

INTRODUCTION TO CULTURAL ANTHROPOLOGY
Anthropology 103
MWF 9:00-10:05

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

Cultural Anthropology explores how human beings live their lives and make sense of the world around them. Why do people live the way they live? How do we explain difference? Why do cultural processes change? In this course, students will acquire a basic tool-kit to ‘think anthropologically.’ We will discuss how ecology shapes ways of life and how economics cause inequality in a globalized world. Using an anthropological lens, we will address the topics of race, gender, sexuality and religion. We will also discuss ethics and the practical application of anthropological information to contemporary issues. Through lectures, films and readings, students will examine their own cultural backgrounds while exploring the diversity of other peoples.

REQUIRED READINGS

Conformity and Conflict: Readings in Cultural Anthropology, James Spradley and David McCurdy (C&C)

Additional readings are available via the URLs provided in the syllabus and on Desire to Learn (D2L). You may either read these documents online or print a copy for personal use.

CLASS REQUIREMENTS

Lecture, Readings and Film Quiz (10%)
Midterm (30%)
Participant Observation Exercise (20%)
Final Exam (40%)

Illness, emergencies, and plagiarism

If you are sick, it is imperative that you let the instructor know about your illness through email. With proper notice and communication, you will not be penalized for illness-related absences, and you will have the opportunity to make up missed assignments.

Late papers will lose one letter grade for each day past due except in cases of severe illness or emergency. Requests for extensions on deadlines must be made in writing ahead of the due date. All work must be completed for students to receive a passing grade. Students with a documented disability

who need accommodations in this course should inform the instructor immediately.

If you are an Anthropology major, please go see one of the faculty in the Anthropology Department for advising to discuss course-taking to meet graduation requirements. These meetings are also an opportunity to receive suggestions on career development.

Plagiarism (intellectual theft) is a very serious offense and will not be tolerated. Any assignment containing plagiarized material will receive a failing grade. You are responsible for reading and understanding the department handout on plagiarism, available on Desire to Learn and the Anthropology Department website. Please let the instructor know if you have any questions about the policy. This is a serious offense.

Desire to Learn

The course syllabus, readings and assignments will be available on Desire to Learn (<https://d2l.pdx.edu/>). To login, you need an Odin login username and password. To get an Odin account, visit <https://www.account.pdx.edu>. Please contact the instructor if you have any difficulties using this resource.

Course Outline

Week 1: What is Culture? What is Cultural Anthropology?

September 24: Course Overview

September 26: No Class (Yom Kippur)

September 28: *Culture and Ethnography* (C&C 1-5)
James Spradley, *Ethnography and Culture* (C&C 6-12)
Richard Lee, *Eating Christmas in the Kalihari* (C&C 13-19)
Laura Bohannan, *Shakespeare in the Bush* (C&C 41-48)

Week 2: Ethics and Ethnography

October 1: Claire Sterk, *Fieldwork on Prostitution in the Era of AIDS* (C&C 20-30)
George Gmelch, *Nice Girls Don't Talk to Rastas* (C&C 31-36)
AAA Code of Ethics

October 3: Elizabeth Eames, *Navigating Nigerian Bureaucracies: or, "Why Can't You Beg?" She Demanded* (D2L)
Richard Scaglion, *Ethnocentrism and the Abelam* (D2L)

October 5: Film-*Secrets of the Tribe*

Week 3: Ecology and Subsistence

October 8: *Ecology and Subsistence* (C&C 69-72)
Richard Lee, *The Hunters: Scarce Resources in the Kalihari* (C&C 73-86)
Jared Diamond, *Domestication and the Arrow of Disease* (C&C 93-104)

October 10: Richard Reed, *Forest Development the Indian Way* (C&C 105-114)
Nancy Turner, *Traditional Ecological Knowledge and Wisdom of Aboriginal Peoples in British Columbia* (D2L)

October 12: Films-*Himalayan Herders* and *Laguna Negra*

Week 4: Economic Systems and Inequality

October 15: *Economic Systems* (C&C 115-118)
Lee Cronk, *Reciprocity and the Power of Giving* (C&C 119-124)
Sonia Patten, *Malawi verses the World Bank* (C&C 145-150)

October 17: Jack Weatherford, *Cocaine and the Economic Deterioration of Bolivia* (C&C 136-144)
Philippe Bourgois, *Poverty at Work: Office Employment and the Crack Alternative* (C&C 125-135)

October 19: Lecture, Readings and Film Quiz
Film-*The Last Farmer*

Week 5: Kinship and Social Organization

October 22: *Kinship and Family* (C&C 151-154)
David McCurdy, *Family and Kinship in Village India* (C&C 165-171)
Melvyn Goldstein, *Polyandry: When Brothers Take a Wife* (C&C 172-178)

October 24: *Identity, Roles and Groups* (C&C 185-189)
Lila Abu-Lughod, *Do Muslim Women Really Need Saving?* (C&C 208-216)
Dianna Shady and Karine Moe, *The Opt-Out Phenomenon* (C&C 197-207)

October 26: Film (TBD)

Week 6: Race

October 29: Midterm

October 31: Peggy McIntosh, *White Privilege* (D2L)
Jefferson Fish, *Mixed Blood* (C&C 217-226)
Audrey Smedley, *The History of the Idea of Race... and Why It Matters* (D2L)

November 2: Film-*Race: The Power of Illusion*

Franz Boas, *1906 Commencement Address, Atlanta University*

AAA Statement on Race:

<http://www.aaanet.org/stmts/racepp.htm>

AAA Project: Race: Are We So Different?

