

**San José State University
Anthropology Department
ANTH 131: Theories of Culture and Society
Fall 2014 Semester**

Instructor:	Professor González
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Office Hours:	TR 12:15-1:45 pm
Class Days/Time:	TR 3:00 - 4:15 pm
Classroom:	WSQ 004
Prerequisites:	Upper division standing; ANTH 011; ANTH 012 or ANTH 013; or declared Anthropology major or instructor consent
GE/SJSU Studies Category:	N/A
Course Fees:	N/A

Course Description

This course provides a general introduction to the history of anthropological thought since the late 19th century. The first half of the course focuses on the emergence of cultural and social anthropological approaches in the US and Great Britain as a response to theories of biological determinism. The second half of the course emphasizes the changing meanings of culture, society, and biology in the context of colonialism, the Cold War, corporate globalization, and other contemporary phenomena. We will also examine the diffusion of the culture concept—from American anthropology, across academic disciplines, and out into the general public. By the end of the course you should have a thorough understanding of the development of cultural and social anthropological thought, the most influential theoretical approaches of the 20th century, and the political and economic circumstances under which anthropological ideas emerged.

Course Goals and Student Learning Objectives

1. To learn about different theories of culture and society developed by British, French, US, and other anthropologists from the late 19th century to the present.

2. To understand how historical, political and economic contexts shaped and impacted these theories.
3. To examine the relationship between anthropological theories and methods and the relationship between anthropological theories and practices.
4. To compare and contrast classic ethnographies from the past and the present.
5. To analyze and discuss the relationship of anthropological knowledge and the general public.
6. To conduct library research and prepare an academic term paper.

Required Texts/Readings

Textbooks (all are required)

Stephen Jay Gould, *The Mismeasure of Man*

Zora Neale Hurston, *Tell My Horse: Voodoo and Life in Haiti and Jamaica*

E.E. Evans-Pritchard, *The Nuer*

William Rathje and Cullen Murphy, *Rubbish!: The Archaeology of Garbage*

Roberto Gonzalez, *Militarizing Culture: Essays on the Warfare State*

In addition, there will be several required articles that will either be distributed in class by the instructor, or that will be distributed by the instructor via email (see pp. 5-6 of this syllabus for more information).

Classroom Protocol

I strongly recommend that you not use laptop computers and tablets (iPads, etc.) in class as you are likely to miss important points raised during lectures. You will be better off writing lecture notes by hand, or making audio recordings of lectures and transcribing them after class meetings. Mobile phones must be turned off during class and must be out of sight or else the instructor will collect the device from the student until the end of class. Text messaging is strictly prohibited during exams and quizzes. Violation of this policy will result in a zero on the exam or quiz and the filing of a report to the Office of Student Conduct, the latter of which might result in expulsion from the course. Students should be aware that according to Title 5 of the California Code of Regulations, "Standards for Student Conduct," grounds for student discipline includes: "Participating in an activity that substantially and materially disrupts the normal operations of the University," {Section 41301(b)(4)} which could include use of unauthorized electronic devices in classroom settings.

All assignments must be completed in order to pass. I will not accept late assignments nor will I administer makeup exams unless documents can be presented as evidence of illness, death in family, jury duty, etc. No assignments will be accepted via e-mail—I must receive hard copies of all assignments.

Assignments and Grading Policy

Assignments for this course include the following:

1. Five unannounced weekly quizzes at the beginning of class, designed to test your

familiarity with that week's course readings. These will be averaged into your grade. (Three points each quiz, for a total of 15% of final grade.)

2. Two mid-term exams consisting of short definitions, essays, and maps. (Each mid-term counts for 20% of final grade.)
3. One final exam, consisting of identifications/definitions, essays, and maps. (Final exam counts for 30% of final grade.) Final exam will be administered in the usual class meeting room.
4. One 10-page term paper (not including title page or bibliography), due at the last regular class meeting (before final exams). (Paper counts for 15% of final grade.) Description of term paper assignment will be distributed in class during the third week of the semester. Students must submit a typed 250-word term paper proposal to the instructor (see course schedule). Proposal is worth 10% of the assignment.

All assignments must be completed in order to pass. I will not accept late assignments nor will I administer makeup exams unless documents can be presented as evidence of illness, death in family, jury duty, etc. No assignments will be accepted via e-mail—I must receive hard copies of all assignments.

Grading distribution is as follows:

100	-	97	A+	79	-	77	C+
96	-	93	A	76	-	73	C
92	-	90	A-	72	-	70	C-
89	-	87	B+	69	-	67	D+
86	-	83	B	66	-	63	D
83	-	80	B-	Below 63			F

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Fall 2014 Course Schedule

Schedule is subject to change with fair notice.

