

**San José State University
Department of Anthropology
ANTH 11(3) Cultural Anthropology (42539)**

Fall 2015 Course Syllabus

Instructor:	Dr. Ana Pitchon
Office Location:	Clark Hall 402H
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Office Hours:	Tuesday and Thursday 10:30-12:00 and by appointment
Class Days/Time:	Tuesday and Thursday – 3:00-4:15
Classroom:	Clark Building 310
GE/SJSU Studies Category:	Area D1
Prerequisites:	None

Course Description

Cultural anthropology is the study of how humans adapt to, interpret and affect the world in which they live. This course is designed to provide you with an overview to the discipline, as well as an appreciation of what it means to be human throughout time and space. In addition to covering basic anthropological concepts, we will explore some of the practical applications of anthropology. Furthermore, you will be gaining first-hand experience in observing the world as an anthropologist, giving you an experiential and intellectual appreciation of a perspective which can be used to better understand a variety of academic, professional, and community contexts.

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. There are no pre-requisites to this course.

Learning Outcomes and Course Goals

The Department of Anthropology seeks to enhance student knowledge and skills in the following areas. Departmental objectives that this course explicitly addresses are asterisked.

Knowledge:

1. Understanding culture as the distinguishing phenomenon of human life, and the relationship of human biology and evolution.
2. Awareness of human diversity and the ways humans have categorized diversity.
3. Knowledge of the significant findings of archaeology, cultural anthropology, and physical anthropology, and familiarity of the important issues in each sub-discipline.
4. * Knowledge of the history of anthropological thought and its place in modern intellectual history
5. Comprehension of migration, colonialism, and economic integration as significant phenomenon shaping global society.

Skills

1. * Ability to access various forms of anthropological data and literature.
2. * Awareness of importance and value of anthropological knowledge in contemporary society, and the ability to apply it to social issues.
3. * 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.
4. * Ability to present and communicate anthropological knowledge and the results of anthropological research to different audiences.

Professional Values

1. * Knowledge of political and ethical implications of social research

Course Objectives

The student who satisfactorily completes this course should:

1. Be able to understand and apply appropriately the concept of culture to human behavior.
2. Gain a working knowledge of how cultural anthropologists conduct field research through completing a class project.
3. Be able to recognize and analyze the interaction of social institutions, culture and environment with individual and collective behavior.
4. Develop a cross-cultural perspective on how humans relate to each other and the material world through symbols.
5. Have knowledge about several societies in depth using ethnographies.
6. Understand the relevance of cultural anthropology for understanding the complexities of modern life both globally and in this country.

Area D1 Human Behavior Student Learning Objective

Students will be able to recognize the interaction of social institutions, culture, and environment with the behavior of individuals.

Required Texts/Readings

Textbooks:

Spradley, James and David McCurdy (2012) *Conformity and Conflict: Readings in Cultural Anthropology* (15th Edition). New York: Pearson.

Bourgois, Philippe (2002) *In Search of Respect: Selling Crack in El Barrio* (2nd Edition). Cambridge University Press.

Everett, Daniel L. (2009) *Don't Sleep, There Are Snakes: Life and Language in the Amazonian Jungle*. Vintage Departures.

Nelson, Richard K. (1986) *Make Prayers to the Raven: A Koyukon View of the Northern Forest*. University of Chicago Press.

Course Requirements and Assignments

Reading Assignments. Students are required to have completed assigned readings by the date indicated in the course schedule (see course schedule below) and be prepared to discuss the material in class, either in group discussion or class-wide question and answer.

Examinations: The exams will consist of multiple choice, true and false, fill-in the blank and short answer questions based on the lectures, readings and films.

Ethnographic Exercises: These exercises are intended to develop your skills as an observer and interpreter of social life. These out of class exercises are intended to help you understand an ethnographic approach to understanding social phenomena. They will require some work, however, the activities ought to be thought provoking and fun.

Group Discussion Assignments: These assignments engage critical thinking about themes covered in class. You will be presented with a question regarding the readings, topic and/or films for that week on Tuesday. You should come to class on Thursday prepared to discuss these questions critically, using references from the readings and lectures. You will turn in a short paragraph with your conclusions that will be written in class. Bring paper and a pen!

