

**San José State University**  
**College of Social Sciences**  
**ANTH 11, Cultural Anthropology, Sec. 02, Spring 2016**

<b>Instructor:</b>	A.J. Faas, Ph.D.
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<b>Office Hours:</b>	Tuesdays and Thursdays, 2:15-4pm, or by appointment
<b>Class Days/Time:</b>	Tuesdays and Thursdays, 4:30-5:45pm
<b>Classroom:</b>	Clark Hall 310
<b>Prerequisites:</b>	N/A
<b>GE/SJSU Studies Category:</b>	Area D1
<b>Course Fees:</b>	N/A

### **Course Description**

This course provides an introduction to, and overview of, cultural anthropology, or the study of how humans adapt to, interpret and affect the world in which they live. Besides an acquaintance with the history of the anthropological idea of culture, students will be provided with the basic concepts used by contemporary cultural anthropologists. Further, they will be familiarized with a variety of research areas and case studies (see the list of topics below). You will be gaining first-hand experience in observing the world as an anthropologist, giving you an experiential and intellectual appreciation of a perspective which can be used to better understand a variety of academic, professional, and community contexts.

The course satisfies requirements for the Human Behavior/D (1) Area in the General Education Core, as well as, departmental and program requirements in anthropology and behavioral science. There are no pre-requisites to this course.

### **Course Learning Objectives**

Students who satisfactorily complete this course will:

1. Be able to understand and apply appropriately the concept of culture to human behavior.
2. Gain a working knowledge of how cultural anthropologists conduct field research through completing a class project.
3. Be able to recognize and analyze the interaction of social institutions, culture and environment with individual and collective behavior.

4. Develop a cross-cultural perspective on how humans relate to each other and the material world through symbols.
5. Have knowledge about several societies in depth using ethnographies.
6. Understand the relevance of cultural anthropology for understanding the complexities of modern life both globally and in this country.

### **Area D1 Human Behavior Student Learning Objective**

Students will be able to recognize the interaction of social institutions, culture, and environment with the behavior of individuals.

### **Required Texts/Readings**

McCurdy, David, Dianna Shandy, and James Spradley (2016) *Conformity and Conflict: Readings in Cultural Anthropology* (15th Edition). New York: Pearson.

Ennis-McMillan, Michael (2006) *A Precious Liquid: Drinking Water and Culture in the Valley of Mexico*. Bloomington, IN: Indiana University Press.

Gamburd, Michelle Ruth (2013) *The Golden Wave: Culture and Politics after Sri Lanka's Tsunami Disaster*. Indianapolis: University of Indian Press.

Marino, Elizabeth (2015) *Fierce Climate, Sacred Ground: An Ethnography of Climate Change in Shishmaref, Alaska*. Fairbanks: University of Alaska Press.

The books are available through the Spartan Bookstore and Amazon.com.

**\*\*\*Additional readings will be posted to Canvas.**

### **Classroom Protocol**

1. It is expected that students will be attentive and respectful of their fellow students and of their instructor and, perhaps more importantly, respectful of cultures and traditions which are not their own. Students arriving habitually late to class will be asked to leave as this is disruptive to the learning process.
2. 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. Text messaging is strictly prohibited during exams and quizzes. With instructor approval, laptops and smart phones may be used for certain in-class assignments.
3. All assignments and exams 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. The student must present notice in writing to the instructor by the second class meeting. If you know in advance that you will be unable to attend an exam, it is your responsibility to contact me immediately. *Email is the best and fastest way to reach me. Only students with a documented excuse will be able to take a make-up exam or submit a late assignment.*
4. No assignments will be accepted via e-mail—I must receive hard copies of all assignments.
5. Students may record lectures for their own private use only, **not to be redistributed or sold**.
6. In the event that the building is evacuated because of an emergency during class time, the class will convene in the parking lot directly adjacent to the building. No assignment will be canceled because of any such emergency.

7. Students are required to read SJSU's Academic Integrity Policy S07-2 (see below). **This university policy on plagiarism and cheating will be strictly honored.**
8. If you miss a class, ask your fellow students for copies of their notes. If you need further help, please see me in my office hours.
9. Download the guidelines for the course assignments. Read the guidelines carefully to ensure course assignments are completed according to instructions.
10. Please write clearly and correctly; seek help if you need it. Please proofread your papers carefully. Reading your work aloud often reveals mistakes in syntax and spelling.
11. Students are responsible for being aware of exam dates and assignment deadlines
12. If you have any concerns about your class performance or comprehension, see me in my office hours or schedule an appointment. I am always willing to help students and I care about whether students are grasping the material and enjoying the class.

