

**San José State University**  
**Anthropology Department**  
**ANTH 131: Theories of Culture and Society**  
**Fall 2010 Semester**

<b>Instructor:</b>	Professor Gonzalez
<b>Office Location:</b>	Clark 402G
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<b>Office Hours:</b>	MW 11:15am-1:15pm, W 6:00-7:00pm
<b>Class Days/Time:</b>	MW 4:30-5:45pm
<b>Classroom:</b>	CL 303
<b>Prerequisites:</b>	None
<b>GE/SJSU Studies Category:</b>	N/A
<b>Course Fees:</b>	N/A

### **Course Description**

This course provides a general introduction to the history of anthropological thought since the late 19th century. The first half of the course focuses on the emergence of cultural and social anthropological approaches in the US and Great Britain as a response to theories of biological determinism. The second half of the course emphasizes the changing meanings of culture, society, and biology in the context of colonialism, the Cold War, corporate globalization, and other contemporary phenomena. We will also examine the diffusion of the culture concept—from American anthropology, across academic disciplines, and out into the general public. By the end of the course you should have a thorough understanding of the development of cultural and social anthropological thought, the most influential theoretical approaches of the 20th century, and the political and economic circumstances under which anthropological ideas emerged.

### **Course Goals and Student Learning Objectives**

1. To learn about different theories of culture and society developed by British, French, US, and other anthropologists from the late 19th century to the present.
2. To understand how historical, political and economic contexts shaped and impacted these theories.

3. To examine the relationship between anthropological theories and methods and the relationship between anthropological theories and practices.
4. To compare and contrast classic ethnographies from the past and the present.
5. To analyze and discuss the relationship of anthropological knowledge and the general public.
6. To conduct library research and prepare an academic term paper.

The goals of the anthropology department include helping students to:

- learn about the culture concept and significant findings in anthropology
- examine interconnections between human culture and biology
- develop awareness of past and present cultures
- understand the multicultural aspects of contemporary society
- make good use of social science data and scholarly literature
- increase knowledge of qualitative and quantitative research methods
- recognize anthropology's relevance in addressing social issues

## **Required Texts/Readings**

### **Textbooks (all are required)**

Jonathan Marks, *What It Means to Be 98 Percent Chimpanzee*

Zora Neale Hurston, *Tell My Horse: Voodoo and Life in Haiti and Jamaica*

E.E. Evans-Pritchard, *The Nuer*

Jack Weatherford, *Genghis Khan and the Making of the Modern World*

Janine Wedel, *Shadow Elite*

These materials will be on reserve at King Library. In addition, there will be several required articles that will either be distributed in class by the instructor, or that will be available online (see pp. 5-6 of this syllabus for more information).

## **Classroom Protocol**

Laptop computers are not permitted in class unless you have a note from the Disability Resource Center justifying a need. You should write lecture notes by hand, or else make audio recordings of lectures and transcribe them after class meetings. Cell phones must be turned off during class to avoid disruption and out of sight or else the instructor will collect the device from the student until the end of class. Text messaging is strictly prohibited.

Any student who allows a cell phone to ring during class, or who texts messages will first be given a formal warning by the instructor. A second infraction of this rule will be promptly reported to the Office of Student Conduct with a recommendation that the student be immediately expelled from the course. Students should be aware that according to Title 5 of the California Code of Regulations, "Standards for Student Conduct," grounds for student discipline includes: "Participating in an activity that substantially and materially disrupts the normal operations of the University," {Section 41301(b)(4)} which could include use of unauthorized electronic devices in classroom settings.

## **Dropping and Adding**

Students are responsible for understanding the policies and procedures about add/drops, academic renewal, etc. [Information on add/drops are available at http://info.sjsu.edu/web-dbgen/narr/soc-fall/rec-298.html](http://info.sjsu.edu/web-dbgen/narr/soc-fall/rec-298.html). [Information about late drop is available at http://www.sjsu.edu/sac/advising/latedrops/policy/](http://www.sjsu.edu/sac/advising/latedrops/policy/). Students should be aware of the current deadlines and penalties for adding and dropping classes.

## **Assignments and Grading Policy**

Assignments for this course include the following:

1. Three unannounced weekly quizzes at the beginning of class, designed to test your familiarity with that week's course readings. These will be averaged into your grade. (Five points each quiz, for a total of 15% of final grade.)
2. Two mid-term exams (September 29 and November 3), consisting of short definitions, essays, and maps. (Each mid-term counts for 20% of final grade.)
3. One final exam, consisting of identifications/definitions, essays, and maps. (Final exam counts for 30% of final grade.) Final exam will be administered on December 13 from 2:45-5:00 pm in the usual class meeting room.
4. One 10-page term paper, due at the last regular class meeting (December 8). (Paper counts for 15% of final grade.) Description of term paper assignment will be distributed in class during the third week of the semester. Students must submit a typed 250-word term paper proposal to the instructor on October 13. This proposal is worth 10% of the assignment.

All assignments must be completed in order to pass. I will not accept late assignments nor will I administer makeup exams unless documents can be presented as evidence of illness, death in family, jury duty, etc. No assignments will be accepted via e-mail—I must receive hard copies of all assignments.

Grading distribution is as follows:

100	-	97	A+	79	-	77	C+
96	-	93	A	76	-	73	C
92	-	90	A-	72	-	70	C-
89	-	87	B+	69	-	67	D+
86	-	83	B	66	-	63	D
83	-	80	B-	Below 63			

## **University Policies**

### **Academic integrity**

Students should know that the University's [Academic Integrity Policy is available at http://www.sa.sjsu.edu/download/judicial\\_affairs/Academic\\_Integrity\\_Policy\\_S07-2.pdf](http://www.sa.sjsu.edu/download/judicial_affairs/Academic_Integrity_Policy_S07-2.pdf).

