

**San José State University
Anthropology 11 – Fall 2008**

Introduction to Cultural Anthropology

Dr. Sandra Cate
Section 2: MW 1330-1445
Clark 204

slcate@att.net
Office Hours: MW 1230-1300, TTh 1300-1430
Office: Clark 463, Tel 924-5714

Course Description

Anthropology is the study of human beings around the world and throughout history. Cultural anthropology focuses on the concept of culture: the systems, beliefs, and practices through which we view the world, organize our everyday lives, develop social relationships with others, and make life meaningful. We will explore many of the basic themes, issues, and methodologies of anthropology, explore connect our readings and discussions to current events, and will consider contributions anthropologists have and continue to make in diverse fields to solving social problems – from medicine and law to economic development to education.

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.

Student Learning Objectives (Area D1)

Students who satisfactorily complete this course will be able 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, and

1. place contemporary developments in cultural, historical, environmental, and spatial contexts;
2. identify the dynamics of ethnic, cultural, gender/sexual, age-based, class, regional, national, transnational, and global identities and the similarities, differences, linkages, and interactions between them; and
3. evaluate social science information, draw on different points of view, and formulate applications appropriate to contemporary social issues, and
4. recognize the interaction of social institutions, culture, and environment with the behavior of individuals .

Goals of the Anthropology Department

KNOWLEDGE

- Understanding culture as the distinguishing phenomenon of human life, and the relationship of human biology and evolution.
- Awareness of human diversity and the ways humans have categorized diversity.
- Knowledge of the significant findings of archaeology, cultural anthropology, and physical anthropology, and familiarity of the important issues in each sub-discipline.
- Knowledge of the history of anthropological thought and its place in modern intellectual history
- Comprehension of migration, colonialism, and economic integration as significant phenomenon shaping global society.

SKILLS

- Ability to access various forms of anthropological data and literature.
- Awareness of importance and value of anthropological knowledge in contemporary society, and the ability to apply it to social issues.
- 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.
- Ability to present and communicate anthropological knowledge and the results of anthropological research to different audiences.

PROFESSIONAL VALUES

- Knowledge of political and ethical implications of social research

Required Readings

James Spradley & David McCurdy, *Conformity and Conflict: Readings in Cultural Anthropology* (12th edition)

Elizabeth Fernea, *Guests of the Sheik: An Ethnography of an Iraqi Village*

Leo R. Chavez, *Shadowed Lives: Undocumented Immigrants in American Society*, 2nd edition

Patricia V. Symonds, *Calling in the Soul: In a Hmong Village*

Course Website

Many of the course materials -- lecture outlines, video guides, exam study guides, citation and reference guide, extra credit list, and the class grading policy -- are available on my Faculty Web Page (from SJSU Home Page → Quick Links → Faculty Web Pages)

http://stage.sjsu.edu/faculty_and_staff/faculty_detail.jsp?id=1010

Course Requirements

Class lectures, videos, and discussion will supplement required readings, thus your preparation and participation in class becomes critical to your understanding of the material. To be successful in this class, you should read assignments before class, show up on time, and have questions ready.

You will write 3 short (4-5 pp) papers, all of which encourage you to experience some of the challenges and pleasures of “doing anthropology.” Please type and double-space your papers.

Assignment #1 (Learning Objective D1-2, 3, 4): 500 words, “De-coding a Speech Event”

Assignment #2 (Learning Objective D1-2, 4): 500 words, “Mini-Ethnography: The American Social Hierarchy”

Assignment #3 (Learning Objective D1-1, 3): 500 words, “My Favorite Thing: A Commodity Chain Analysis” OR “Designing Cultural Change”

Course Evaluation

2 Midterms	@ 50	100 points	A+ = 396-400 pts, A = 372-395, A- = 360-371 pts.
Final exam		50	B+ = 352-359 pts, B = 332-351, B- = 320-331 pts.
Short papers (3 @ 50)		150	C+ = 312-319 pts, C = 292-311, C- = 280-291 pts.
Class Participation	<u>50</u>		D+ = 272-279 pts, D = 252-271, D- = 240-251 pts.
		350 points	F = below 240 pts

[Participation points based on attendance, class discussion, participations in group discussion, and possible in-class writing responses or reading quizzes.]

General Policies

- **Class Participation:** These points are earned through participation in class discussions, group discussions, the occasional reflective paper, and other classroom activities.
- **Format of papers:** Papers should be typed, double-spaced, and pages numbered. Please staple together pages, and **do not use folders, covers, or a cover sheet** (put your name and section number in the top right hand corner of the first page). Please write clearly and correctly and seek help if you need it. Please proofread your papers carefully. Reading your work aloud often reveals mistakes in syntax and spelling.
- **Plagiarism:** SJSU policy forbids plagiarism. It will be punished. If found plagiarizing, you WILL receive a zero for your assignment and I WILL report you. Please read the statement on Academic Integrity (last page) and consult me if you have questions on this issue.
- **Late papers:** Will be accepted with permission. 2 points subtracted for each day the paper is late.
- **Exams:** All exams will consist of multiple choice and true/false questions. Questions will cover class lectures, readings, and films. I will provide a study guide for each exam.
- **Disability Accommodations** If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, or if you need 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 requires that students with disabilities requesting accommodations must register with DRC to establish a record of their disability.
- **Classroom Etiquette:** **Please be respectful, to your instructor and your classmates.** If you come late to class or leave early, please enter and exit quietly, without letting the door slam. Cellphones must be **turned off and put away.** **Please, no text messaging in class.** Computers may be used only for note-taking, not surfing the Web or e-mail.