### **Course Requirements**

***Reading Assignments.*** Students are required to have completed assigned readings by the date indicated in the course schedule (see course schedule below) and be prepared to discuss the material in class, either in group discussion or class-wide question and answer.

***Ethnographic Exercises (30% of final grade).*** These exercises are intended to develop your skills as an observer and interpreter of social life. These out of class exercises are intended to help you understand an ethnographic approach to understanding social phenomena. They will require some work, however, the activities ought to be thought provoking and fun.

***Midterm and Final Exams (each counts for 20% of final grade, 40% total).*** The exams will consist of multiple choice, True and False, Fill-in the blank, and short answer questions based on the lectures and readings. The exams will be based on lectures, readings, films, class discussions, and presentations by any guest speakers who might be coaxed to come to class.

***Weekly questions and answers based on readings and class discussion (20% of final grade).*** Discussion forums will be established to serve as the medium of this requirement. Each week, no later than **midnight on the Saturday** preceding our Tuesday meeting, students will post a question based on the reading assignment for the coming week. Questions should be brief—no more than 2 to 4 sentences—about issues and problems that you derive from one or more of the week's readings. These questions should reflect substantive concerns that arise in the course of doing the reading – criticism, confusion, disagreement, or curiosity about implications. From the questions posed by fellow students, you will choose one and write a response. Your response must be posted on the forum no later than **midnight on Monday**, the day before class.

Responses also should be relatively short (300-500 words) and engage directly with the readings. Though you may draw on outside experience, responses will be graded based on student's insight into course material and engagement with course readings. We will do these questions and answers each week, beginning February 2 and ending the week of **May 10**. You are

**required to post at least 10 questions and 4 answers during the course of the semester. Five questions and two answers must be posted prior to the midterm.** They do not need to occur in the same weeks, **but you may only pose one question and one answer per week and you are not allowed to answer your own question.** If you answer more than 4 questions, I will choose the highest 4 grades. Answers will receive letter grades, including use of plus/minus, and count for a total of 10 points each; questions count for one point each, although questions deemed inapplicable by the instructor may not count.

**Group Discussion Assignments (10% of final grade):** These assignments engage critical thinking about themes covered in class. You will be presented with a question regarding the readings, topic and/or films for that week on Tuesday. You should come to class on Thursday prepared to discuss these questions critically, using references from the readings and lectures. You will turn in a short paragraph with your conclusions that will be written in class. Bring paper and a pen!

**Grading Distribution**

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

## ANTH 11: Cultural Anthropology Spring 2016 Course Schedule

*Schedule is subject to change with fair notice.*

\*Articles marked with an asterisk can be found on the course website

COURSE MEETING	THEME AND ASSIGNMENTS
Thursday, January 28	Introduction to class goals and format, review syllabus, group assignments, add/drop process and deadlines
Tuesday, February 2	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>CULTURE AND ETHNOGRAPHY</b></p> <p><b>Readings:</b></p> <p>S&amp;M, Chapter 1 – Ethnography &amp; Culture          S&amp;M, Chapter 2 – Eating Christmas in the Kalahari          S&amp;M, Chapter 31 – Body Ritual among the Nacirema          S&amp;M, Chapter 4 – Nice Girls Don’t Talk to Rastas</p> <p><b>Download &amp; bring to class Ethnography Exercise 1</b></p>
Thursday, February 4	<p><b>Read:</b> A Precious Liquid, Chapters 1-2</p>
Tuesday, February 9	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>LANGUAGE AND COMMUNICATION</b></p> <p><b>Readings:</b></p> <p>S&amp;M, Chapter 5 – Shakespeare in the Bush          S&amp;M, Chapter 6 – Manipulating Meaning: The Military Name Game          S&amp;M, Chapter 7 – Conversation Style: Talking on the Job</p>
Thursday, February 11	<p><b>Read:</b> A Precious Liquid, Chapters 3-4</p>
Tuesday, February 16	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>ECOLOGY AND SUBSISTENCE</b></p> <p><b>Readings:</b></p> <p>S&amp;M, Chapter 8 – The Hunters: Scarce Resources in the Kalahari          S&amp;M, Chapter 9 – Illegal Logging and Frontier Conservation          Nelson (2012) Eskimo Science**</p>
Thursday, February 18	<p><b>Read:</b> A Precious Liquid, Chapters 5-6</p>
Tuesday, February 23	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>ECONOMIC SYSTEMS</b></p> <p><b>Readings:</b></p> <p>S&amp;M, Chapter 12 – Reciprocity and the Power of Giving          S&amp;M, Chapter 13 – Poverty at Work: Office Employment and the Crack Alternative          S&amp;M, Chapter 14 – Women in the Mine</p>
Thursday, February 25	<p><b>Read:</b> A Precious Liquid, Chapters 7-8</p> <p><b>Ethnographic Exercise 1 Due</b></p>
Tuesday, March 1	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>KINSHIP AND FAMILY</b></p> <p><b>Readings:</b></p> <p>S&amp;M, Chapter 16 – Mother’s Love: Death without Weeping          S&amp;M, Chapter 17 – Family and Kinship in Village India          S&amp;M, Chapter 18 – Polyandry: When Brothers Take a Wife          S&amp;M, Chapter 19 – Marriage and Adulthood in West Africa</p>
Thursday, March 3	<p><b>Read:</b> The Golden Wave, Chapters Intro and 1</p> <p><b>Download &amp; bring to class Ethnographic Exercise 2</b></p>

