

San José State University
Department of Anthropology
ANTH 131: Theories of Culture and Society (Section 1)
Fall 2017

Course and Contact Information

Instructor:	Professor Gonzalez
Office Location:	CL 469
Telephone:	(408) 924-5715
Email:	roberto.gonzalez@sjtu.edu
Office Hours:	Tuesday and Thursday 12:00-2:15 pm or by appointment
Class Days/Time:	Monday and Wednesday 12:00-1:15 pm
Classroom:	CL 204
Prerequisites:	Upper division standing; ANTH 011; ANTH 012 or ANTH 013; or declared Anthropology major; or instructor consent

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.

Learning Outcomes

Course Learning Outcomes (CLO)

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Articulate different theories of culture and society developed by British, French, US, and other anthropologists from the late 19th century to the present
2. Explain how historical, political and economic contexts shaped and impacted these theories
3. Trace relationships between anthropological theories and methods and relationships between anthropological theories and practices

4. Compare and contrast classic ethnographies from the past and the present
5. Analyze and discuss the relationship of anthropological knowledge and the general public
6. Conduct library research and prepare an academic term paper.

Required Texts/Readings

Textbooks

Stephen Jay Gould, *The Mismeasure of Man*

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

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

Christine Walley, *Exit Zero: Family and Class in Postindustrial Chicago*

Jason De Leon, *Land of Open Graves: Living and Dying on the Migrant Trail*

Other Readings

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).

Course Requirements and Assignments

SJSU classes are designed such that in order to be successful, it is expected that students will spend a minimum of forty-five hours for each unit of credit (normally three hours per unit per week), including preparing for class, participating in course activities, completing assignments, and so on. More details about student workload can be found in [University Policy S12-3](#) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-3.pdf>.

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. (Each quiz counts 3% of final grade for a total of 15%).
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.

NOTE that [University policy F69-24](#) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F69-24.pdf> states that “Students should attend all meetings of their classes, not only because they are responsible for material discussed therein, but because active participation is frequently essential to insure maximum benefit for all members of the class. Attendance per se shall not be used as a criterion for grading.”

Grading Policy

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	

Note that “All students have the right, within a reasonable time, to know their academic scores, to review their grade-dependent work, and to be provided with explanations for the determination of their course grades.” See [University Policy F13-1](#) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F13-1.pdf> for more details.

Classroom Protocol

Mobile phones, laptops, and tablets 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. Students may record lectures for their own private use only, not to be redistributed or sold.

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.

I will not answer any questions regarding grades via email. Federal law (the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act) prohibits faculty from doing so. You are welcome to discuss grades during my office hours.

University Policies

General Expectations, Rights and Responsibilities of the Student

As members of the academic community, students accept both the rights and responsibilities incumbent upon all members of the institution. Students are encouraged to familiarize themselves with SJSU’s policies and practices pertaining to the procedures to follow if and when questions or concerns about a class arises. See [University Policy S90-5](#) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S90-5.pdf>. More detailed information on a variety of related topics is available in the [SJSU catalog](#), at <http://info.sjsu.edu/web-dbgen/narr/catalog/rec-12234.12506.html>. In general, it is recommended that students begin by seeking clarification or discussing concerns with their instructor. If such conversation is not possible, or if it does not serve to address the issue, it is recommended that the student contact the Department Chair as a next step.

Dropping and Adding

Students are responsible for understanding the policies and procedures about add/drop, grade forgiveness, etc. Refer to the current semester’s [Catalog Policies](#) section at <http://info.sjsu.edu/static/catalog/policies.html>.

Add/drop deadlines can be found on the current academic year calendars document on the [Academic Calendars webpage](#) at http://www.sjsu.edu/provost/services/academic_calendars/. The [Late Drop Policy](#) is available at <http://www.sjsu.edu/aars/policies/latedrops/policy/>. Students should be aware of the current deadlines and penalties for dropping classes.

Information about the latest changes and news is available at the [Advising Hub](#) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/advising/>.

Consent for Recording of Class and Public Sharing of Instructor Material

[University Policy S12-7](#), <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-7.pdf>, requires students to obtain instructor's permission to record the course.

Common courtesy and professional behavior dictate that you notify someone when you are recording him/her. You must obtain the instructor's permission to make audio or video recordings in this class. Such permission allows the recordings to be used for your private, study purposes only. The recordings are the intellectual property of the instructor; you have not been given any rights to reproduce or distribute the material.