Grading Distribution

Midterm - 50 points

Ethnographic Exercises - (3 @ 20) 60 points

Group discussion assignments - (10 @ 2) 20 points

Final Exam 50 points

Total points 290

All assignments should be type written 12 point, Times or Times New Roman font with one-inch margins on all sides. Failure to comply with these guidelines will result in a deduction of points. I will not accept emailed

submissions. Use the American Anthropological Association format, especially when citing references. It can be found at http://www.aanet.org/pubs/style_guide.htm.

Grading Policy

A: 95-100 A-: 90-94 B+: 86-89 B: 82-85 B-: 78-81 C+: 74-77 C: 70-73 C-: 67-69 D: 60-66 F:0-59	A: Reserved for exceptional scholarship and understanding that reaches beyond minimum course requirements. B: Excellent above average work that exceeds minimum course requirements. C: Satisfactory completion of course requirements. D: Fails to address course requirements satisfactorily.
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In the calculation of the final grade of borderline cases, improvement and dynamic class participation will be decisive factors. I consider all students equally capable of successfully completing the requirements for this class with an above average grade, which does not mean you will receive a B for mediocre work.

Come to class prepared. Read the assignments carefully and take notes in class. Write down any questions you might have about the readings and raise them in class. Do not hesitate to participate actively in class and engage other students or the instructor in class discussions. Pose questions, make comments and *think critically!*

All assignments are due on the specified due dates. Late assignments will only be considered in the event of compelling evidence as to why you have missed class and were unable to submit the assignment.

SJSU classes are designed such that in order to be successful, it is expected that students will spend a minimum of forty-five hours for each unit of credit (normally three hours per unit per week), including preparing for class, participating in course activities, completing assignments, and so on. More details about student workload can be found in [University Policy S12-3](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-3.pdf) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-3.pdf>.

Students should attend all meetings of their classes, not only because they are responsible for material discussed therein, but because active participation is frequently essential to insure maximum benefit for all members of the class. Attendance will not be used as a criterion for grading.

Classroom Protocol:

Attendance:

Arrive on time and be in attendance for the entire class period. Class lectures cover important information not found in assigned readings. If you arrive late for class, please move to your seat without disturbing other class members. Frequent absences and late arrivals will result in poor performance and grades. The use of electronic devices such as cell phones and tablets will not be tolerated. Video recording is strictly prohibited.

Laptop computers, tablets and phones:

Laptop computers are not allowed in this class. A student who is doing non-class related activities on his or her computer is not only hurting his or her own education, but possibly the educational experience of many others in the class: research has shown that a game or a picture on a laptop distracts not only the student using the computer but also those students nearby (Yamamoto 2007, Fried 2008). Therefore the use of laptops is prohibited. In addition, the use of cell phones and tablets in class will result in the student being asked to leave.

University Policies

General Expectations, Rights and Responsibilities of the Student

As members of the academic community, students accept both the rights and responsibilities incumbent upon all members of the institution. Students are encouraged to familiarize themselves with SJSU's policies and practices pertaining to the procedures to follow if and when questions or concerns about a class arises. See University Policy S90-5 at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S90-5.pdf>. More detailed information on a variety of related topics is available in the SJSU catalog, at <http://info.sjsu.edu/web-dbgen/narr/catalog/rec-12234.12506.html>. In general, it is recommended that students begin by seeking clarification or discussing concerns with their instructor. If such conversation is not possible, or if it does not serve to address the issue, it is recommended that the student contact the Department Chair as a next step.

Dropping and Adding

Students are responsible for understanding the policies and procedures about add/drop, grade forgiveness, etc. Refer to the current semester's Catalog Policies section at <http://info.sjsu.edu/static/catalog/policies.html>. Add/drop deadlines can be found on the current academic year calendars document on the Academic Calendars webpage at http://www.sjsu.edu/provost/services/academic_calendars/. The Late Drop Policy is available at <http://www.sjsu.edu/aars/policies/latedrops/policy/>. Students should be aware of the current deadlines and penalties for dropping classes.

Information about the latest changes and news is available at the Advising Hub at <http://www.sjsu.edu/advising/>.

Consent for Recording of Class and Public Sharing of Instructor Material

University Policy S12-7, <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-7.pdf>, requires students to obtain instructor's permission to record the course.

- 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.
- 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.

