

San José State University
Department of Anthropology
ANTH 131: Theories of Culture and Society (Section 1)
Fall 2015

Course and Contact Information

Instructor:	Professor Gonzalez
Office Location:	CL 469
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Email:	roberto.gonzalez@sjsu.edu
Office Hours:	Monday and Wednesday 11:00 am-1:00 pm Tuesday 12:00-1:00 pm
Class Days/Time:	Tuesday and Thursday 10:30-11:45 am
Classroom:	WSQ 004
Prerequisites:	Upper division standing; ANTH 011; ANTH 012 or ANTH 013; or declared Anthropology major; or instructor consent

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.

Learning Outcomes

Course Learning Outcomes (CLO)

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Articulate different theories of culture and society developed by British, French, US, and other anthropologists from the late 19th century to the present
2. Explain how historical, political and economic contexts shaped and impacted these theories
3. Trace relationships between anthropological theories and methods and relationships between anthropological theories and practices

4. Compare and contrast classic ethnographies from the past and the present
5. Analyze and discuss the relationship of anthropological knowledge and the general public
6. Conduct library research and prepare an academic term paper.

Required Texts/Readings

Textbooks

Stephen Jay Gould, *The Mismeasure of Man*

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*

Roberto Gonzalez, *Militarizing Culture: Essays on the Warfare State*

Other Readings

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).

Course Requirements and Assignments

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>.

Assignments for this course include the following:

1. Five 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. (Each quiz counts 3% of final grade for a total of 15%.)
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.

NOTE that [University policy F69-24](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F69-24.pdf) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F69-24.pdf> states that “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 per se shall not be used as a criterion for grading.”

Grading Policy

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

Note that “All students have the right, within a reasonable time, to know their academic scores, to review their grade-dependent work, and to be provided with explanations for the determination of their course grades.” See [University Policy F13-1](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F13-1.pdf) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F13-1.pdf> for more details.

Classroom Protocol

I strongly recommend that you not use laptop computers and tablets (iPads, etc.) in class as you are likely to miss important points raised during lectures. You will be better off writing lecture notes by hand, or making audio recordings of lectures and transcribing 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 during exams and quizzes. Violation of this policy will result in a zero on the exam or quiz and the filing of a report to the Office of Student Conduct, the latter of which might result in expulsion 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.

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.

I will not answer any questions regarding grades via email. Federal law (the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act) prohibits faculty from doing so. You are welcome to discuss grades during my office hours.

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](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S90-5.pdf) 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](http://info.sjsu.edu/web-dbgen/narr/catalog/rec-12234.12506.html), 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](http://info.sjsu.edu/static/catalog/policies.html) 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](http://www.sjsu.edu/provost/services/academic_calendars/) at http://www.sjsu.edu/provost/services/academic_calendars/. The [Late Drop Policy](http://www.sjsu.edu/aars/policies/latedrops/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](http://www.sjsu.edu/advising/) 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), <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-7.pdf>, requires students to obtain instructor's permission to record the course.

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.

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](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S07-2.pdf) 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.

ANTH 131: Theories of Culture and Society

Fall 2015 Course Schedule

Schedule is subject to change with fair notice.

Course Schedule

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
1	08/20/15	Introduction Eric Wolf, "American Anthropologists and American Society"*
2	08/25 - 08/27	Social Evolutionism in the Victorian Era S.J. Gould, <i>Mismeasure of Man</i> (Chapters 1-3)
3	09/01 - 09/03	Franz Boas and the Culture Concept S.J. Gould, <i>Mismeasure of Man</i> (Chapters 4, 5, and 7) FILM: "The Shackles of Tradition: Franz Boas"
4	09/08 - 09/10	Culture and Personality S.J. Gould, <i>Mismeasure of Man</i> (Epilogue) Ruth Benedict, <i>The Chrysanthemum and the Sword</i> (excerpt)*
5	09/15 - 09/17	Structural Functionalism E.E. Evans-Pritchard, <i>The Nuer</i> (Ch. 1-3)
6	09/22 - 09/24	Cultural Ecology and Cultural Materialism E.E. Evans-Pritchard, <i>The Nuer</i> (Ch. 4-6) MIDTERM EXAM 1--SEPTEMBER 24
7	09/29 - 10/01	Colonial Critiques Vine Deloria, "Anthropologists and Other Friends"* TERM PAPER PROPOSAL DUE OCTOBER 1
8	10/06 - 10/08	Feminist Influences and the Anthropology of Gender Zora Neale Hurston, <i>Tell My Horse</i> (Ch. 1-6) FILM: "Small Happiness"
9	10/13 - 10/15	Interpretive and Post-Structural Anthropology Zora Neale Hurston, <i>Tell My Horse</i> (Ch. 7-12)
10	10/20 - 10/22	Experimenting with Ethnography Zora Neale Hurston, <i>Tell My Horse</i> (Ch. 13-18)
11	10/27 - 10/29	Political Economy and Marxist Approaches Sidney Mintz, "Remembering Haiti"* (http://www.bostonreview.net/BR35.2/mintz.php) William Rathje and Cullen Murphy, <i>Rubbish!</i> (Ch. 1-2) MIDTERM EXAM 2--OCTOBER 29
12	11/3 - 11/5	Approaches to Archaeological Theory William Rathje and Cullen Murphy, <i>Rubbish!</i> (Ch. 3-6)
13	11/10 - 11/12	Towards an Anthropology of Globalization William Rathje and Cullen Murphy, <i>Rubbish!</i> (Ch. 7-9) FILM: "Losing Knowledge"
14	11/17 - 11/19	Anthropology and the Contemporary World William Rathje and Cullen Murphy, <i>Rubbish!</i> (Ch.10-11)

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
15	11/24/15	Report on the AAA Meetings Roberto Gonzalez, <i>Militarizing Culture</i> (Introduction, Ch. 1-2) THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY NOVEMBER 26--NO CLASS MEETING
16	12/01 - 12/03	The Future of Anthropology Roberto Gonzalez, <i>Militarizing Culture</i> (Ch. 3-5) FILM: "Human Terrain"
17	12/08/15	Discussion, Summary, and Course Review Roberto Gonzalez, <i>Militarizing Culture</i> (Ch. 6-7, Afterword) TERM PAPERS DUE ON DECEMBER 8
		FINAL EXAM--WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 16 (9:45 AM - 12:00 PM) IN REGULAR CLASS MEETING ROOM