

# INTRODUCTION TO CULTURAL ANTHROPOLOGY

Anthropology Department; SJSU

ANTH 011 Section 1 (Lec: 45501)  
Mondays & Wednesdays 0900 – 1015

FALL 2009  
CLK 204

**Dr. Karen Fjelstad**

**Office:** CL 463

**Office Hours:** MW 10:30-11:30

(Or available by appointment via prior arrangement)

**If you have any concerns about your class performance or comprehension, please come by my office during 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.**

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**COURSE WEB PAGE:** <http://www.cabrillo.edu>

## COURSE DESCRIPTION

### Catalogue 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.

### Departmental Learning Objectives and Skills:

The department of anthropology also has key learning objectives and skills that we wish students to obtain. By the completion of this course, students should have an increased:

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.
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.
10. Knowledge of political and ethical implications of social research

### **REQUIRED TEXTS**

Bourgois. *In Search of Respect: Selling Crack in El Barrio*, 2nd Ed. Cambridge 2008.

Monaghan and Just. *Social & Cultural Anthropology: A Very Short Introduction*. Oxford, 2000.

Nanda and Gregg. *The Gift of a Bride*. AltaMira Press. 2009.

Peters-Golden. *Culture Sketches: Case Studies in Anthropology*. McGraw Hill, 2009.

### **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. The topics will be discussed in detail in class; they are designed to address the GE learning objectives (with each writing assignment covering one of the learning objectives and incorporating the content objectives in these assignment as well). The essays will be assessed for content, correctness, clarity, conciseness, grammar, and spelling. No internet sources will be allowed for the writing assignments.

**You will have two in-class exams (one midterm and one final).**

**You will have five spontaneous in-class assignments.** You will not be able to make-up these assignments and they will go toward your class participation grade.

## **GRADING POLICY AND PROCEDURES**

|                       |                         |   |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|---|
| 1 Midterm             | 100 points              | A+ = 396-400 pts, A = 372-395, A- = 360-371 pts.  |
| Final exam            | 100                     | B+ = 352-359 pts, B = 332-351, B- = 320-331 pts.  |
| Short papers (3 @ 50) | 150                     |   |
| Class Participation   | <u>50</u><br>400 points | C+ = 312-319 pts, C = 292-311, C- = 280-291 pts.<br>D+ = 272-279 pts, D = 252-271, D- = 240-251 pts.<br>F = below 240 pts |

### Extra Credit

There will be no opportunities for extra credit.

### Attendance and Participation

There will be various in-class assignments intended to help students grasp and apply concepts that are discussed in class. I highly recommend students attend class as often as possible. Some in-class assignments will be given at the beginning of class and others at the end of the class; thus, it is important to arrive on time and attend the entire class period. Students will not be able to make-up the in-class assignments.

### Make-up Work

If you know in advance that you should be unable to attend an exam, it is your responsibility to contact me immediately by either e-mailing or telephoning me, leaving a message for me at the main department office, or coming by during my office hours.

Only students with a valid documented excuse will be able to take a make-up exam or hand in a late assignment. Late assignments will not be accepted otherwise. Students will not be able to make-up the in-class assignments.

### Late Papers

Papers are due at the beginning of class.

No late papers without a documented valid excuse will be accepted.

No emailed papers will be accepted.

### Cheating And Plagiarism

I have a zero-tolerance on cheating and plagiarism; if you cheat or plagiarize you will fail the course!

For the take home writing assignment, no internet references may be used!

Incidences of cheating and plagiarism will be turned into the academic integrity office.

Students are responsible for understanding and adhering to the academic integrity policy.

## **MISCELLANEOUS**

I will not answer questions about what occurred in class due to an absence, paper topics, research, or missing assignments.

Students are responsible for understanding policies about adding, dropping, and incompletes.

Students are responsible for being aware of assignment due dates, midterm date, and the final exam schedule.

Students who miss classes should keep up with course readings and obtain notes from a classmate.

If you have any concerns about your class performance or comprehension, come by my office during 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.