Course material developed by the instructor is the intellectual property of the instructor and cannot be shared publicly without his/her approval. You may not publicly share or upload instructor generated material for this course such as exam questions, lecture notes, or homework solutions without instructor consent.

Academic Integrity

Your commitment, as a student, to learning is evidenced by your enrollment at San Jose State University. The [University Academic Integrity Policy S07-2](#) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S07-2.pdf> requires you to be honest in all your academic course work. Faculty members are required to report all infractions to the office of Student Conduct and Ethical Development. The [Student Conduct and Ethical Development website](#) is available at <http://www.sjsu.edu/studentconduct/>.

Campus Policy in Compliance with the American Disabilities Act

If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, or if you need to make special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please make an appointment with me as soon as possible, or see me during office hours. [Presidential Directive 97-03](#) at http://www.sjsu.edu/president/docs/directives/PD_1997-03.pdf requires that students with disabilities requesting accommodations must register with the [Accessible Education Center](#) (AEC) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/aec> to establish a record of their disability.

ANTH 131: Theories of Culture and Society

Fall 2017 Course Schedule

Schedule is subject to change with fair notice.

Readings followed by an asterisk will be distributed to students by the course instructor.

Course Schedule

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
1	08/23/16	Introduction Eric Wolf, "American Anthropologists and American Society"*
2	08/28 - 08/30	Human Science in the Victorian Era S.J. Gould, <i>Mismeasure of Man</i> (Chapters 1-3)
3	09/06/17	Social Evolutionism and the Birth of Modern Anthropology S.J. Gould, <i>Mismeasure of Man</i> (Chapters 4-5) LABOR DAY HOLIDAY SEPTEMBER 4--NO CLASS MEETING
4	09/11 - 09/13	Franz Boas and the Culture Concept S.J. Gould, <i>Mismeasure of Man</i> (Chapter 7 and Epilogue) Franz Boas, "A Year among the Eskimo"*
		FILM: "The Shackles of Tradition: Franz Boas"
5	09/18 - 09/20	Culture and Personality Ruth Benedict, <i>The Chrysanthemum and the Sword</i> (excerpt)*
6	09/25 - 09/27	Structural Functionalism E.E. Evans-Pritchard, <i>The Nuer</i> (Chapters 1-3)
7	10/02 - 10/04	Cultural Ecology and Cultural Materialism E.E. Evans-Pritchard, <i>The Nuer</i> (Chapters 4-6) MIDTERM EXAM 1--OCTOBER 4
8	10/09 - 10/11	Colonial Critiques Vine Deloria, "Anthropologists and Other Friends"*
		Zora Neale Hurston, <i>Tell My Horse</i> (Ch. 1-6) TERM PAPER PROPOSAL DUE OCTOBER 11
9	10/16 - 10/18	Feminist Influences and the Anthropology of Gender Zora Neale Hurston, <i>Tell My Horse</i> (Ch. 7-12)
10	10/23 - 10/25	Interpretive and Symbolic Anthropologies Zora Neale Hurston, <i>Tell My Horse</i> (Ch. 13-18)
11	10/30 - 11/1	Post-Structuralist Approaches Jason De Leon, <i>Land of Open Graves</i> (Introduction and Chapters 1-4) MIDTERM EXAM 2--NOVEMBER 2
12	11/6 - 11/8	Archaeological Theory Jason De Leon, <i>Land of Open Graves</i> (Chapters 5-8)
13	11/13 - 11/15	Political Economy Jason De Leon, <i>Land of Open Graves</i> (Chapters 9-12)

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
14	11/20/16	Towards an Anthropology of Globalization Christine Walley, <i>Exit Zero</i> (Introduction and Chapter 1) THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY NOVEMBER 22--NO CLASS MEETING
15	11/27 - 11/29	Anthropology and the Contemporary World Christine Walley, <i>Exit Zero</i> (Chapters 2 and 3)
16	12/04 - 12/06	The Future of Anthropology Christine Walley, <i>Exit Zero</i> (Chapter 4)
17	12/11/17	Discussion, Summary, and Course Review Christine Walley, <i>Exit Zero</i> (Conclusion) TERM PAPERS DUE ON DECEMBER 11
		FINAL EXAM--TUESDAY, DECEMBER 19 (9:45 AM - 12:00 PM) IN REGULAR CLASS MEETING ROOM

*Readings followed by an asterisk will be distributed to students by the course instructor.