- How is Race Constructed in the United States?
- What is Racism?

Chapter 7, *Ethnicity and Nationalism* 237-44

- What does "Ethnicity" Mean to Anthropologists?

(Thurs 2/23) Chapter 7, Ethnicity and Nationalism pp. 244-265

- How is Ethnicity Created and Put in Motion?
- What is the Relationship of Ethnicity to the Nation?

In section: Vocab quiz 4: Race and Racism (questions on Ethnicity and Nationalism are extra credit)

WEEK 7 - GENDER

(Mon 2/27) Chapter 8, pp. 269-287, 290-300

- Are Men and Women Born or Made?
- Are There More Than Two Sexes?
- How do Anthropologists Explore the Relationship between Gender and Power?

(Thurs 3/2) Chapter 8, pp. 301-305

- How is Globalization Transforming Women's Lives?

View (selection): A. Islas. 2006. *Muxes: Authentic Intrepid Seekers of Danger* (105min)

In section: Vocab quiz 5: Gender
Read to discuss in section.
Martin, Emily. "Egg and Sperm"
Fausto-Sterling. "5 Sexes" and "5 Sexes revisited"

WEEK 8 - SEXUALITY **Warning grades due by 3/10**

(Mon 3/6) Chapter 9, Sexuality pp. 311 – 330

- What is "Natural" about Human Sexuality?
- What Does a Global Perspective Tell Us about Human Sexuality?
- How Has Sexuality Been Constructed in the United States?

(Thurs 3/9) Chapter 9, Sexuality pp. 330 – 345

- How is Sexuality and Arena for Working Out Relations of Power?
- How Does Globalization Influence Local Expressions of Sexuality?

In section: Vocab Quiz 6: Sexuality
Stephens, Lynn. 2002. "Sexualities & Genders in Zapotec Oaxaca" *Latin Am Perspectives*. 123 29:2 (41-59)

→ **** Spring Break March 11-19 **** ←

WEEK 9 - KINSHIP, FAMILY, AND MARRIAGE

(Mon 3/20) Chapter 10, Kinship, Family, and Marriage pp. 349-371 **No class. Continue reading, meet with your group

- Are we related to One Another?
- Are Biology and Marriage the Only Basis for Kinship?

View (clip): *South Park*. "Best Friends Forever" Season 9, Episode 4. 2005 (25 min)

(Thurs 3/23) Chapter 10, Kinship, Family, and Marriage pp. 377-390

- How is Kinship Changing in the United States?
- Just for fun, have a look at Malinowski, B. VI - VII in *Magic, Science, and Religion*

View (clip): *Mork and Mindy*. "Three the Hard Way" Season 4, Episode 4. 1981 (25 min)

In section: Vocab Quiz 7: Kinship
Work on Ethnographic project 2
View: *Sister Wives* episode. Season 8, episode 7. (2015) (42min)

WEEK 10 – KINSHIP – (continued)

(Mon 3/27) Wrapping up and reviewing.

(Thurs 3/30) ****EXAM II**** Exam II will not include Chapter 11, Class and Inequality, it will be on the final.
Please bring your student ID and pencils. No makeup exams permitted.

In section: ****Present Ethnographic Project 2**

III. Change in the Modern world

WEEK 11 – INEQUALITY AND THE GLOBAL ECONOMY ***4/3 Last day to withdraw with a W***

(Mon 4/3) Chapter 11, *Class and Inequality* pp. 396-407, 410-424, 430-433

- Is Inequality a Natural Part of Human Culture?
- How do Anthropologists Analyze Class and Inequality?
- How are Class and Inequality Constructed in the United States?
- What are the Roots of Poverty in the United States?
- Why Are Class and Inequality Largely Invisible in U.S. Culture?
- What is Caste, and How Are Caste and Class Related?

Recommended: Gusterson, H. 1997. "Studying up revisited." PoLAR.

Bourgois, Phillipe. 1989. "Crack in Spanish Harlem." Anthropology Today. 5:4. Pp. 6-11

(Thurs 4/6) Chapter 12 *Global Economy* pp. 441-466

- *What is an Economy and What is Its Purpose?*
- *What Are the Roots of Today's Global Economy?*
- *What Role Has Colonialism Played in Forming the Modern World Economic System?*

In section: Vocab Quiz 8: *Class and Inequality*

View: Roger and Me. Dir. Michael Moore.

WEEK 12 - POLITICS AND POWER

(Mon 4/10) Chapter 12 *Global Economy* pp 466-78

- *What is the Relationship between the Nation-State and the Corporation in the Global Economy?*
- *What are the Dominant Organizing Principles of the Modern World Economic System?*
- (Recommended): Chapter 13 *Migration* pp. 489-509, 511-519

Chapter 14, *Politics and Power* 531-545

- *How Have Anthropologists Viewed the Origins of Human Political History?*
- *What is the State?*

Recommended: Ho, Karen. 2008. "Situating Global Capitalisms: A View from Wall Street." Cultural Anthropology. 20:1.

**View at home:* N!ai, The Story of a !Kung Woman 1980. Dir: John Marshall. DER

(Thurs 4/13) Chapter 14, *Politics and Power* 545-569

- *How is Globalization Affecting the State?*
- *What is the Relationship among Politics, the State, Violence, and War?*
- *How Do People Mobilize Power Outside the State's Control?*

In section: Vocab Quiz 9: *Inequality and the Global Economy (Migration questions are E.C.)* (online)

Vocab Quiz 10: *Politics and Power* (online) ***Available 4/3-4/15*

Discuss: Sahlins, M. "The Original Affluent Society" in Stone Age Economics in relation to N!ai and theories of "progress" and "development"

Discuss theories/studies of inequality on local and global levels, and their interconnection

Discuss explanations involving "structure" and "agency"

WEEK 13 - RELIGION

(Mon 4/17) Chapter 15, Religion pp. 573-598

- What is Religion?
- What Tools do Anthropologists Use to Understand How Religion Works?
- Recommended: Harding, Susan. "Convicted by the Holy Spirit"

View: (Clip) Maya Deren. The Divine Horsemen.

(Thurs 4/20) Chapter 15, Religion pp. 598-615

- In What Ways Is Religion Both a System of Meaning and a System of Power?
- How is Globalization Changing Religion?

View: (selection) H. Ewing & R. Grad. 2006. Jesus Camp. (83min)

In section: Vocab Quiz 11: Religion (online) **Available: 4/16-4/23
Discuss religion, belief, politics, and cultural relativism



WEEK 14 - HEALTH AND ILLNESS

(Mon 4/24) Chapter 16, Health and Illness pp.619-646

- How Does Culture Shape Our Ideas of Health and Illness?
- How Can Anthropologists Help Solve Health Care Problems?
- Why Does the Distribution of Health and Illness Mirror That of Wealth and Power? 646

View (selection): John Marshall. 1969. N/um Tchai: The Ceremonial Dance of the !Kung Bushmen(20 min)

(Thurs 4/27) Chapter 16, Health and Illness pp.646-652

- How is Globalization Changing the Experience of Health and Illness and the Practice of Medicine?

In section: Vocab Quiz 12: Health and Illness (online) **Available: 4/23-5/1
Fadiman, Anne, CH 1. The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down
and the review www.nytimes.com/books/first/f/fadiman-spirit.html
****Present Ethnographic Project 3**



WEEK 15 – RELIGION, HEALTH, AND ILLNESS – (continued)

(Mon 5/1) Concluding remarks

- View (part): Jean Rouch. 1954. Les Maitres Fous (Mad Masters) (54 min)

Last day of class* *No section

****EXAM III** Final exam period, Thursday May 4, 8:00 AM**