

ANTH 303
Cultural Anthropology
Turner Center 241
8:00 AM – 9:15 AM TTh
Fall 2011
University of Mississippi

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Course Description

What is distinctive about cultural anthropology? What are some key concepts and practices that belong to the study of culture and the discipline of cultural anthropology? Where did cultural anthropology come from and why should we care? What relevance does cultural anthropology have in today's society? This semester addresses these questions. We will cover: important schools of thought and traditions of analysis in anthropology; discuss the discipline's emergence as a distinctive scholarly field; grasp key concepts and approaches within cultural anthropology; and explore the relevance of cultural anthropology to understanding contemporary global issues. Throughout the course we discuss not only *what* topics anthropologists study and *why*, but also *how* they investigate a particular issue, e.g. anthropological methods and their application.

Objectives

By the end of the course, students will:

1. Understand the history of cultural anthropology and why it is relevant to contemporary cultural anthropology
2. Identify key traditions and schools of thought within cultural anthropology and how they have influenced one another over time
3. Discuss foundational anthropological concepts from different perspectives (economy, society, gender, etc.)
4. Understand the components of ethnographic practice
5. Be able to read and critique contemporary ethnography, as well as practice writing ethnographically

Course Structure

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This course is structured in 3 parts:

1. Introduction, history, and classical forms of cultural anthropology (weeks 1-3)
2. 20th & 21st Century approaches to anthropology (weeks 4-8)
3. Doing, Reading, and Writing Ethnography (weeks 9-end)

Throughout each section we will describe key areas of anthropological investigation such as economy or religious belief. We also integrate a discussion of ethnography throughout each section, with a more extensive discussion occurring in the final unit.

Required Readings

The following books are available at the campus bookstore or via Amazon. I have indicated the abbreviation I use in the course schedule next to the title. You are expected to bring your required readings to class on the day indicated! There are no assigned additional articles or readings beyond what is listed here. However, as the course proceeds I may encounter interesting and relevant news stories, articles, video clips, etc. If so, I will announce it in class and provide a link via Blackboard.

Erickson, Paul and Liam Murphy. 2008. *A History of Anthropological Theory*. Toronto: University Toronto Press Higher Education. (HoAT)

Ferraro, Gary. 2012. *Classic Readings in Cultural Anthropology*, 3rd Edition. NY: Cengage. (CRiCA)

Leinaweaver, Jessaca. 2008. *The Circulation of Children*. Durham, NC: Duke University Press.

Rosman, Abraham et al. 2009. *The Tapestry of Culture*. New York: Altamira Press. (ToC)

West, Paige. 2006. *Conservation is Our Government Now*. Durham, NC: Duke University Press.

Recommended:

Monaghan, John and Peter Just. 2000. *Social and Cultural Anthropology*. New York: Cambridge.

Assignments & Grading

This course is evaluated via multiple different kinds of assignments, spread out over the semester:

2 midterm examinations:	15% each * 2 = 30%
2 written essays	10% each * 2 = 20%
2 homework assignments	5 % each * 2 = 10%
Quizzes and participation	20%
Final exam	20%

You will be provided with detailed assignment sheets for the essays, homework, and final exam. We will discuss the format of the midterms in class. The midterms come in the first 2/3 of the class, with the last 5 weeks of class devoted to forms of doing, writing, and analyzing anthropological materials.

Please be aware that any instance of plagiarism will result in a 0 for the assignment at minimum.

This course is graded on the new +/- scale.

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The scale is:

93-100: A
90-92: A-
87-89: B+
83-86: B
80-82: B-
77-79: C+
73-76: C
70-72: C-
69 and below: D
59 and below: F

If you are borderline, i.e. 79.5, the decision to round up or down will be based primarily upon your participation grade.

Late Policy

I do not accept late papers or requests for make-up midterms. The only exceptions are if you have a doctor's note or a note from your advisor.

Participation

This course is both discussion and lecture based. Your participation in class activities is vital for your understanding (and enjoyment) of the material. A good participation grade is based on **engagement** with course themes in class. I encourage you to bring in examples from your lives, to mention anything that made you think of course topics, and to use course ideas to broaden your understanding of the world around you. Evidence for this includes: asking questions about the material; answering questions posed by myself and other students; referencing interesting or puzzling popular examples such as magazine articles or T.V. shows in discussion; and respecting others' opinions.

There is a Facebook page for this class.

Since many of us are on Facebook more than Blackboard, I am piloting a class page this semester with you all instead of a discussion board on Blackboard. One way to ensure a good participation grade is to post links, questions, and comment on the Facebook page. Please note: I do not want nor need to be friends with you all for you to access the page. Just search for it and like it from your account. The page name is [ANTH 303 Ole Miss 2011](#).

Technology Policy

I encourage you to use e-readers, digital versions of the texts, and so on. You may take notes in class via iPad, tablet, or laptop. However, the use of technology in class is **for class purposes only**. If I catch you texting, chatting, or watching Netflix in class I will a) ask you to leave and b) request that you do not use your device for the next class period.

Student Responsibilities

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Along with the course readings, assignments, and class attendance, you are expected to know and understand the material on the syllabus. I **do no respond** to questions that are clearly answered on the syllabus or on Blackboard (e.g. “what’s the reading?”) Always check your syllabus, then Blackboard, if you have a question!

