

San José State University
Anthropology 11 - Fall 2009

Introduction to Cultural Anthropology

Dr. Sandra Cate

Section 2: TR 1030-1145, Hugh Gillis 124

Section 3: TR 0130-1445, Clark 310

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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, connect our readings and discussions to current events, and will consider contributions anthropologists make 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)

Philippe Bourgois, *In Search of Respect: Selling Crack in El Barrio* (1st Edition okay)

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

Anita Jain, *Marrying Anita: A Quest for Love in the New India*

Course Website

Many of the course materials -- lecture outlines, video guides, reading guides, exam study guides, extra credit list, and the class grading policy -- are available on [Sandra Cate's Faculty Web Page](http://sjsu.edu/people/Sandra.Cate) at <http://sjsu.edu/people/Sandra.Cate>

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, "Mini-Ethnography: A Strange Place"

Assignment #2 (Learning Objective D1-2, 4): 500 words, "Mini-Ethnography: The American Social Hierarchy" OR "De-coding a Speech Event"

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

Final exam	50
Short papers (3 @ 50)	150
Class Participation	<u>50</u>
	350 Total points

[Participation points based on class discussion, participation in group activities, and in-class writing responses or reading quizzes.]

A+ = 343-350 points	A = 326-342	A- = 315-325 points
B+ = 305-314 points	B = 291-304	B- = 280-290 points
C+ = 270-279 points	C = 255-269	C- = 245-254 points
D+ = 235-244 points	D = 221-234	D- = 210-220 points
F = below 220 points		

General Policies

- **Format of papers:** Papers should be typed, double-spaced with no extra spaces between paragraphs, in a size 12 font and with 1” margins. Please staple together pages, and **do not use folders, covers, or a cover sheet**. Please put your name, Anthropology 11 and section number in the top right hand corner of the first page. Use a title. 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 [Academic Integrity Policy](#) and consult with 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, of your instructor and your classmates.** If you come late to class or leave early, please enter and exit quietly, without letting the door slam. Cell phones 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.
- **Missed classes:** I will not answer questions about what occurred in class due to an absence, paper topics, research, or missing assignments. Students who miss classes should keep up with course readings and obtain notes from a classmate.
- **General concerns.** 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 you with strategies for succeeding and enjoying the class.
- **Library Liaison For Anthropology:** Bernice Redfern; Librarian; (408) 808-2038; Bernice.Redfern@sjsu.edu

Course Schedule

C & C = *Conformity and Conflict* textbook

August 25 Course Introduction: The Anthropological Perspective
Video: *Low 'n Slow: The Art of Lowriding*
Readings: C & C-Chapters 1-3

Part I – Culture, Ethnography, Fieldwork

August 27 The Concept of Culture
Readings: Bourgois-Preface, Introduction

September 1 Fieldwork and its Applications
Readings: C & C-Chapters 4, 5; Bourgois-Chapters 1-2 (pp. 19-36, pp. 66-76)
Video: *Style Wars* (excerpts)

Part II – Ecology, Economies, Exchange

September 3 Modes of Production I
Readings: C & C pp. 84-87, Chapters 10, 12; Bourgois –Chapters 3-4 (pp. 114-129, 141-147)

September 8 Modes of Production II
Readings: Bourgois-Chapter 5 (pp. 194-216)
ASSIGNMENT #1 DUE

September 10 Exchange Systems
Readings: C & C, pp. 135-138, Chapters 14, 15, 16
Group activity: The Penny Game

Part III – Social Hierarchy and Social Control

September 15 Social Groups & Modes of Social Control
Readings: C & C, pp. 260-262, Chapters 26, 27, 29

September 17 Race, Class, Ethnicity
Readings: Bourgois-Chapter 6 (pp. 213-239),
Video and Discussion: *People Like Us*

September 22 Video and Discussion: *People Like Us* (continued)
Readings: Bourgois-Conclusion, Epilogues

September 24 Discussion & Midterm Review: Bourgois, *In Search of Respect*

September 29 MIDTERM #1

Part IV – Individual Identity and Social Roles

October 1 Personhood and the Life Cycle

- Readings: C & C, pp. 219-222; Symonds, Chapters 1-2
- October 6 Fieldwork slides: *Hmong in Southeast Asia*
- October 8, 13 Gendered social roles
Readings: Symonds, Chapters 3-5
Video: *Kelly Loves Tony*
- October 15 Language & Communication
Readings: C & C, pp. 53-55, Chapters 6, 7, 9
Slides: *Body Modification*
- Part V – Religion and Worldview**
- October 20, 22 Religion and Belief
Readings: C & C, pp. 295-298, Chapters 27, 28, 29
Video: *The Split Horn*
ASSIGNMENT #2 DUE
- October 27 Discussion and Midterm Review: Symonds, *Calling in the Soul*
- October 29 MIDTERM #2
- Part VI – Kinship & Family**
- November 3, 5 Ideas of Relatedness
Readings: C & C, pp. 172-175, Chapters 18-20
Video: *Dadi's Family*
- November 10, 12 The Family in Society
Readings: Jain-Prologue, Chapters 1-5
Video: *The Love Chronicles: Arranged Marriages*
- Part VII – Globalization, Migration and Change**
- November 17, 19 Issues of Globalization and Migration - I
Readings: C & C, pp. 340-343, Chapters 34-36; Jain-Chapters 6-16
- November 24 Issues of Globalization and Migration – II
Readings: Jain-Chapters 17-27, Epilogue
- November 26 **THANKSGIVING!!!**
- December 1, 3 Culture Change & The Role of Anthropology
Readings: C & C, pp. 386-390, Chapters 13, 35, 36, 37
Video: *Holy Smokes*
ASSIGNMENT #3 DUE
- December 8 Course Wrap-up & Final Exam Review

FINAL EXAMS

Section 2 (TR 1030-1145): TBA

Seciton 3 (TR 0130-1445): TBA

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY - for Anth 11, FALL 2009

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