Anthropology 11
Introduction to Cultural Anthropology
Fall 2008

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Class: Tuesday & Thursday 1:30 – 2:45
Room: Washington Square Hall 004
Office Hours: Tuesday, Thursday 9-10 am
Tuesday 3-6 pm

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

By the end of the class, you should have a sense of the anthropological perspective and its merits. After learning some basic concepts and cross-cultural comparisons, we finish the class by showing the practical applications of this perspective in America and elsewhere. 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.

Student Learning Objectives

Students who satisfactorily complete this course will:

• Be able to understand and apply appropriately the concept of culture to human behavior.
• Gain a working knowledge of how cultural anthropologists conduct field research through completing a class project.
• Be able to recognize and analyze the interaction of social institutions, culture and environment with individual and collective behavior.
• Develop a cross-cultural perspective on how humans relate to each other and the material world through symbols.
• Have knowledge about several societies in depth using ethnographies.
• 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.
Learning Objectives of the Anthropology Department

**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**
6. Ability to access various forms of anthropological data and literature.
7. Awareness of importance and value of anthropological knowledge in contemporary society, and the ability to apply it to social issues.
8. 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.
9. Ability to present and communicate anthropological knowledge and the results of anthropological research to different audiences.

**PROFESSIONAL VALUES**
10. Knowledge of political and ethical implications of social research.

**Required Texts**

2) Fernea, Elizabeth (1989) *Guests of the Sheik: An Ethnography of an Iraqi Village*
3) Chagnon, Napoleon (1997) *The Yanomamö*
4) Stack, Carol (1997) *All of Our Kin*

The books are available through the Spartan Bookstore and Amazon.com. All material will be on reserve in the MLK Library.

**Course Assignments and Grading**

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

**Examinations**: The exams will consist of multiple choice, True and False, Fill-in the blank and Short Answer questions based on the lectures and readings. Please bring a blank T & E 200 answer sheet and a blue book to class on test dates, as well, as a # 2 pencil and a pen.

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

**Ethnographic Exercises**: The two 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. They might help you decide on your course project.
Grading Distribution

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I assign plus and minus grades at my discretion and use participation to adjust marginal grades.

General Policies

- No electronic submission of work – do not email me your papers!
- You must turn in a hard copy of your paper.
- Format of papers: Papers should be typed, double-spaced, and pages numbered. Please staple together pages, and it is helpful to use 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.
- Late papers: Will be accepted with permission. 2 points subtracted for each day the paper is late.
- Classroom Etiquette: Please arrive if you come late to class or leave early, please enter and exit quietly. Cell phones must be turned off and put away – no text messaging in class. Computers may be used only for class purposes.

Academic Integrity Policy

Plagiarism is the use of someone else’s language, images, data, or ideas without proper attribution. It is a very serious offense in both academic and professional environments. In essence, plagiarism is both theft and lying: you have stolen someone else’s ideas, and then lied by implying that they are your own.

Plagiarism will lead to grade penalties. It might also result in you failing the course and/or having the incident permanently noted in your SJSU student records.

If you are unsure what constitutes plagiarism, it is your responsibility to educate yourself, or ask for clarification, before you hand in written work.

Learning when to cite a source, and when not to, is an art, not a science. However, here are some examples of plagiarism that you should be careful to avoid:

- If you use a sentence (or even a part of a sentence) that someone else wrote and do not reference the source, you have committed plagiarism.
- If you paraphrase somebody else’s theory or idea and do not reference the source, you have committed plagiarism.
- If you use a picture or table from a web page or book and do not reference the source, you have committed plagiarism.
- If your paper incorporates data that someone else has collected and you do not reference the source, you have committed plagiarism.

The SJSU library has a tutorial that explains how to identify and avoid plagiarism, available at: http://tutorials.sjlibrary.org/plagiarism/index.htm.
In addition, the University of Indiana has developed a very helpful website with concrete examples about proper paraphrasing and quotation. See, in particular, the following three pages:

- http://www.indiana.edu/~istd/overview.html
- http://www.indiana.edu/~istd/examples.html
- http://education.indiana.edu/~frick/plagiarism/item1.html

If you have questions about the official SJSU policy on plagiarism, please read the “Academic Integrity Policy” at http://info.sjsu.edu/web-dbgen/narr/soc-fall/rec-369.html.

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, if you have emergency medical information to share with me, or if you need to make special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please make an appointment to speak with me as soon as possible. SJSU Presidential Directive 97-03 requires that students with disabilities register with the Disability Resource Center to establish a record of their disability (924-6000).

Course Schedule

Students will be informed about changes to the schedule ahead of time. Students are responsible for noting those changes.

**Part 1: Human Nature and Culture**

**Week 1: Introduction and The Concept of Culture**
August 26, Tuesday
Introduction to class goals and format, review syllabus, add/drop process and deadlines…

    Video: The God’s Must be Crazy (98 minutes)

August 28, Thursday
Video: The Gods Must be Crazy, cont’d (98 minutes)

**Week 2: The Concept of Culture**
September 2, Tuesday
ETHNOGRAPHY EXERCISE #1 AND ETHNOGRAPHIC PROJECT GUIDELINES DISTRIBUTED

September 4, Thursday

**Week 3: The Concept of Culture**
September 9, Tuesday
September 11, Thursday

Week 4: Fieldwork
September 16, Tuesday
To learn more: Take Anth 149 Ethnographic Methods

September 18, Thursday
Video: The Yanomamö (45 min)

Week 5: Culture and the Individual
September 23, Tuesday
To learn more: Take Anth 25 Human Development, Anth 141 Culture and Gender, and Anth 142 Culture and Personality
ETHNOGRAPHY EXERCISE # 1 DUE

September 25, Thursday

Week 6: Communication
September 30, Tuesday
ETHNOGRAPHY EXERCISE # 2 DISTRIBUTED

October 2, Thursday

Week 7:
October 7, Tuesday
Midterm # 1

October 9, Thursday
Video: My Journey, My Islam (56 min)
ETHNOGRAPHIC PROJECT PROPOSAL DUE

Part 2: Sociocultural Systems in Cross-Cultural Perspective
Week 8: Kinship
October 14, Tuesday
To learn more take: Anth 171 Culture Through Film

October 16, Thursday
Video: Kinship and Descent, part 1 (30 min)

Week 9: Kinship
October 21, Tuesday
ETHNOGRAPHY EXCERCISE # 2 DUE

October 23, Thursday
Video: Kinship and Descent, part 2 (30 min)

Week 10: Marriage and Family
October 28, Tuesday

October 30, Thursday
To learn more: take Anth 146 Culture and Conflict

Week 11: Making a Living
November 4, Tuesday
To learn more: take Anth 147 Wealth and Power

November 6, Thursday
ETHNOGRAPHIC PROJECT DUE

Week 12: Religion and Ideology
November 11, Tuesday
Veteran’s Day - No class

November 13, Thursday
To learn more: take Anth 148 Religion and Anthropology

Week 13:
November 18, Tuesday
Midterm

Part 3: Anthropology and the Modern World

Culture Change
November 20, Thursday (American Anthropological Meetings)
To learn more: take Anth 143 Culture and Adaptation

Week 14: Culture Change and Colonialism
November 25, Tuesday

November 27, Thursday
Thanksgiving Holiday – No Class

Week 15: Colonialism
December 2, Tuesday

December 4, Thursday

Week 16: Applying Anthropology
December 9, Tuesday (last day of instruction)
To learn more: take Anth 105 Applied Anthropology, Anth 108 Medical Anthropology,
FINAL EXAM: Monday, December 15, 2008 from 12:15 pm – 2:30 pm