In addition, there may be changes to the syllabus as the course proceeds. If this occurs, I will a) post an announcement on Blackboard b) announce the change in class and c) send an email to everyone informing them of the change.

Statement on Accommodations

I am happy to provide reasonable accommodations to students with disabilities when necessary. It is the responsibility of any student with a disability who requests a reasonable accommodation to contact the Office of Student Disability Services (915-7128). SDS will then contact the instructor through the student by means of an Instructor Notification of Classroom Accommodations form.

Office Hours

If you have questions, concerns, or ideas about the material come and talk to me. I prefer to work with students in person (not over email) whenever possible. I have an “open door” office hours policy, meaning you can come to my office during these times with no appointment. If you cannot make these times, send me an email and we can arrange an alternate time.

Blackboard and Email

You are expected to check your email. I will send reminders and important notices to your Ole Miss account. I have posted the syllabus on Blackboard and will post any additional handouts, worksheets, assignment sheets, etc. on Blackboard. I will add PowerPoints, additional materials, and handouts throughout the semester.

A heads up: I do not keep the late hours many of you do! Therefore, if you email me late at night (after about 8 PM) I will likely not receive or respond to your email until the next day.

Course Schedule

Theme	Tuesday	Thursday	Additional Assignments & Materials
1. Introduction What is cultural anthropology?	8/23 Welcome & syllabus distribution	8/25 ToC, Chapter 1 Miner, H. “Body Ritual among the Nacirema” (#1 in CRiCA)	
2. Where did cultural anthropology come from?	8/30 HoAT p. 1-47,	9/1 HoAT p. 48-90	

	ToC, Chapter 8	Keesing, R. "Not a Real Fish," (Article #2 in CRiCA)	
3. Fieldwork and classical anthropological schools of thought	9/6 ToC, Chapters 2 & 10 HoAT p. 93-110	9/8 HoAT p. 111-134 Evans-Pritchard, "The Notion of Witchcraft." & Gmelch, G. "Baseball Magic." (article 13 in CRiCA)	Ch. 1 & 7 in Monaghan & Just Homework assignment #1 distributed on 9/6
4. 20 th & 21 st Century approaches I: Linguistics & cognitive anthropology	9/13 ToC, Chapter 3 HoAT 138-155	9/15 Tannen, D. "Rapport-talk" & Hall, E & M. Hall "The Sounds of Silence" (articles 3 & 4 in CRiCA)	Homework assignment #1 DUE in class 9/13
5. 20 th & 21 st Century approaches II: Ecology, Materialism, and Evolutionism	9/20 Articles 5 & 6 in CRiCA; ToC, Chapters 4 & 5	9/22 MIDTERM I	Ch. 6 & 8 in Monaghan & Just
6. 20 th & 21 st Century approaches III: Symbolic Anthropology	9/27 ToC, Chapter 9 HoAT p. 157-167	9/29 Gibbs, J. "The Kpelle Moot." Scaglione, R. "Customary Law." (articles 11 & 12 in CRiCA)	Ch. 2 & 3 in Monaghan & Just Written assignment #1 distributed in class 9/29
7. 20 th & 21 st Century approaches IV: Feminism & Gender	10/4 ToC, Chapters 6 & 7 HoAT p. 168-172	10/6 Nanda, S. "Arranging a Marriage in India," Scheper-Hughes, N. "Death Without Weeping" Friedl, E. "Society and Sex	Ch. 4 in Monaghan & Just Written assignment #2 DUE in class 10/06

		Roles.” (articles 7, 8, 9 in CRiCA)	
8. 20th & 21 st Century approaches V: Political Economy, Postmodernity, and Globalization	10/11 ToC Chapters 13 & 14	10/13 HoAT p. 173-217	
9. Doing, Writing, and Reading Ethnography I: Family, gender, ethnicity, local and global histories of power	10/18 MIDTERM II	10/20 Leinaweaver, J. The Circulation of Children. Pp. 1-36	
10. Doing, Writing, and Reading Ethnography I: Family, gender, ethnicity	10/25 Leinaweaver, J. p. 37-80	10/27 Leinaweaver, J. p. 81-133	Homework #2 distributed in class 10/25
11. Doing, Writing, and Reading Ethnography I: Family, gender, ethnicity	11/1 Leinaweaver, J. p. 134-end	11/3 NO CLASS, 4S Meetings	Homework #2 DUE in class 11/1
12. Doing, Writing, and Reading Ethnography II: Conservationism, development, globalization	11/8 West, P. Conservation is Our Government Now. Pp. 1-52	11/10 West, P. pp. 52-124	
13. Doing, Writing, and Reading Ethnography II: Conservationism, development, globalization	11/15 West, P. pp. 125-182	11/17 NO CLASS, AAA Meetings	Written assignment #2 (book review) distributed in class 11/15
14. NO CLASS	11/22 NO CLASS	11/25 NO CLASS, Thanksgiving	
15. Wrap-up and review	11/29 West, P. p. 183-end	12/1 Discussion, wrap-up, review	Written assignment #2 DUE in class 12/1

FINAL EXAM Tuesday, December 6th, 2011 at 8 AM.