Academic integrity

Your commitment, as a student, to learning is evidenced by your enrollment at San Jose State University. The University Academic Integrity Policy S07-2 at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S07-2.pdf> requires 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 [Student Conduct and Ethical Development website](http://www.sjsu.edu/studentconduct/) is available at <http://www.sjsu.edu/studentconduct/>.

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](http://www.sjsu.edu/president/docs/directives/PD_1997-03.pdf) at http://www.sjsu.edu/president/docs/directives/PD_1997-03.pdf requires that students with disabilities requesting accommodations must register with the [Accessible Education Center](http://www.sjsu.edu/aec) (AEC) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/aec> to establish a record of their disability.

Accommodation to Students' Religious Holidays

San José State University shall provide accommodation on any graded class work or activities for students wishing to observe religious holidays when such observances require students to be absent from class. It is the responsibility of the student to inform the instructor, in writing, about such holidays before the add deadline at the start of each semester. If such holidays occur before the add deadline, the student must notify the instructor, in writing, at least three days before the date that he/she will be absent. It is the responsibility of the instructor to make every reasonable effort to honor the student request without penalty, and of the student to make up the work missed. See [University Policy S14-7](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S14-7.pdf) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S14-7.pdf>.

Student Technology Resources

Computer labs for student use are available in the [Academic Success Center](http://www.sjsu.edu/at/asc/) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/at/asc/> located on the 1st floor of Clark Hall and in the Associated Students Lab on the 2nd floor of the Student Union. Additional computer labs may be available in your department/college. Computers are also available in the Martin Luther King Library. A wide variety of audio-visual equipment is available for student checkout from Media Services located in IRC 112. These items include DV and HD digital camcorders; digital still cameras; video, slide and overhead projectors; DVD, CD, and audiotape players; sound systems, wireless microphones, projection screens and monitors.

SJSU Peer Connections

Peer Connections, a campus-wide resource for mentoring and tutoring, strives to inspire students to develop their potential as independent learners while they learn to successfully navigate through their university experience. You are encouraged to take advantage of their services which include course-content based tutoring, enhanced study and time management skills, more effective critical thinking strategies, decision making and problem-solving abilities, and campus resource referrals.

In addition to offering small group, individual, and drop-in tutoring for a number of undergraduate courses, consultation with mentors is available on a drop-in or by appointment basis. Workshops are offered on a wide variety of topics including preparing for the Writing Skills Test (WST), improving your learning and memory, alleviating procrastination, surviving your first semester at SJSU, and other related topics. A computer lab and study space are also available for student use in Room 600 of Student Services Center (SSC).

Peer Connections is located in three locations: SSC, Room 600 (10th Street Garage on the corner of 10th and San Fernando Street), at the 1st floor entrance of Clark Hall, and in the Living Learning Center (LLC) in

Campus Village Housing Building B. Visit [Peer Connections website](http://peerconnections.sjsu.edu) at <http://peerconnections.sjsu.edu> for more information.

SJSU Writing Center

The SJSU Writing Center is located in Clark Hall, Suite 126. All Writing Specialists have gone through a rigorous hiring process, and they are well trained to assist all students at all levels within all disciplines to become better writers. In addition to one-on-one tutoring services, the Writing Center also offers workshops every semester on a variety of writing topics. To make an appointment or to refer to the numerous online resources offered through the Writing Center, visit the [Writing Center website](http://www.sjsu.edu/writingcenter) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/writingcenter>. For additional resources and updated information, follow the Writing Center on Twitter and become a fan of the SJSU Writing Center on Facebook. (Note: You need to have a QR Reader to



scan this code.)

SJSU Counseling Services

The SJSU Counseling Services is located on the corner of 7th Street and San Fernando Street, in Room 201, Administration Building. Professional psychologists, social workers, and counselors are available to provide consultations on issues of student mental health, campus climate or psychological and academic issues on an individual, couple, or group basis. To schedule an appointment or learn more information, visit [Counseling Services website](http://www.sjsu.edu/counseling) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/counseling>.