<http://www.understandingrace.org>

Week 7: Gender and Sexuality

November 5: Alma Gottlieb, *Interpreting Gender and Sexuality: Approaches from Cultural Anthropology*, 169-176 (D2L)
Gloria Steinem, *If Men Could Menstruate* (D2L)

Sally Slocum, *Jane the Hunter* (D2L)

November 7: Alma Gottlieb, *Interpreting Gender and Sexuality: Approaches from Cultural Anthropology*, 176-189 (D2L)
Gayatri Reddy and Serena Nanda, *Hijras: An "Alternative" Sex/Gender in India* (D2L)

November 9: Film-*It's Elementary*

Week 8: Religion and Spirituality

November 12: No Class (Veterans Day)

November 14: *Religion, Magic, and Worldview* (C&C 255-260)
Victor Turner, *Symbols in Ndembu Ritual* (D2L)
George Gmelch, *Baseball Magic* (C&C 266-274)

November 16: Film-Beyul: Sacred Valleys of the Himalaya

Horace Minor, *Body Ritual Among the Nacirema* (C&C 287-292)
Jill Dubisch, *Run for the Wall: An American Pilgrimage* (C&C 275-286)

Week 9: Applied Anthropology

November 19: Participant Observation Assignment Due

Culture Change and Applied Anthropology (C&C 335-349)
Hoyt Alverson, *Suggestions for Developers: The Peace Corps Problems in Botswana* (C&C 340-350)
Ron Barrett, *Leprosy on the Ganges* (C&C 351-358)

November 21: David McCurdy: *Using Anthropology* (C&C 371-382)
John Omohundro, *Career Advice for Anthropology Undergraduates* (C&C 382-390)

November 23: No Class (Thanksgiving)

Week 10: Anthropology and Sustainability

November 26: Jeremy Spoon, *Different Ways of Knowing, Shared Goals: Applied Sustainability Projects in the Nepalese Himalaya and Great Basin* (D2L)

November 28: *James Veteto and Joshua Lockyer, Environmental Anthropology Engaging Permaculture: Moving Theory and Practice Toward Sustainability* (D2L)

Films- *Native Perspectives on Sustainability and Nevada's Native American Tribes and Climate Change*

November 30: TBD

December 3: No Class (instructor available)

December 5: Final

COURSE SCHEDULE

Week	Day	Date	Month	Readings to be discussed, assignments due, etc.
1	M	24	Sept	Course Overview
	W	26		No Class
	F	28		Spradley, Lee, Bohannon
2	M	1	Oct	Sterk, Gmelch, AAA Code of Ethics
	W	3		Eames, Scaglione
	F	5		Film: <i>Secrets of the Tribe</i>
3	M	8		C&C, Lee, Diamond
	W	10		Reed, Turner
	F	12		Films: <i>Himalayan Herders, Laguna Negra</i>
4	M	15		C&C, Cronk, Patten
	W	17		Weatherford, Bourgois
	F	19		Exam: Lecture, Readings and Film Quiz Film: <i>The Last Farmer</i>
5	M	22		C&C, McCurdy, Goldstein
	W	24		Abu-Lughod, Shady and Moe
	F	26		Film: TBD
6	M	29		Exam: Midterm

	W	31		McIntosh, Fish, Smedley
	F	2	Nov	Film: <i>Race: The Power of Illusion</i> Boas, AAA Statement on Race
7	M	5		Gottlieb, Steinem, Slocum
	W	7		Gottlieb, Reddy and Nanda
	F	9		Film: <i>It's Elementary</i>
8	M	12		C&C, Turner, Gmelch
	W	14		Minor, Dubisch
	F	16		Film: <i>Beyul: Sacred Valleys of the Himalayas</i>
9	M	19		Due: Participant Observation Assignment C&C, Alverson, Barrett
	W	21		McCurdy, Omonhundo
	F	23		No Class
10	M	26		Spoon
	W	28		Films: <i>Native Perspectives on Sustainability and Nevada's Native American Tribes and Climate Change</i> Veteto and Lockyer
	F	30		TBD
11	M	3	Dec	No Class (instructor available)
	W	5		Exam: Final