Wk	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
1	08/26 - 08/28	Introduction Eric Wolf, "American Anthropologists and American Society"*
2	09/02 - 09/04	Social Evolutionism in the Victorian Era S.J. Gould, <i>Mismeasure of Man</i> (Chapters 1-3)
3	09/09 - 09/11	Franz Boas and the Culture Concept S.J. Gould, <i>Mismeasure of Man</i> (Chapters 4, 5, and 7) FILM: "The Shackles of Tradition: Franz Boas"
4	09/16 - 09/18	Culture and Personality S.J. Gould, <i>Mismeasure of Man</i> (Epilogue) Ruth Benedict, <i>The Chrysanthemum and the Sword</i> (excerpt)*
5	09/23 - 09/25	Structural Functionalism E.E. Evans-Pritchard, <i>The Nuer</i> (Ch. 1-3)
6	09/30 - 10/02	Cultural Ecology and Cultural Materialism E.E. Evans-Pritchard, <i>The Nuer</i> (Ch. 4-6) MIDTERM EXAM 1--OCTOBER 2
7	10/07 - 10/09	Colonial Critiques Vine Deloria, "Anthropologists and Other Friends"* TERM PAPER PROPOSAL DUE OCTOBER 9
8	10/14 - 10/16	Feminist Influences and the Anthropology of Gender Zora Neale Hurston, <i>Tell My Horse</i> (Ch. 1-6) FILM: "Small Happiness"
9	10/21 - 10/23	Interpretive and Post-Structural Anthropology Zora Neale Hurston, <i>Tell My Horse</i> (Ch. 7-12)
10	10/28 - 10/30	Experimenting with Ethnography Zora Neale Hurston, <i>Tell My Horse</i> (Ch. 13-18) FILM: "Zora Is My Name!"
11	11/04 - 11/06	Political Economy and Marxist Approaches Sidney Mintz, "Remembering Haiti"*** (http://www.bostonreview.net/BR35.2/mintz.php) William Rathje and Cullen Murphy, <i>Rubbish!</i> (Ch. 1-2) MIDTERM EXAM 2--NOVEMBER 6
12	11/13/14	Approaches to Archaeological Theory William Rathje and Cullen Murphy, <i>Rubbish!</i> (Ch. 3-6) CAMPUS HOLIDAY NOVEMBER 11 -- NO CLASS MEETING
13	11/18 - 11/20	Towards an Anthropology of Globalization William Rathje and Cullen Murphy, <i>Rubbish!</i> (Ch. 7-9) FILM: "Losing Knowledge"

Wk	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
14	11/25 - 11/27	Anthropology and the Contemporary World William Rathje and Cullen Murphy, <i>Rubbish!</i> (Ch.10-11) Roberto Gonzalez, <i>Militarizing Culture</i> (Introduction, Ch. 1-2) THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY NOVEMBER 27 -- NO CLASS MEETING
15	12/02 - 12/04	The Future of Anthropology Roberto Gonzalez, <i>Militarizing Culture</i> (Ch. 3-5) FILM: "Human Terrain"
16	12/09/14	Discussion, Summary, and Course Review Roberto Gonzalez, <i>Militarizing Culture</i> (Ch. 6-7, Afterword) TERM PAPERS DUE ON DECEMBER 9
		FINAL EXAM -- FRIDAY, DECEMBER 12 (2:45 - 5:00 PM) IN REGULAR CLASS MEETING ROOM

Notes:

1. Readings marked with one asterisk (*) will be distributed by the instructor.
2. Readings marked with two asterisks (**) are available on line at listed URL addresses.

Departmental Goals

Learn about the goals of the anthropology department and how it can benefit your education.

Goals <http://www.sjsu.edu/anthropology/departmentinfo/goals/index.html>

Credit Hours

Success in this course is based on the expectation that students will spend, for each unit of credit, a minimum of forty-five hours over the length of the course (normally 3 hours per unit per week with 1 of the hours used for lecture) for instruction or preparation/studying or course related activities including but not limited to internships, labs, clinical practica. Other course structures will have equivalent workload expectations as described in the syllabus.

University Policies

Here are some of the basic university policies that students must follow.

Dropping and Adding

Find the procedures and deadlines for adding and dropping classes.

Catalog Policies <http://info.sjsu.edu/static/catalog/policies.html>.

Add/drop deadlines http://www.sjsu.edu/provost/services/academic_calendars/

Late Drop Policy <http://www.sjsu.edu/aars/policies/latedrops/policy/>

Consent for Recording of Class and Public Sharing of Instructor Material

All students must obtain the instructor's permission if they wish to record lectures or distribute materials from the class.

University Policy S12-7 <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-7.pdf>

Academic Integrity

Learn about the importance of academic honesty and the consequences if it is violated.

University Academic Integrity Policy S07-2 <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S07-2.pdf>

Student Conduct and Ethical Development website <http://www.sjsu.edu/studentconduct/>

Campus Policy in Compliance with the American Disabilities Act

Here are guidelines to request any course adaptations or accommodations you might need.

Presidential Directive 97-03 http://www.sjsu.edu/president/docs/directives/PD_1997-03.pdf

Accessible Education Center <http://www.sjsu.edu/aec>

Resources

The university provides resources that can help you succeed academically. Just look here.

Academic Success Center <http://www.sjsu.edu/at/asc/>

Peer Connections website <http://peerconnections.sjsu.edu>

Writing Center website <http://www.sjsu.edu/writingcenter>

HYPERLINK "http://www.sjsu.edu/counseling" [Counseling Services website](http://www.sjsu.edu/counseling)