

**San José State University**  
**School/Department**  
**Spring 2017**

**ANTH 011(02) Cultural Anthropology (21754)**

**Course and Contact Information**

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<b>Office Hours:</b>	10:30-11:30 & 1:30-2:30 MW
<b>Class Days/Time:</b>	MW 09:00-10:15 in WSQ 004
<b>GE/SJSU Studies Category:</b>	D1

**Faculty Web Page and MYSJSU Messaging**

Some course materials will be distributed in class sessions and others will be sent to students via the email address which appears in the course roster. This course makes no use of the Canvas learning management system and you are responsible for all assignments and changes to them. You should plan to attend class, talk with other students in the class, and regularly check your email for information about the class.

**Course Description**

Cultural anthropology is the study of how humans adapt to, interpret and affect the world in which they live. This course is designed to provide you with an overview to the discipline, as well as an appreciation of what it has meant to be human in different places at different times. The course is divided into three major parts:

1. Human Nature and Culture
2. Sociocultural Systems in Cross-Cultural Comparison
3. Anthropology and the Modern World

A major course goal is to convey to you a sense of the anthropological perspective and its merits. After introducing the basic concepts and cross-cultural comparisons, we conclude the course by showing the practical applications of this perspective in America and elsewhere. Furthermore, you are provided with some first-hand experience in observing the world as an anthropologist. This will permit you to develop an experiential and intellectual appreciation of a perspective which can be used to better understand a variety of academic, professional and community situations.

## Learning Outcomes and Course Goals

### GE Learning Outcomes (GELO)

Area D courses should enable students to identify and analyze the social dimension of society as a context for human life, the processes of social change and social continuity, the role of human agency in those social processes, and the forces that engender social cohesion and fragmentation. Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

GELO 1 Place contemporary developments in cultural, historical, environmental, and spatial contexts. This will be accomplished through lectures and (all) course readings and synthesizing knowledge that is expressed in midterm examinations and the final exam (combination of objective and essay questions).

GELO 2 Identify the dynamics of ethnic, cultural, gender/sexual, age-based, class, regional, transnational, and global identities and the similarities, differences, linkages, and interactions between them. This will be accomplished through the essay components of the three examinations, two out of class exercises on the use of space and the formation of identities.

GELO 3 Evaluate social science information, draw on different points of view, and formulate applications appropriate to contemporary social issues. This will be accomplished by class discussions and the completion of an independent field research project including data collection, analysis, and interpretation.

Students in Area D1 courses will be able to recognize the interaction of social institutions, culture, and environment with the behavior of individuals.

### Course Learning Outcomes (CLO)

Students who satisfactorily complete this course will:

CLO 1 Be able to apply appropriately the concept of culture to human behavior. This is accomplished through completing two out of class exercises in which students analyze the use of space and creation of social identity,

CLO 2 Gain a working knowledge of how cultural anthropologists conduct field research through completing a class project. This is accomplished through an independent field research project.

CLO 3 Be able to recognize and analyze the interaction of social institutions, culture and environment with individual and collective behavior. This is accomplished through reading a textbook that is organized around sections devoted to major human institutions and chapters which present data drawn from different societies, and then by synthesizing knowledge in essay questions on the three course exams.

CLO 4 Develop a cross-cultural perspective on how humans relate to each other and the material world through symbols. This is accomplished through lectures and by reading the course textbook and three ethnographic monographs and then by synthesizing knowledge in essay questions on the three course exams.

CLO 5 Have knowledge of several societies in depth by reading ethnographies. This is accomplished through reading three ethnographic monographs and answering essay questions posed on each examination that require progressive comparative analysis from midterm 1 to the final examination.

CLO 6 Understand the relevance of cultural anthropology for understanding the complexities of modern life both abroad and in this country. This is accomplished through reading chapters in the textbook that specifically address contemporary issues and by using revised additions of classic ethnographic monographs that have been updated to reflect social change, and then by answering objective and essay test questions.

### Required Texts/Readings

Richard Lee (2012). *Dobe Ju/'Hoansi*, 4<sup>th</sup> edition. Cengage (ISBN 9781111828776)

David McCurdy, Dianna Shandy, & James Spradley (2015). *Conformity and Conflict*, 15<sup>th</sup> edition. Pearson (ISBN 9780205990795)

Robert & Yolanda Murphy (2004). *Women of the Forest*, 4<sup>th</sup> edition. Columbia University Press (ISBN 9780231132336)

Carol Stack (1974). *All Our Kin*. Original publisher is Basic Books; reissued by Harper in 1983 (ISBN 9780061319822)

## Course Requirements and Assignments

Success in this course is based on the expectation that students will spend, for each unit of credit, a minimum of 45 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

There are two midterm examinations (20% each), two ethnographic exercises (10% each), a course project (20%), and a final exam (20%) in this course.

[University Policy S06-4](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S06-4.pdf) (<http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S06-4.pdf>) states that “There shall be an appropriate final examination or evaluation at the scheduled time in every course, unless the course is on the official List of Courses in which a final is optional.”

**Examinations.** Each examination consists of two parts, each of which is worth 50% of the exam grade: (1) objective questions based on lectures and readings and (2) an essay question, also based on lectures and readings. In order to complete an exam you must bring a blank T & E 200 answer sheet and a blank large bluebook to class on test date, as well as pen and #2 pencil. You will be given the essay questions in advance and may prepare an answer to one of them if you wish. You will have up to 45 minutes to answer the objective questions and the remainder of the class time to write your essay in the bluebook. Each exam is open book and open note, but you will only have time to look up a few facts during the test. This format allows you to retrieve something from notes or readings that you “blank on,” but it is no substitute for studying for the test. *Absolutely no electronic devices may be accessed during an examination!*

**Project.** The project is an effort to “do” some anthropological fieldwork in the real world. It is intended to develop your skills as an observer and interpreter of social life.