Tuesday, March 8	<b>IDENTITY, ROLES, AND GROUPS</b> <b>Readings:</b> S&M, Chapter 20 – Negotiating Work and Family in America S&M, Chapter 21 – Becoming Muslim in Europe S&M, Chapter 22 – Mixed Blood S&M, Chapter 23 – Motorcycles, Membership, and Belonging
Thursday, March 10	<b>Read:</b> The Golden Wave, Chapters 2-3
Tuesday, March 15	<b>GENDER</b> <b>Readings:</b> Abu-Lughod (2012) Do Muslim Women Really Need Saving** S&M, Chapter 35 – Global Women in the New Economy S&M, Chapter 37 – Medical Anthropology: Improving Nutrition in Malawi <b>Exam Review</b>
Thursday, March 17	<b>MIDTERM EXAM</b>
Tuesday, March 22	<b>LAW AND POLITICS</b> <b>Readings:</b> S&M, Chapter 24 – Cross-Cultural Law: The Case of the Gypsy Offender S&M, Chapter 25 – Law and Order S&M, Chapter 26 – Navigating Nigerian Bureaucracies
Thursday, March 24	<b>Read:</b> The Golden Wave, Chapters 4-5
March 28-April 1	<b>NO CLASS: SPRING BREAK</b>
Tuesday, April 5	<b>RELIGION, MAGIC, AND WORLD VIEW</b> <b>Readings:</b> S&M, Chapter 28 – The Worst Lover: Boyfriend Spirits in Senegal S&M, Chapter 29 – Baseball Magic S&M, Chapter 30 – Run for the Wall: An American Pilgrimage
Thursday, April 7	<b>Read:</b> The Golden Wave, Chapters 6-7
Tuesday, April 12	<b>GLOBALIZATION</b> <b>Readings:</b> S&M, Chapter 32 – How Sushi Went Global S&M, Chapter 33 – Village Walks: Tourism and Globalization among the Tharu of Nepal S&M, Chapter 34 – Nuer Refugees in America <b>Download &amp; bring to class Ethnographic Exercise 3</b>
Thursday, April 14	<b>Read:</b> The Golden Wave, Chapters 8, 9, and Conclusion <b>Ethnographic Exercise 2 Due</b>
Tuesday, April 19	<b>APPLIED ANTHROPOLOGY</b> <b>Readings:</b> Gwynne (2003) Orientations to an Anthropology of Practice* S&M, Chapter 36 – Advice for Developers
Thursday, April 21	<b>Read:</b> Fierce Climate, Sacred Ground, Chapters 1-2