ANTH 11 Cultural Anthropology Fall 2015 Course Schedule

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
1	8/20	Greensheet and class overview
1	8/25	<p>CULTURE AND ETHNOGRAPHY</p> <p>S&M, Chapter 1 – Ethnography & Culture S&M, Chapter 2 – Eating Christmas in the Kalahari S&M, Chapter 31 – Body Ritual among the Nacirema S&M, Chapter 4 – Nice Girls Don't Talk to Rastas Download & bring to class Ethnography Exercise 1</p>
2	8/27	Read: Everett 1 & 2
2	9/1	<p>LANGUAGE AND COMMUNICATION</p> <p>S&M, Chapter 5 – Shakespeare in the Bush S&M, Chapter 6 – Whorf Revisited: You Are What You Speak S&M, Chapter 7 – Manipulating Meaning: The Military Name Game</p>
3	9/3	Read: Everett 14, 15 & 16 Film: The Linguists
3	9/8	<p>ECOLOGY AND SUBSISTENCE</p> <p>S&M, Chapter 9 – The Hunters: Scarce Resources in the Kalahari S&M, Chapter 10 – Eskimo Science S&M, Chapter 11 – Domestication and the Evolution of Disease</p>
4	9/10	Read: Everett 7
4	9/15	<p>ECONOMIC SYSTEMS</p> <p>S&M, Chapter 13 – Reciprocity and the Power of Giving S&M, Chapter 14 – Poverty at Work: Office Employment and the Crack Alternative S&M, Chapter 15 – Cocaine and the Economic Deterioration of Bolivia</p>
5	9/17	Read: Bourgois 1 & 2 Film TBD Ethnography Exercise 1 DUE
5	9/22	<p>KINSHIP AND FAMILY</p> <p>S&M, Chapter 17 – Mother's Love: Death without Weeping S&M, Chapter 18 – Family and Kinship in Village India</p>

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
		S&M, Chapter 19 – Polyandry: When Brothers Take a Wife S&M, Chapter 20 – Uterine Families and the Women’s Community
6	9/24	Read: Bourgois 7&8 Download & bring to class Ethnographic Exercise 2
6	9/29	IDENTITY, ROLES, AND GROUPS S&M, Chapter 21 – You@Work: Jobs, Identity, and the Internet S&M, Chapter 22 – The Opt-Out Phenomenon S&M, Chapter 24 – Mixed Blood
7	10/1	Read: Bourgois 4 & 5
7	10/6	GENDER S&M, Chapter 8 – Conversation Style, Talking on the Job S&M, Chapter 23 – Do Muslim Women Really Need Saving S&M, Chapter 35 – Global Women in the New Economy Exam Review
8	10/8	MIDTERM EXAM
8	10/13	LAW AND POLITICS S&M, Chapter 25 – Cross-Cultural Law: The Case of the Gypsy Offender S&M, Chapter 26 – Life without Chiefs S&M, Chapter 27 – The Founding Indian Fathers
9	10/15	Read: Everett 9
9	10/20	RELIGION, MAGIC, AND WORLD VIEW S&M, Chapter 28 – Taraka’s Ghost S&M, Chapter 29 – Baseball Magic S&M, Chapter 30 – Run for the Wall: An American Pilgrimage
10	10/22	Read: Everett 17 Ethnography Exercise 2 DUE
10	10/27	GLOBALIZATION S&M, Chapter 32 – How Sushi Went Global S&M, Chapter 33 – Village Walks: Tourism and Globalization among the Tharu of Nepal

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
		S&M, Chapter 34 – The Road to Refugee Resettlement Download & bring to class Ethnographic Exercise 3
11	10/29	Read: Everett 4 & 5 Film: Life and Debt
11	11/3	APPLIED ANTHROPOLOGY S&M, Chapter 36 – Advice for Developers
12	11/5	Read: Kedia (on Canvas)
12	11/10	ENVIRONMENTAL ANTHROPOLOGY Film: The Kayapo
13	11/12	Read: Nelson 11 & 12
13	11/17	DEVELOPMENT S&M, Chapter 12 – Forest Development the Indian Way S&M, Chapter 16 – Malawi versus the World Bank
14	11/19	Read: Nelson 13 Ethnography Exercise 3DUE
14	11/24	PRACTICING ANTHROPOLOGY S&M, Chapter 39 – Using Anthropology S&M, Chapter 40 – Career Advice for Anthropology Undergraduates
15	11/26	No Class - Thanksgiving
15	12/1	Film TBD
16	12/3	Read: Bourgois 9 and Epilogue
16	12/8	Exam review
Final Exam	12/14	2:45-5:00

Weekly activities and assignments are subject to change at the instructor's discretion.