

## Anthropology 146- Fall 2010

# Culture and Conflict

Instructor: Dr. Sandra Cate

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Office Hours: MW 1200-1300, 1615-1715

Class Time/Location:

**Section 4:** MW 0900-1015, Clark 238

**Section 1:** MW 1500-1615, Clark 225

### Faculty Web Page and MYSJSU Messaging

Essential course materials such as the syllabus (plus updates), lecture outlines, assignment handouts, extra credit list, and video, reading, and exam study guides may be found on [Sandra Cate's web page](http://www.sjsu.edu/people/sandra.cate) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/people/sandra.cate>. You are responsible for regularly checking with the messaging system through MySJSU – please be sure it has your correct e-mail address.

### Course Description

Anthropologists have long studied social change brought about in indigenous and small-scale societies through ongoing interactions with the nation states of the industrialized world. Anthropologists now recognize that in order to understand conflict, we must pay attention to the very real issues of dominance, subordination, and dependence that generate change, in the contexts of colonial experience, formation of nation states, competition for resources, “modernization,” and “development.”

Drawing on a survey of contemporary cultures (with some historic examples for comparison), this course will look at dynamics of culture and conflict through three case studies: 1) the Aborigines, foragers and the indigenous peoples of Australia, 2) the Somalis, pastoralists in Africa and subjects of a “failed state” and 3) the Hmong, swidden agriculturalists from Laos who now live in diasporic communities throughout the United States. Our goal is to develop a theoretical framework for understanding these case studies, resource conflicts and the issues they raise, and how anthropologists and world citizens can respond to conflicts involving small-scale societies.

### Prerequisites

Students must have passed the Writing Skills Test (WST) and have taken or be enrolled in a 100W course. NO EXCEPTIONS.

### SJSU Studies Objectives (Advanced GE, Area V)

NOTE: to fulfill SJSU Studies requirements, students must take Area R, S and V courses from different departments.

Students should receive an appreciation for human expression in cultures outside the U.S. and an understanding of how that expression has developed over time. Additionally, students should understand how traditions of cultures outside the U.S. have influenced American culture and society, as well as how cultures in general both develop distinctive features and interact with other cultures.

To accomplish these objectives, students in this course will

1. Compare systematically the ideas, values, images, cultural artifacts, economic structures, technological developments, and/or attitudes of people from more than one culture outside the U.S. (Class activities, Progressive Term Project-Part 1)
2. Identify the historical context of ideas and cultural traditions outside the U.S. and how they have influenced American culture; and (Class activities, Progressive Term Project-Parts 2, 3)
3. Explain how a culture outside the U.S. has changed in response to internal and external pressures. (Progressive Term Project-Parts 2,3)

## **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**

Brenneman, Robert L. *As Strong as the Mountains: A Kurdish Cultural Journey* (2007) Waveland Press

Lee Barnes, Virginia and Janice Boddy. *Aman: The Story of a Somali Girl*. (1994) Vintage Press.

Fadiman, Anne. *The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down: A Hmong Child, Her American Doctors and the Collision of Two Cultures*, (1997) Noonday Press.

Additional readings on Class Website, <http://www.sjsu.edu/people/sandra.cate/>

## Course Website

Many of the course materials -- lecture outlines, video guides, exam study guides, citation and reference guide, extra credit list, and the class grading policy -- are available on my Faculty Web Page, <http://www.sjsu.edu/people/sandra.cate/>.

## Course Assignments and Evaluation

3-part sequential project (3@ 50)	150 points	A- to A+ = 315-350 points
Midterm Exam	50 points	B- to B+ = 280-314 points
Final exam	50 points	C- to C+ = 245-279 points
Class Participation	<u>50 points</u>	D- to D+ = 210-244 points
Total	300 points	F = below 210 points

[Participation points based on attendance, class discussion, and possible in-class writing responses.]

## General Policies

- **Format of papers:** Papers should be typed (12 point Times Roman, double-spaced, and pages numbered). Please staple together pages, and **do not use folders, covers, or a cover sheet**. Instead, write 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.
- **Plagiarism:** Plagiarism occurs when you use the words of another author – a phrase, sentence, or paragraph -- without giving credit to that author with quotation marks and a citation. This practice misrepresents your writing. **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 [Statement on Academic Integrity](#) and consult me if you have questions on this issue.
- **Turnitin.com.** To discourage plagiarism, I now require Anth 146 students to submit their papers to turnitin.com before giving them to me. We'll discuss this and give precise instructions in class.
- **Late papers:** Will be accepted with permission. 2 points subtracted for each class 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:** I understand that multi-tasking is essential to getting through life. BUT NOT THROUGH THIS CLASS. You need to be FULLY PRESENT to be successful. Therefore, please do not text, do not surf the web, do not go on Facebook, e-mail or anything else besides taking notes during class. If you are distracting me or others, you will have to put your computer away. No computer note-taking during films, of which there are many. If you must arrive late or leave early, please do not slam the door.