Tuesday, April 26	<b>ENVIRONMENT AND ECOLOGY REVISITED</b> <b>Read:</b> S&M, CH 10 – We Are Going Underwater Fierce Climate, Sacred Ground, Chapter 3
Thursday, April 28	<b>Read:</b> Fierce Climate, Sacred Ground, Chapters 4-5
Tuesday, May 3	<b>DEVELOPMENT</b> <b>Readings:</b> Gwynne (2003) Development Anthropology* S&M, Chapter 11 – Forest Development the Indian Way S&M, Chapter 15 – Malawi versus the World Bank <b>Ethnographic Exercise 3 Due</b>
Thursday, May 5	<b>Read:</b> Fierce Climate, Sacred Ground, Chapters 6-7
Tuesday, May 10	<b>PRACTICING ANTHROPOLOGY</b> <b>Readings:</b> S&M, Chapter 39 – Using Anthropology Cernea (2008) – Development Anthropology is a Contact Sport* Omohundro (2012) Career Advice for Anthropology Undergraduates**
Thursday, May 12	<b>Semester Debrief and Final Exam Review</b>
<b>FINAL EXAM</b>	<b>Friday, May 20, from 2:45pm-5pm in regular classroom</b>

## University Policies

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#### 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. To learn important campus information, view [University Policy S90-5](#) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S90-5.pdf> and SJSU current semester's [Policies and Procedures](#), at <http://info.sjsu.edu/static/catalog/policies.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 address the issue, it is recommended that the student contact the Department Chair as the 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/](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 and the following items to be included in the syllabus:

- “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](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.

### **Accommodation to Students' Religious Holidays**

San José State University shall provide accommodation on any graded class work or activities for students wishing to observe religious holidays when such observances require students to be absent from class. It is the responsibility of the student to inform the instructor, in writing, about such holidays before the add deadline at the start of each semester. If such holidays occur before the add deadline, the student must notify the instructor, in writing, at least three days before the date that he/she will be absent. It is the responsibility of the instructor to make every reasonable effort to honor the student request without penalty, and of the student to make up the work missed. See University Policy S14-7 at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S14-7.pdf>.

### **Student Technology Resources**

Computer labs for student use are available in the Academic Success Center at <http://www.sjsu.edu/at/asc/> located on the 1st floor of Clark Hall and in the Associated Students

Lab on the 2nd floor of the Student Union. Additional computer labs may be available in your department/college. Computers are also available in the Martin Luther King Library. A wide variety of audio-visual equipment is available for student checkout from Media Services located in IRC 112. These items include DV and HD digital camcorders; digital still cameras; video, slide and overhead projectors; DVD, CD, and audiotape players; sound systems, wireless microphones, projection screens and monitors.

### **SJSU Peer Connections**

Peer Connections, a campus-wide resource for mentoring and tutoring, strives to inspire students to develop their potential as independent learners while they learn to successfully navigate through their university experience. You are encouraged to take advantage of their services which include course-content based tutoring, enhanced study and time management skills, more effective critical thinking strategies, decision making and problem-solving abilities, and campus resource referrals.

In addition to offering small group, individual, and drop-in tutoring for a number of undergraduate courses, consultation with mentors is available on a drop-in or by appointment basis. Workshops are offered on a wide variety of topics including preparing for the Writing Skills Test (WST), improving your learning and memory, alleviating procrastination, surviving your first semester at SJSU, and other related topics. A computer lab and study space are also available for student use in Room 600 of Student Services Center (SSC).

Peer Connections is located in three locations: SSC, Room 600 (10th Street Garage on the corner of 10th and San Fernando Street), at the 1st floor entrance of Clark Hall, and in the Living Learning Center (LLC) in Campus Village Housing Building B. Visit Peer Connections website at <http://peerconnections.sjsu.edu> for more information.

### **SJSU Writing Center**

The SJSU Writing Center is located in Clark Hall, Suite 126. All Writing Specialists have gone through a rigorous hiring process, and they are well trained to assist all students at all levels within all disciplines to become better writers. In addition to one-on-one tutoring services, the Writing Center also offers workshops every semester on a variety of writing topics. To make an appointment or to refer to the numerous online resources offered through the Writing Center, visit the Writing Center website at <http://www.sjsu.edu/writingcenter>. For additional resources and updated information, follow the Writing Center on Twitter and become a fan of the SJSU Writing Center on Facebook.

### **SJSU Counseling Services**

The SJSU Counseling Services is located on the corner of 7th Street and San Fernando Street, in Room 201, Administration Building. Professional psychologists, social workers, and counselors are available to provide consultations on issues of student mental health, campus climate or psychological and academic issues on an individual, couple, or group basis. To schedule an appointment or learn more information, visit Counseling Services website at <http://www.sjsu.edu/counseling>.