

**San José State University  
Anthropology Department  
ANTH 131: Theories of Culture and Society  
Fall 2012 Semester**

<b>Instructor:</b>	Professor González
<b>Office Location:</b>	Clark 459
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<b>Office Hours:</b>	TH 10:30 am - 3:30 pm
<b>Class Days/Time:</b>	MW 1:30 - 2:45 pm
<b>Classroom:</b>	WSQ 004
<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)

Ashley Montagu, *The Elephant Man: A Study in Human Dignity*

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

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

William Rathje and Cullen Murphy, *Rubbish!: The Archaeology of Garbage*

David Price, *Weaponizing Anthropology*

In addition, there will be several required articles that will either be distributed in class by the instructor, or that will be distributed by the instructor via email (see pp. 5-6 of this syllabus for more information).

## Classroom Protocol

Laptop computers and tablets (iPads, etc.) 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. Mobile phones must be turned off during class and must be 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. During exams and quizzes, any use of mobile phones will be considered cheating and reported to the Office of Student Conduct. 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.

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.

### **Classroom Recording (S12-7)**

Course material developed by the instructor is the intellectual property of the instructor and cannot be shared publicly without his/her approval. You may not publicly share or upload instructor generated material for this course such as exam questions, lecture notes, or homework solutions without instructor consent. Common courtesy and professional behavior dictate that you notify someone when you are recording him/her. You must obtain the instructor's permission to make audio or video recordings in this class. Such permission allows the recordings to be used for your private, study purposes only. The recordings are the intellectual property of the instructor; you have not been given any rights to reproduce or distribute the material.

### **Credit Hours (S12-3)**

Success in this course is based on the expectation that students will spend, for each unit of credit, a minimum of 45 hours over the length of the course (normally three hours per unit per week with one of the hours used for lecture) for instruction or preparation/studying or course related activities including but not limited to internships, labs, clinical practica. Other course structures will have equivalent workload expectations as described in the syllabus.

### **Dropping and Adding**

Students are responsible for understanding the policies and procedures about adds/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 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 in the usual class meeting room.
4. One 10-page term paper (not including title page or bibliography), due at the last regular class meeting (before final exams). (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 (see course schedule). 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			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 is available at 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 disabilities.

# ANTH 131: Theories of Culture and Society

## Fall 2012 Course Schedule

*Schedule is subject to change with fair notice.*

Wk	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
1	08/22	<b>Introduction</b> Eric Wolf, "American Anthropologists and American Society"*
2	08/27 - 08/29	<b>Social Evolutionism in the Victorian Era</b> A. Montagu, <i>The Elephant Man</i> ("Introduction" and "The Elephant Man")
3	09/03 - 09/05	<b>Franz Boas and the Culture Concept</b> A. Montagu, <i>The Elephant Man</i> ("Personality Development, Human Nature and Experience," "The Nature of the Elephant Man's Disorder," "Conclusion") FILM: "The Shackles of Tradition: Franz Boas" <b>CAMPUS HOLIDAY SEPTEMBER 3 -- NO CLASS MEETING</b>
4	09/10 - 09/12	<b>Culture and Personality</b> Ruth Benedict, <i>The Chrysanthemum and the Sword</i> (excerpts)*
5	09/17 - 02/19	<b>Structural Functionalism</b> E.E. Evans-Pritchard, <i>The Nuer</i> (Ch. 1-3)
6	09/24 - 09/26	<b>Cultural Ecology and Cultural Materialism</b> E.E. Evans-Pritchard, <i>The Nuer</i> (Ch. 4-6) <b>MIDTERM EXAM 1--SEPTEMBER 26</b>
7	10/01 - 10/03	<b>Colonial Critiques</b> Vine Deloria, "Anthropologists and Other Friends"*
8	10/08 - 10/10	<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 OCTOBER 10</b>
9	10/15 - 10/17	<b>Interpretive and Post-Structural Anthropology</b> Zora Neale Hurston, <i>Tell My Horse</i> (Ch. 7-12)
10	10/22 - 10/24	<b>Experimenting with Ethnography</b> Zora Neale Hurston, <i>Tell My Horse</i> (Ch. 13-18) FILM: "Zora Is My Name!"
11	10/29 - 10/31	<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> ) William Rathje and Cullen Murphy, <i>Rubbish!</i> (Ch. 1-2) <b>MIDTERM EXAM 2--OCTOBER 31</b>
12	11/05 - 11/07	<b>Approaches to Archaeological Theory</b> William Rathje and Cullen Murphy, <i>Rubbish!</i> (Ch. 3-6)
13	11/12 - 11/14	<b>Towards an Anthropology of Globalization</b> William Rathje and Cullen Murphy, <i>Rubbish!</i> (Ch. 7-9) <b>CAMPUS HOLIDAY NOVEMBER 12 -- NO CLASS MEETING</b>

Wk	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
14	11/19 - 11/21	<b>Anthropology and the Contemporary World</b> William Rathje and Cullen Murphy, <i>Rubbish!</i> (Ch.10-11) David Price, <i>Weaponizing Anthropology</i> (Introduction and Ch. 1-2) FILM: "Losing Knowledge"
15	11/26 - 11/28	<b>The Question of Ethics</b> David Price, <i>Weaponizing Anthropology</i> (Ch. 3-7)
16	12/03 - 12/05	<b>The Future of Anthropology</b> David Price, <i>Weaponizing Anthropology</i> (Ch. 8-11) FILM: "Human Terrain"
17	12/10/12	<b>Discussion, Summary, and Course Review</b> David Price, <i>Weaponizing Anthropology</i> (Ch. 12) <b>TERM PAPERS DUE TO INSTRUCTOR ON DECEMBER 10</b>
		<b>FINAL EXAM -- MONDAY, DECEMBER 17 (12:15 - 2:30 PM)</b> <b>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.