

San José State University
Social Sciences, Anthropology
ANTH 11, Cultural Anthropology, 03, Spring, 2017

Course and Contact Information

Instructor:	Dr. Ana Pitchon
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Office Hours:	M/W 3:00 – 4:30 and by appointment
Class Days/Time:	M/W 1:30-2:45
Classroom:	Washington Square Hall 004
GE/SJSU Studies Category:	Area D1

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 means to be human throughout time and space. In addition to covering basic anthropological concepts, we will explore some of the practical applications of anthropology. Furthermore, 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 Goals

The Department of Anthropology seeks to enhance student knowledge and skills in the following areas. Departmental objectives that this course explicitly addresses are asterisked.

Knowledge:

1. Understanding culture as the distinguishing phenomenon of human life, and the relationship of human biology and evolution.
2. Awareness of human diversity and the ways humans have categorized diversity.
3. Knowledge of the significant findings of archaeology, cultural anthropology, and physical anthropology, and familiarity of the important issues in each sub-discipline.
4. * Knowledge of the history of anthropological thought and its place in modern intellectual history

5. Comprehension of migration, colonialism, and economic integration as significant phenomenon shaping global society.

Skills

1. * Ability to access various forms of anthropological data and literature.
2. * Awareness of importance and value of anthropological knowledge in contemporary society, and the ability to apply it to social issues.
3. * Knowledge of the research methods of the sub-disciplines of anthropology, and the ability to apply appropriate research methods in at least one sub-discipline.
4. * Ability to present and communicate anthropological knowledge and the results of anthropological research to different audiences.

Professional Values

1. * Knowledge of political and ethical implications of social research

GE Learning Outcomes

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

Students will be able to recognize the interaction of social institutions, culture, and environment with the behavior of individuals, satisfied by the ethnographic exercises, reading assignments, and in-class discussions of lectures and readings.

Course Learning Outcomes

The student who satisfactorily completes this course should:

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.

Required Texts/Readings:

All required readings can be purchased at the SJSU Bookstore, and online through sites such as Amazon, Barnes and Noble and Bookfinder.com. Make sure that you purchase the correct edition of the textbook, as older editions will not correspond to the assignments.

Textbook

Anthropology Unbound: A Field Guide to the 21st Century. 3rd Edition. Paul Durrenberger and Suzan Erem. ISBN 9780190269029.

Other Readings

“Polluted Promises: Environmental Racism and the Search for Justice in a Southern Town.” By Melissa Checker. 2005. New York: NYU Press. ISBN: 9780814716588

“Standing in the Need: Culture, Comfort, and Coming Home After Katrina” By Katherine E. Browne. 2015. Austin: University of Texas Press. ISBN: 9781477307373

Course Requirements and Assignments

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.

Examinations: The exams will consist of multiple choice, true and false, fill-in the blank and short answer questions based on the lectures, readings and films.

Ethnographic Exercises: These exercises are intended to develop your skills as an observer and interpreter of social life, and will 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.

Group Discussion Assignments: 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 Monday. You should come to class on Wednesday 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!

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

Final Examination

[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.”

The final examination will be held on May 22 in Washington Square 004 at 12:15-2:30. This exam will be non-cumulative, and will represent material from the course covered after the Midterm exam. The final examination is worth 50 points.

Grading Distribution

Midterm - 50 points

Ethnographic Exercises - (2 @ 20) 40 points

Group discussion in-class writing assignments - (8 @ 2) 16 points

Final Exam 50 points

Total points 156

All assignments should be type written 12 point, Times or Times New Roman font with one-inch margins on all sides. Failure to comply with these guidelines will result in a deduction of points. I will not accept emailed submissions.

Grading Policy

A: 95-100 A-: 90-94 B+: 86-89 B: 82-85 B-: 78-81 C+: 74-77 C: 70-73 C-: 67-69 D: 60-66 F:0-59	A: Reserved for exceptional scholarship and understanding that reaches beyond minimum course requirements. B: Excellent above average work that exceeds minimum course requirements. C: Satisfactory completion of course requirements. D: Fails to address course requirements satisfactorily.
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In the calculation of the final grade of borderline cases, improvement and dynamic class participation will be decisive factors. I consider all students equally capable of successfully completing the requirements for this class with an above average grade, which does not mean you will receive a B for mediocre work.

