

**San José State University
Anthropology Department
ANTH 144: Gifts, Markets, and Money
Fall 2010 Semester**

Instructor:	Professor Gonzalez
Office Location:	Clark 402G
Telephone:	(408) 924-5715
Email:	roberto.gonzalez@sjsu.edu
Office Hours:	MW 11:15am-1:15pm, W 6:00-7:00pm
Class Days/Time:	MW 1:30-2:45pm
Classroom:	CL 204
Prerequisites:	None
GE/SJSU Studies Category:	N/A
Course Fees:	N/A

Course Description

This course reviews economics from an anthropological perspective. In the first half of the course, we will analyze subsistence strategies, the history and meanings of money in different cultures, gift economies, and redistribution. In the second half of the course, we will build upon this foundation by learning about economic inequality, colonialism, the rise of global capitalism, corporations, mass consumption, and "alternative" economies. The course will use cross-cultural cases from Africa, Asia, Oceania, Europe, North America, and Latin America. Much of this course's conceptual framework will be covered during the lectures, so it is critical that you attend class. Apart from the course readings, we will view several ethnographic films. Exams will be based upon readings, films, and lectures.

Course Goals and Student Learning Objectives

1. To learn about different subsistence systems, modes of production, and modes of exchange based upon the wide range of research in economic anthropology.
2. To analyze the invention and consequences of currency, market systems, and economic inequality.
3. To examine the rise of the global capitalist world system and the emergence of state socialism.

4. To develop a better understanding of the creation of *Homo economicus*, the rise of neoliberal economic theory, the birth of the mass consumer, and the search for alternatives.
5. To define and critique the following terms: reciprocity, redistribution, markets, alienation, commodification, and commodity fetishism.
5. To explore the material, political, sociocultural, and ideological structures underlying the concepts of credit and debt.
6. To apply the concepts of economic anthropology to a range of case studies, including but not limited to the following: Trobriand *kula* exchanges; Northwest Coast Indian potlatches; the Transatlantic slave trade; the Gilded Age; the Great Depression; virtual economies; and the "subprime" mortgage crisis and subsequent global financial crisis of the contemporary period.

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)

Required books for this course include the following:

Marcel Mauss, *The Gift*

Jack Weatherford, *The History of Money*

Dimitra Doukas, *Worked Over: The Corporate Sabotage of an American Community*

In addition to these books, we will use numerous articles from journals which are available online (see pp. 5-6 of this syllabus). Hard copies of three additional articles will be distributed in class.

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) mid-term exam (25% of course grade) on Wednesday, October 20 (1:30-2:45 pm)
- (2) final exam (25% of course grade) on Friday, December 17 (12:15-2:30 pm)
- (3) five unannounced quizzes based on course readings (25% of course grade)
- (4) term paper (25% of course grade)

The term paper assignment should be a 5-page double-spaced ethnography focusing on an economic institution that plays a significant role in your life or in the Bay Area. Some examples might include: a local credit union, a community food bank, the San Jose Chamber of Commerce, "white elephant" or "secret Santa" gift exchanges, the Santa Clara County Tax Assessor's Office, or eBay.com. More information about this assignment will be given to you during the third week of the semester.

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			F

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](http://www.sa.sjsu.edu/judicial_affairs/index.html) is available at 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.

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Fall 2010 Course Schedule

Schedule is subject to change with fair notice.

Wk	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
1	08/25	Introduction J. Weatherford, <i>The History of Money</i> (Ch. 1-3)
2	08/30 - 09/01	Subsistence Strategies and Modes of Production J. Weatherford, <i>The History of Money</i> (Ch. 4-9)
3	09/08 - 09/08	Money and Markets J. Weatherford, <i>The History of Money</i> (Ch. 10-15) CAMPUS HOLIDAY SEPTEMBER 6--NO CLASS MEETING
4	09/13 - 09/15	Gift Giving J. Weatherford, <i>The History of Money</i> (Ch. 16-18) M. Mauss, <i>The Gift</i> (Ch. 1) FILM: "A Poor Man Shames Us All"
5	09/20 - 09/22	Feasts, Taxes, and Other Forms of Redistribution M. Mauss, <i>The Gift</i> (Ch. 2-4)
6	09/27 - 09/29	Private Property and the Commons G. Hardin, "The Tragedy of the Commons"* (http://www.sciencemag.org/cgi/content/full/162/3859/1243)
7	10/04 - 10/06	Everything for Sale? N. Scheper-Hughes, "The Global Traffic in Human Organs"* (http://www.publicanthropology.org/TimesPast/Scheper-Hughes.htm) S. Carney, "Inside India's Rent-a-Womb Business"* (http://motherjones.com/politics/2010/02/surrogacy-tourism-india-nayna-patel)
8	10/11 - 10/13	Local Capitalism D. Doukas, <i>Worked Over</i> (pp. 1-81) FILM: "The Corporation"
9	10/18 - 10/20	Trusts and Corporations D. Doukas, <i>Worked Over</i> (pp. 82-157) MIDTERM EXAM--OCTOBER 20
10	10/25 - 10/27	The Global Economy--Then and Now R. Robbins, "The Guarani: The Economics of Ethnocide"*** A. Hochschild, "Blood and Treasure"* (http://motherjones.com/politics/2010/02/congo-gold-adam-hochschild) FILM: "Up the Yangtze"
11	11/01 - 11/03	"Free" Trade and Its Hidden Costs Sidney Mintz, "Remembering Haiti"* (http://www.bostonreview.net/BR35.2/mintz.php)
12	11/08 - 11/10	Neoliberalism D. Graeber, "Neoliberalism"*** FILM: "Enron: The Smartest Guys in the Room"

Wk	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
13	11/15 - 11/17	On Debt D. Graeber, "Debt: The First Five Thousand Years"* (http://www.metamute.org/en/content/debt_the_first_five_thousand_years) G. Tett, "Genesis of the Debt Disaster"* (http://www.ft.com/cms/s/2/51f425ac-351e-11de-940a-00144feabdc0.html) G. Tett, "How Panic Grippped the World's Biggest Banks"* (http://www.ft.com/cms/s/2/e3b972fc-3aa6-11de-8a2d-00144feabdc0.html) L. Barton, "On the Money" (interview with Gillian Tett)* (http://www.guardian.co.uk/business/2008/oct/31/creditrunch-gillian-tett-financial-times)
14	11/22 - 11/24	Shadow Economies, Black Markets, and Virtual Dollars J. Galante, "Another Day, Another Virtual Dollar"*** M. Glenny, "The Dark Side of Globalization" (review of Moises Naim's <i>Illicit</i>) (http://www.newstatesman.com/200601160040) FILM: "Inside the Meltdown"
15	11/29 - 12/01	Local Currencies, Cooperative Ventures, and the Search for Alternatives E. Lambert, "Funny Money"* (http://www.forbes.com/2006/02/11/local-currencies-ithaca_cz_el_money06_0214local.html) J. Schwartz, "In Cleveland, Worker Co-ops Look to a Spanish Model"* (http://www.time.com/time/business/article/0,8599,1947313,00.html) C. Thompson, "Nothing Grows Forever"* (http://motherjones.com/politics/2010/05/peter-victor-deficit-growth?page=2)
16	12/06 - 12/08	Discussion, Summary, and Review E.F. Schumacher, "Buddhist Economics"* (http://www.smallisbeautiful.org/pdf/buddhist_economics/english.pdf)
Final		FINAL EXAM TO BE ADMINISTERED FRIDAY, DECEMBER 17 FROM 12:15-2:30 PM IN REGULAR CLASS MEETING ROOM

* available online at listed URL address

** to be distributed in class