Course Schedule

August 25 Course Introduction: The Anthropological Perspective
Video: *Low 'n Slow: The Art of Lowriding*

Part I – Culture & Ethnography

August 27 The Concept of Culture
Readings: C&C, Chapters 1, 2; Fernea, Chapters 1-8

September 1 **LABOR DAY – NO CLASSES**

September 3 Fieldwork and its Applications
Readings: Fernea, Chapters 9-19, C&C, Chapters 4-5

Part II – Language and Communication

September 8, 10 Communication systems
Readings: C & C, pp. 59-62, Chapters 7, 9, 20

Slides: Body Modifications

Video: *American Tongues*

Part III – Kinship & Family

- September 15, 17 Ideas of Relatedness
Readings: C&C, pp. 179-181; Fernea, Chapters 20-26
Video: *Dadi's Family*
ASSIGNMENT #1 DUE
- September 22, 24 The Family in Society
Readings: C&C, Chapters 16, 17, 18, 19
Video: *The Love Chronicles: Arranged Marriages*
- September 29 Discussion & Midterm Review– Fernea book
- October 1 **MIDTERM #1**

Part VI –Identity, Roles and Groups

- October 6 Personhood and the life cycle
Readings: C&C, pp. 219-222; Symonds, Chapters 1-2
- October 8, 13 Gendered social roles
Readings: Symonds, Chapters 3-5
Video: *Kelly Loves Tony*
- October 15, 20 Sexualities
Readings: C&C: Chapters 21, 22, 23
Video: *Sunflowers*

Part VII – Religion and Worldview

- October 22, 27 Religion and Belief
Readings: C&C, pp. 295-298, Chapters 27, 28, 29
Video: *The Split Horn*
- October 29 Discussion, Symonds book & Midterm Review

Part III – Social Hierarchy and Social Control

- November 3 **MIDTERM #2**
- November 5, 10 Social Groups & Modes of Social Control
Readings: C&C, pp. 261-263, Chapters 24, 25, 26
- November 12, 17 Video and Discussion: *People Like Us*
Readings: Chavez, Intro, Chapters 1-3

ASSIGNMENT #2 DUE

Part II – Ecology, Subsistence, Exchange

- November 19 Cultural Ecology
 Readings: Chavez, Chapters 4-6
 Slides: *Swidden Agriculture in Laos and Thailand*
- November 24 Modes of Production
 Readings: C & C, pp. 103-06, Chapters 10, 11, 12
- November 26 Exchange Systems
 Readings: C & C, pp. 142-145, Chapters 13, 14, 15
 Video: *Contact: The Yanomami*

Part VIII – Culture Change, Applied Anthropology

- December 8, 10 Issues of Globalization and Migration
 Readings: Chavez, Chapters 7-10, Epilogue
 Video: *Snakeheads: The Chinese Mafia and New Human Slavery*
ASSIGNMENT #3 DUE

- December 1, 3 Culture Change & The Role of Anthropology
 Readings: C&C, pp. 386-390, Chapters 35, 36, 37
 Video: *Holy Smokes*

FINAL EXAM: **Friday, December 12**
 1215-1430

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY – for Anth 11, FALL 2008

Academic integrity is essential to the mission of San José State University. As such, students are expected to **perform their own work** (except when collaboration is expressly permitted by the course instructor) without the use of any outside resources. Students are not permitted to use old tests, quizzes when preparing for exams, nor may they consult with students who have already taken the exam. When practiced, academic integrity ensures that all students are fairly graded. Violations to the Academic Integrity Policy undermine the educational process and will not be tolerated. It also demonstrates a lack of respect for oneself, fellow students and the course instructor and can ruin the university's reputation and the value of the degrees it offers.

We all share the obligation to maintain an environment that practices academic integrity. Violators of the Academic Integrity Policy will be **subject to failing this course and being reported to the Office of Judicial Affairs for disciplinary action** which could result in suspension or expulsion from San José State University.

CHEATING

At SJSU, cheating is the act of obtaining or attempting to obtain credit for academic work through the use of any dishonest, deceptive, or fraudulent means. Cheating at SJSU includes but is not limited to:

Copying in part or in whole, from another's test or other evaluation instrument; Submitting work previously graded in another course unless this has been approved by the course instructor or by departmental policy. Submitting work simultaneously presented in two courses, unless this has been approved by both course instructors or by departmental policy. Altering or interfering with grading or grading instructions; Sitting for an examination by a surrogate, or as a surrogate; any other act committed by a student in the course of his or her academic work which defrauds or misrepresents, including aiding or abetting in any of the actions defined above.

PLAGIARISM

At SJSU plagiarism is the act of representing the work of another as one's own (without giving appropriate credit) regardless of how that work was obtained, and submitting it to fulfill academic requirements. Plagiarism at SJSU includes but is not limited to incorporating the ideas, words, sentences, paragraphs, or parts thereof, or the specific substances of another's work, without giving appropriate credit, and representing the product as one's own work. **Appropriate citation and representation includes putting quotation marks around the sentences of other writers as well as full citation of the source in a footnote or in parentheses at the end of the sentence/paragraph.**

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I have read the above statement and pledge to submit work according to these academic standards.

Name

Date