Come to class prepared. Read the assignments carefully and take notes in class. Write down any questions you might have about the readings and raise them in class. Do not hesitate to participate actively in class and engage other students or the instructor in class discussions. Pose questions, make comments and ***think critically!***

All assignments are due on the specified due dates. Late assignments will only be considered in the event of compelling evidence as to why you have missed class and were unable to submit the assignment.

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 S16-9](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.pdf) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.pdf>.

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 will not be used as a criterion for grading.

This course must be passed with a C- or better as a CSU graduation requirement.

Classroom Protocol:

Attendance:

Arrive on time and be in attendance for the entire class period. Class lectures cover important information not found in assigned readings. If you arrive late for class, please move to your seat without disturbing other class members. Frequent absences and late arrivals will result in poor performance and grades. The use of electronic devices such as cell phones and tablets will not be tolerated. Video recording is strictly prohibited.

Laptop computers, tablets and phones:

Laptop computers are not allowed in this class. A student who is doing non-class related activities on his or her computer is not only hurting his or her own education, but possibly the educational experience of many others in the class: research has shown that a game or a picture on a laptop distracts not only the student using the computer but also those students nearby (Yamamoto 2007, Fried 2008). Therefore the use of laptops is prohibited. In addition, the use of cell phones and tablets in class will result in the student being asked to leave.

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/>"

Course Number / Title, Semester, Course Schedule

Course Schedule

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
1	1-30	Syllabus review and introduction
1	2-1	Science – Read chapter 1 Durrenberger & Erem Download & bring to class Ethnography Exercise 1
2	2-6	Culture and Ethnography – Read Browne Chapters 1 & 2
2	2-8	Group Discussion Exercise 1
3	2-13	Race - Read chapter 2 Durrenberger & Erem; Read Browne Chapter 4
3	2-15	Group Discussion Exercise 2
4	2-20	Kinship - Read chapter 3 Durrenberger & Erem; Read Browne Chapter 5
4	2-22	Group Discussion Exercise 3
5	2-27	Language and Communication - Read Browne Chapter 6
5	3-1	Film – <i>The Linguists</i>
6	3-6	Ecological Systems - Read chapter 4 Durrenberger & Erem; Read Browne Chapters 7 & 8
6	3-8	Film – <i>The Kayapo</i> Ethnographic Exercise 1 Due
7	3-13	Economic Systems - Read chapter 5 Durrenberger & Erem; Read Browne Part III
7	3-15	MIDTERM EXAM
8	3-20	Political Systems - Read chapter 6 Durrenberger & Erem Download & bring to class Ethnography Exercise 2
8	3-22	Group Discussion Exercise 4

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
9	3-27	SPRING BREAK
9	3-29	SPRING BREAK
10	4-3	Social Stratification - Read chapter 7 Durrenberger & Erem; Checker Chapter 1
10	4-5	Group Discussion Exercise 4
11	4-10	NO CLASS
11	4-12	Gender
12	4-17	Religion - Read chapter 9 Durrenberger & Erem; Checker Chapter 3
12	4-19	Group Discussion Exercise 6
13	4-24	Class - Read chapters 10 & 11 Durrenberger & Erem; Checker Chapter 4
13	4-26	Film
14	5-1	Environmental Anthropology; Checker Chapter 6
14	5-3	Group Discussion Exercise 7
15	5-8	Globalization - Read chapters 13 & 14 Durrenberger & Erem; Checker Chapter 7
15	5-10	Group Discussion Exercise 8 Ethnographic Exercise 2 Due
16	5-15	Applied Anthropology - Read chapters 15 & 16 Durrenberger & Erem
Final Exam	5-22	WSQ 004 12:15-2:30

Weekly activities and assignments are subject to change at the instructor's discretion. Notification will be provided to the class of all changes via CANVAS email distribution at least one day in advance. Exams will not be rescheduled.