## Course Schedule

August 25 Course Introduction, Cultural Ecology  
Read: Lassiter, “Anthropology and Culture” (website)

### 1) Concepts and Issues

August 30 Anthropology & Indigenous Peoples  
Read: Lee, “Christmas in the Kalahari”; Maybury-Lewis, pp. 1-13 (website)  
September 1 Video: *The Shock of the Other* (60 min.)  
Read: Maybury-Lewis, pp. 25-32 (website)

### September 6 LABOR DAY – No Class!

September 8 Colonialism & Development  
Video: *Contact: the Yanomami* (30 min.)  
Read: Maybury-Lewis, pp. 47-79 (Website)

September 13 Constructing the State: Ethnic groups in comparative perspective  
Read: Brennenman, Introduction, Chapter 1

September 15 Land appropriation, genocide, ethnic cleansing  
Video: *Delta Force* (30 min)  
Read: *Cultural Survival* articles (Website)

September 20 How to do social science research (in-class tutorial)

September 22 Indigenous peoples: Strategies of Survival I  
Read: Brennenman, Chapters 2-4

September 27 Indigenous peoples: Strategies of Survival II  
Video: *The Tighrope of Power*  
Read: Brennenman, Chapters 5-7

### 2) Issues of Settlement & Development: Australian Aborigines

September 29 Cultural Ecology of the Aborigines: food collecting  
Read: Tonkinson, “The Mardu Aborigines: On the Road to Somewhere,” pp. 225-232 (website)

**Due: Research topic with annotated bibliography**

October 4 Concepts of the Land: The Dreamtime  
Video: *Yolngu Boy*

October 6 *Yolngu Boy, (cont.)*

October 11 Midterm Review

- October 13            **MIDTERM**
- October 18            Aboriginal/settler relations, the state  
Read: Tonkinson, pp. 232-253 (website)
- October 20            Movie: *Rabbit Proof Fence*
- October 25            Movie: *Rabbit Proof Fence (cont)*  
Discussion of video
- October 27            Contemporary problems and conflicts  
Video: *Murrandoo Yanner in Australia* (26 min.)  
Read: McIntosh, *Aboriginal Reconciliation* excerpts (website)  
**Section 1 of project DUE**

### **3) Somalia, the War, and One Woman's Life: Aman's Story**

- November 1            Cultural ecology of Somalis: Pastoralism  
Read: *Aman*, Afterword, pp. 289-308, Chapters 1-5
- November 3            Challenges facing Pastoral Women  
Video: *Maasai Women* (52 min.)  
Read: *Aman*, Chapters 6-11
- November 8            Kinship and Nation  
Read: *Aman*, Chapters 12-21
- November 10           Video: *Somalia: Good Intention, Deadly Results*  
Read: *Aman*, Chapters 22-27
- November 15           A "Failed State"  
Webwork: explore BBC website: *Somalia: Emerging from Ruins?*  
[http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/in\\_depth/africa/2004/somalia/default.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/in_depth/africa/2004/somalia/default.stm)
- November 17           Somalis in Diaspora  
Video: *Talk Mogadishu*  
**Section 2 of project DUE**

### **4) A Culture in Conflict Finds a New Home**

- November 22           Cultural ecology of the Hmong/Mien: Agrarian societies  
Read: *Spirit Catches You*, Chapters 1-5
- November 24           War and the trauma of migration  
Read: *Spirit Catches You*, Chapters 6-9
- November 29           Video: *Bombies* (57 min.)  
Read: *Spirit Catches You*, Chapters 10-15

- December 1           Hmong/Mien in Laos, Thailand – Shifting Identities  
Slides: *Fieldwork in Laos, Thailand*  
Read: *Spirit Catches You*, Chapters 16-19
- December 3           Hmong/Mien refugees in the U.S.  
**Section 3 of paper DUE**
- December 6           Video: *The Split Horn* (57 min.)
- December 8           Course Wrap-up, Final exam review

**FINAL EXAMS**

**Section 1: Tuesday, December 14, 1215-1430**

**Section 4: Friday, December 17, 0715-0930**

## **ACADEMIC INTEGRITY**

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.**

**I have read and understand the above statement. I agree to NOT plagiarize:**

**Printed name** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_\_

**Signature** \_\_\_\_\_