Your own commitment to learning, as evidenced by your enrollment at San Jose State University and the University's integrity policy, require you to be honest in all your academic course work. Faculty members are required to report all infractions to the office of

Student Conduct and Ethical Development. The website for [Student Conduct and Ethical Development is available at \[http://www.sa.sjsu.edu/judicial\\\_affairs/index.html\]\(http://www.sa.sjsu.edu/judicial\_affairs/index.html\).](http://www.sa.sjsu.edu/judicial_affairs/index.html)

Instances of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Cheating on exams or plagiarism (presenting the work of another as your own, or the use of another person's ideas without giving proper credit) will result in a failing grade and sanctions by the University. For this class, all assignments are to be completed by the individual student unless otherwise specified. If you would like to include in your assignment any material you have submitted, or plan to submit for another class, please note that SJSU's Academic Policy F06-1 requires approval of instructors.

**Campus Policy in Compliance with the American Disabilities Act**

If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, or if you need to make 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 the DRC (Disability Resource Center) to establish a record of their disability.

# ANTH 131: Theories of Culture and Society

## Fall 2010 Course Schedule

*Schedule is subject to change with fair notice.*

<b>Wk</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines</b>
1	08/25	<b>Introduction</b> Eric Wolf, "American Anthropologists and American Society"*
2	08/30 - 09/01	<b>Social Evolutionism in the Victorian Era</b> J. Marks, <i>What It Means to Be 98% Chimpzee</i> (Intro. and Ch. 1-3)
3	09/06 - 09/08	<b>Franz Boas and the Culture Concept</b> J. Marks, <i>What It Means to Be 98% Chimpzee</i> (Ch. 4-8) FILM: "The Shackles of Tradition: Franz Boas" <b>CAMPUS HOLIDAY SEPTEMBER 6--NO CLASS MEETING</b>
4	09/13 - 09/15	<b>Culture and Personality</b> J. Marks, <i>What It Means to Be 98% Chimpzee</i> (Ch. 9-12)
5	09/20 - 09/22	<b>Structural Functionalism</b> E.E. Evans-Pritchard, <i>The Nuer</i> (Introduction and Ch. 1-2)
6	09/27 - 09/29	<b>Cultural Ecology and Cultural Materialism</b> E.E. Evans-Pritchard, <i>The Nuer</i> (Ch. 3) Marvin Harris, "India's Sacred Cow"** ( <a href="http://sociology101.net/readings/Indias-sacred-cow.pdf">http://sociology101.net/readings/Indias-sacred-cow.pdf</a> ) <b>MIDTERM EXAM--SEPTEMBER 29</b>
7	10/04 - 10/06	<b>Colonial Critiques</b> E.E. Evans Pritchard, <i>The Nuer</i> (Ch. 4-6) Vine Deloria, "Anthropologists and Other Friends"*
8	10/11 - 10/13	<b>Feminist Influences and the Anthropology of Gender</b> Zora Neale Hurston, <i>Tell My Horse</i> (Ch. 1-6) FILM: "Small Happiness" <b>TERM PAPER PROPOSAL DUE TO INSTRUCTOR ON OCTOBER 13</b>
9	10/18 - 10/20	<b>Interpretive and Post-Structural Anthropology</b> Zora Neale Hurston, <i>Tell My Horse</i> (Ch. 7-12)
10	10/25 - 10/27	<b>Experimenting with Ethnography</b> Zora Neale Hurston, <i>Tell My Horse</i> (Ch. 13-18) FILM: "Zora Is My Name!"
11	11/01 - 11/03	<b>Political Economy and Marxist Approaches</b> Sidney Mintz, "Remembering Haiti" ( <a href="http://www.bostonreview.net/BR35.2/mintz.php">http://www.bostonreview.net/BR35.2/mintz.php</a> ) <b>MIDTERM EXAM--NOVEMBER 3</b>

<b>Wk</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines</b>
12	11/08 - 11/10	<b>Approaches to Archaeological Theory</b> Jack Weatherford, <i>Genghis Khan</i> (Introduction and Ch. 1-3) ADDITIONAL READINGS TO BE ANNOUNCED
13	11/15 - 11/17	<b>Towards an Anthropology of Globalization</b> Jack Weatherford, <i>Genghis Khan</i> (Ch. 4-8)
14	11/22 - 11/24	<b>Anthropology and the Contemporary World</b> Jack Weatherford, <i>Genghis Khan</i> (Ch. 9-10 and Epilogue) Jenine Wedel, <i>Shadow Elite</i> (Ch. 1) FILM: "The Global Assembly Line"
15	11/29 - 12/01	<b>The Future of Anthropology</b> Jenine Wedel, <i>Shadow Elite</i> (Ch. 2-5)
16	12/06 - 12/08	<b>Discussion, Summary, and Course Review</b> Jenine Wedel, <i>Shadow Elite</i> (Ch. 6-7) <b>TERM PAPERS DUE TO INSTRUCTOR ON DECEMBER 8</b>
Final		<b>FINAL EXAM TO BE ADMINISTERED MONDAY, DECEMBER 13, FROM 2:45-5:00 PM IN REGULAR CLASS MEETING ROOM</b>

Notes:

1. Readings marked with one asterisk (\*) will be distributed by the instructor.
2. Readings marked with two asterisks (\*\*) are available on line at listed URL addresses.