Library Liaison For Anthropology: Bernice Redfern; Librarian; (408) 808-2038;  
[Bernice.Redfern@sjsu.edu](mailto:Bernice.Redfern@sjsu.edu)

## **UNIVERSITY, COLLEGE, OR DEPARTMENTAL POLICY INFORMATION**

### Academic integrity statement (from Office of Judicial Affairs):

“Your own commitment to learning, as evidenced by your enrollment at San José State University and the University’s Academic Integrity Policy requires you to be honest in all your academic course work. Faculty are required to report all infractions to the Office of Judicial Affairs. The policy on academic integrity can be found at <http://www2.sjsu.edu/senate/S04-12.pdf>”

### Campus policy in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act:

“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 register with DRC to establish a record of their disability.”

## **COURSE SCHEDULE**

### **Week 1, Aug 24 -26**

Introduction to Class; Introduction to Anthropology

Read: Monaghan and Just, Introduction

### **Week 2, Aug 31-Sept 2**

Hallmarks of Anthropology; Methods of Research

Read: Monaghan and Just, Ch. 1: A Dispute in Donggo

### **Week 3, Sept 7 (Labor Day, Campus Closed) – Sept 9**

Field Methods

PAPER # 1 ASSIGNED – ETHNOSEMANTICS (Learning Objective D1-3)

### **Week 4, Sept 14 – 16**

Culture and Enculturation

FILM: Dog Town and Z-Boys or Daughter from Da Nang

Read: Monaghan and Just, Ch. 2: Bee Larvae and Onion Soup

Read: Peters-Golden, Ch.5: The Hmong

**Week 5, Sept. 21 – 23 – PAPER # 1 DUE MONDAY**

Psychological Anthropology, Culture and the Individual

Read: Monaghan and Just, Ch. 8: Nanuu Maria Gets Hit by Lightening

Read: Peters-Golden, Ch.2: The Aztecs

**Week 6, Sept 28 - 30**

Gender and Sexuality; Rites of Passage

Read: Peters-Golden, Ch.8: The Minangkabau

**Week 7, Oct 5 -7**

FILM: Guardians of the Flutes

Language and Culture

**Week 8, Oct 12 – 14**

Review

**MIDTERM EXAM WEDNESDAY**

Read: Nanda and Gregg, Pp. 1- 100

**Week 9, Oct 19 -21**

Social Organization and Kinship

PAPER # 2 ASSIGNED – Family Matters (Learning Objective D1-1,2,3,4)

Read: Monaghan and Just, Ch. 3: Society

Read: Peters-Golden, Ch. 9: The Nuer

Read: Nanda and Gregg, Ch. 101-201

**Week 10, Oct 26 – 28**

Kinship and other Forms of Belonging

Read: Monaghan and Just, Ch. 4: Fernando Seeks a Wife

Read: Monaghan and Just, Ch. 5: La Bose Becomes Bakar

Read: Nanda and Gregg, Ch. 202-279

**Week 11, Nov. 2 – 4, PAPER # 2 DUE MONDAY**

Subsistence

FILM: Contact the Yanomami

Read: Bourgois, Ch. 1-76

Read: Peters-Golden, Ch.15: The Yanomami

**Week 12, Nov 9 -11 (Veteran's Day – Campus Closed)**

Subsistence: Discuss *In Search of Respect*

Read: Bourgois, Pp. 77-173

Read: Peters-Golden, Ch.6: The Ju/'hoansi

**Week 13, Nov 16 – 18**

Economic Exchange

PAPER # 3 ASSIGNED – Thanksgiving: Variations on a Theme (Learning Objective D1-1,2,3,4)

Read: Monaghan and Just, Ch. 6: A Feast in Nuyoo

Read: Bourgois, Ch. 174-287

Read: Peters-Golden, Ch.14: The Trobriand Islanders

**Week 14, Nov. 23 – 25**

Religion and Ritual

Read: Monaghan and Just, Ch. 7: A Drought in Bima

Read: Bourgois, Ch. 288-351

Read: Peters-Golden, Ch.1: The Azande

**Week 15, Dec. 7 - PAPER # 3 DUE MONDAY**

Review

FINAL EXAMINATIONS, Dec. 10-16