**Ethnographic Exercises.** There are two out of class exercises that will help you understand an ethnographic approach to studying social phenomena. They require a bit of work, but are also (I hope) enjoyable. The first requires you to interview someone about how they identify themselves and the second consists of participant observation in a dwelling.

[University policy F15-12](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F69-24.pdf) 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

Course grades will be assigned as follows:

A+ = 98-100%

A = 94-97%

A- = 90-93%

B+ = 88-89%

B = 84-87%

B- = 80-83%

C+ = 78-79%

C = 74-77%

C- = 70-73%

D+ = 68-69%

D = 64-67%

D- = 60-63%

F = lower than 60%

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](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F13-1.pdf) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F13-1.pdf> for more details. The instructor will return materials submitted for grade within 10 days. I am happy to discuss student grades during office hours, but I will not do so by phone or email or in class.

## Classroom Protocol

Electronics. Unless a student has explicit, written permission from the Accessible Learning Center, electronic devices such as laptops, tablets, and smart phones should be turned off and are not allowed out in class; you may audio record class lectures if you wish. Research has shown that (1) glowing screens distract other students in class and (2) learning is enhanced by taking manual notes that are rewritten later using pen and paper or word processor.

Presence and Presenting. Roll will be taken rarely and only so I can learn names. If you wish to drop the course it is your responsibility to do so. If you vanish during the semester your name will appear on the final grade roster and you will receive a WU grade, which is equivalent to an F. If you fail to complete all the course assignments you will also receive a WU. Incompletes are only granted if I have been notified in advance and approved the request. Attendance is not graded, but I doubt you will get much out of the course, including a passing grade, if you are frequently absent. You are also expected to be present in the sense of paying attention and treating fellow students and the instructor with respect and civility.

Late Papers, Missed Exams. All assignments must be completed during the designated period. You may be allowed to make up an exam only if (1) you contact me immediately by phone or email and (2) you can provide a compelling *and documented* excuse for your absence (e.g. family emergency, sickness, injury, etc. Please remember that it is unfair to both your classmates and the instructor to request exceptions to the official examination dates or paper deadline.

## University Policies

Per University Policy S16-9, university-wide policy information relevant to all courses, such as academic integrity, accommodations, etc. will be available on Office of Graduate and Undergraduate Programs' [Syllabus Information web page](http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo>

## ANTH 011(2) Spring 2017 Course Schedule

This schedule is subject to change with fair notice and such changes will be communicated to you by the instructor in class and via email. You are responsible for any such changes. Note that Conformity & Conflict chapters are abbreviated "C&C" followed by page numbers or a chapter number.

### Course Schedule

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
1	January 30	Course Introduction C&C pp. 2-5 ETHNOGRAPHIC EXERCISE #1 DISTRIBUTED
1	February 1	Concept of Culture C&C pp. 2-5 and chs. 1 & 2
2	February 6	Concept of Culture C&C ch. 4
2	February 8	Fieldwork & Course Projects C&C ch. 3
3	February 13	Culture & Individuals C&C pp. 177-180; chs. 20 & 21
3	February 15	Culture & Individuals C&C chs. 22 & 23
4	February 20	Language & Communication C&C pp. 37-40 plus ch. 5 ETHNOGRAPHIC PROJECT #1 DUE
4	February 22	Language & Communication C&C chs. 6 & 7

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
		ETHNOGRAPHIC PROJECT #2 DISTRIBUTED
5	February 27	Language, test prep, and <i>Dobe</i> Discussion Complete reading <i>The Dobe</i>
5	March 1	MIDTERM #1
6	March 6	Video: <i>Nai</i> Begin reading <i>Women of the Forest</i>
6	March 8	Cross-Cultural Comparison COURSE PROJECT PROPOSAL DUE
7	March 13	Kinship C&C pp. 141-144 plus chs. 16 & 17
7	March 15	Kinship C&C chs. 18 & 19
8	March 20	Marriage & Family
8	March 22	SPRING BREAK
9	March 27	SPRING BREAK
9	March 29	Making a Living C&C pp. 107-110 plus chs. 12 & 13 ETHNOGRAPHIC PROJECT #2 DUE
10	April 3	Making a Living C&C chs. 14 & 15
10	April 5	Religion & Ideology C&C pp. 253-257 plus chs. 28 & 29
11	April 10	Religion & Ideology, and <i>Women of the Forest</i> Discussion C&C chs. 30 & 31 Complete reading <i>Women of the Forest</i>
11	April 12	MIDTERM #2
12	April 17	Colonialism & Change Begin reading <i>All Our Kin</i>
12	April 19	Colonialism & Change C&C pp. 61-64 plus chs. 9-11
13	April 24	Globalization C&C pp. 293-296 plus chs. 32 & 33
13	April 26	Globalization C&C chs. 34 & 35
14	May 1	Applying Anthropology C&C pp. 335-339 plus chs. 36 & 37 COURSE PROJECT DUE
14	May 3	Applying Anthropology C&C chs. 38 & 39
15	May 8	Applying Anthropology
15	May 10	<i>All Our Kin</i> Discussion

<b>Week</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines</b>
16	May 15	Course Wrap (What I hope you remember when you forget the class)
Final Exam	May 22	08:00-09:30 (Note that the university's final exam schedule lists the final at 07:15, but we will begin at 08:00 for the 90 minute exam.)