

INTRODUCTION TO ANTHROPOLOGY

ANTHROPOLOGY 240D
SOCIO-CULTURAL ANTHROPOLOGY
Fall 2008

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COURSE DESCRIPTION: Socio-cultural Anthropology offers a unique perspective on human societies and cultural diversity throughout the world and close to home. This course will introduce some of the main topics, theories and methods by which anthropologists have understood human behavior and human creations in small-scale societies as well as industrialized ones. Through a focus on reading ethnographies of different groups, the students will learn about anthropology's **holistic** approach to society, in which all aspects of life, from kinship, economic and political relations, ritual and gender relations are brought together.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

One mid-term and one final examination, each worth 30% of your grade

[If you know you will miss one of these exams, you must make arrangements with me prior to the day of the exam; an unapproved miss will mean an 'F' on that exam]

One 3-4 page essay worth 10% of your grade

One 6-8 page essay worth 25% of your grade

Finally, note cards on each class reading will be worth 5% of your grade (see below).

*Grading will be done on a standard numerical scale (i.e., 95-100=A 90-94=A- etc.)

Attendance Attendance is required, and will be taken at the beginning of each class. If you anticipate schedule conflicts due to other classes, work, athletic events or other activities you are advised not to take this class because irregular attendance will negatively impact your grade. **More than 4 absences will count as negative ½ grade. More than 7 absences will count as negative one full grade.** If you need to miss a class due to illness, religious observances or team participation you must notify me prior to the class.

Extra Credit: Anyone wishing to do extra credit may contact me about an additional

reading which you can write a 3-4 page discussion of, relating it to the relevant readings, and which will result in an in-class presentation. (See me for details).

NOTE CARDS For each class reading you should write a note card and hand it in at **the beginning of class** of the day the reading is to be discussed. This card should include 1) a short summary of the article 2) your questions or comments about the reading, and 3) (optional) how you see it relating to previous readings.

*Any student with special needs for taking this course must contact me during the first week of the term.

EMERGENCY PROCEDURES:

Southern Illinois University Carbondale is committed to providing a safe and healthy environment for study and work. Because some health and safety circumstances are beyond our control, we ask that you become familiar with the SIUC Emergency Response Plan and Building Emergency Response Team (BERT) program. Emergency response information is available on posters in buildings on campus, available on the BERT's website at www.bert.siu.edu, Dept. of Public Safety's website www.dps.siu.edu (disaster drop down) and in the Emergency Response Guidelines pamphlet. Know how to respond to each type of emergency.

Instructors will provide guidance and direction to students in the classroom in the event of an emergency affecting your location **It is important that you follow these instructions and stay with your instructor during an evacuation or sheltering emergency.** The Building Emergency Response Team will provide assistance to your instructor in evacuating the building or sheltering within the facility

REQUIRED BOOKS:

Janet Siskind *To Hunt in the Morning*

Peter Wogan *Magical Writing in Salasaca*

READING PACKET (Available at The Printing Plant (next to New Kahala)

COURSE OUTLINE

**Note: Weeks listed are meant as a general guideline, not a hard-and-fast schedule. Actual reading assignments will be finalized in class.

WEEK 1 Course Introduction. What is Anthropology? What do anthropologists study? What is Fieldwork?

Readings:

Horace Miner "The Nacirema" (Handout in class)

Raymond Williams "Culture"

James Spradley "Ethnography and Culture"

WEEK 2: Kinship, or What's in a Family? How have anthropologists studied kinship? Is kinship based on "the facts of life." What is the significance of marriage, and how does one select a marriage partner? What are the implications of a differently structured (matrilineal) kinship system?

Readings:

Richard Robbins "Patterns of Family Relations"

Serena Nanda "Arranging a Marriage in India"

Barbara Bodenhorn "Inupiaq notions of relatedness"

WEEK 3: Not for Sale: Gifts and Commodities. Why is the exchange of gifts crucial to understanding of social relations? What do our "things" tell us about ourselves? Is money the root of all evil?

Readings:

No Class September 3rd

Richard Lee "Eating Christmas in the Kalahari"

Lewis Hyde "The Gift"

James Carrier "Gifts in a World of Commodities"

WEEKS 4-6: The Sharanahua: Kinship and Exchange among an Amazonian People.

Readings:

Janet Siskind *To Hunt In the Morning*

Essay Due beginning of week 6

WEEK 7 **The Kayapo**: Political Organization in Defense of Identity and Environment

Readings:

John Palatella "Pictures of Us"

The Film *The Kayapo* will be shown.

WEEK 8 **Midterm +** Finish Kayapo Section

MIDTERM EXAM #1

The Film *Out of the Forest* will be shown

WEEKS 9-10 **Social Categories, Social Constructions**

Ian Hacking "Are You a Social Constructionist?"

Dennis Overbye "No Quark is an Island"

W.W. Hill "The Status of the Hermaphrodite and Transvetite in Navajo Culture"

Judith Shapiro "Transsexualism: Reflections on the Persistence of Gender and the Mutability of Sex"

The Film *Juggling Gender* will be Shown

Elizabeth Krause "The Bead of Raw Sweat in a Field of Dainty Perspirers: the Olympic Class Ordeal of Tonya Harding"

Mary Douglas ■Secular Defilement•

WEEKS 11-12: Theory and The Price of the Rite. What makes a ritual, and what gives ritual its power to move people? How do rituals help us get through daily life, and what can they tell us about the society we live in? How does a symbolic approach to a ritual compare to a Marxist and a post-modernist approach?

Readings:

Tom Driver ■Community•

Tad Tuleja "Pumpkins"

Pamela Frese "The Union of Nature and Culture"

Clifford Geertz "Notes on the Balinese Cockfight"

William Roseberry "Balinese Cockfights and the Seduction of Anthropology"

Renato Rosaldo "After Objectivism"

George Gmelch "Baseball Magic"

WEEK 13 Fieldwork: Moral and Epistemological Issues How do anthropologists face the challenges of fieldwork among fellow humans? What are the different types of relativism, and how do they inform anthropological fieldwork?

James Rachels "The Challenge of Cultural Relativism"

Martin Key "New Life in Old Healing"

David Sutton "He's Too Cold: Children and the Limits of Culture..."

EXTRA CREDIT OPTION: "The Invention of Thanksgiving"

Paper on ■Ritual/Sports in American Society• due beginning of week 14

WEEKS 14-15:If Books could Kill: The Symbolism of Writing in Indigenous Ecuador

Readings:

Peter Wogan *Magical Writing in Salasaca*

Week 16 Final Exam

PLEASE FILL IN THE FOLLOWING PAGE. IF YOU MISS A CLASS, YOU SHOULD RELY ON YOUR CLASSMATES AS A FIRST RESORT FOR NOTES AND ASSIGNMENTS

Name

Phone #

e-mail

Name

Phone #

e-mail