

San José State University
College of Social Sciences
ANTH 11, Cultural Anthropology, Sec. 01, Fall 2016

Instructor:	A.J. Faas, Ph.D.
Office Location:	Clark 404L
Telephone:	408 924 5732
Email:	aj.faas@sjsu.edu
Office Hours:	Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10-11:45am
Class Days/Time:	Tuesdays and Thursdays, 12:00-1:15pm
Classroom:	Clark Hall 204
Prerequisites:	N/A
GE/SJSU Studies Category:	Area D1
Course Fees:	N/A

Course Description

This course provides an introduction to, and overview of, cultural anthropology, or the study of how humans adapt to, interpret and affect the world in which they live. Besides an acquaintance with the history of the anthropological idea of culture, students will be provided with the basic concepts used by contemporary cultural anthropologists. Further, they will be familiarized with a variety of research areas and case studies (see the list of topics below). 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.

Course Learning Outcomes

Students who satisfactorily complete this course will:

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.

GE Learning Outcomes

Area D1 Human Behavior: Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to recognize the interaction of social institutions, culture, and environment with the behavior of individuals.

Required Texts/Readings

McCurdy, David, Dianna Shandy, and James Spradley (2016) *Conformity and Conflict: Readings in Cultural Anthropology* (15th Edition). New York: Pearson.

Stack, Carol (1997) *All Our Kin*. New York: Basic Books.

Gamburd, Michelle Ruth (2013) *The Golden Wave: Culture and Politics after Sri Lanka's Tsunami Disaster*. Indianapolis: University of Indian Press.

Marino, Elizabeth (2015) *Fierce Climate, Sacred Ground: An Ethnography of Climate Change in Shishmaref, Alaska*. Fairbanks: University of Alaska Press.

The books are available through the Spartan Bookstore and Amazon.com.

*****Additional readings will be posted to Canvas.**

Course Requirements and Assignments

Success in this course is based on the expectation that students will spend, for each unit of credit, a minimum of forty-five hours over the length of the course (normally 3 hours per unit per week with 1 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.

Assignments for this course include the following: (1) reading assignments; (2) ethnographic exercises (35% of course grade); (3) midterm exam (25% of course grade); (4) final exam (25% of course grade); (5) group discussion assignments (15% of course grade)

- Download the guidelines for the course assignments. Read the guidelines carefully to ensure that you complete course assignments according to instructions.
- All assignments and exams 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, recognized religious observance, etc.***
- No assignments will be accepted via e-mail—I must receive hard copies of all assignments.
- Please write clearly and correctly; seek help if you need it. Please proofread your papers carefully. Reading your work aloud often reveals mistakes in syntax and spelling.

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.

Ethnographic Exercises (35% of final grade). 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 (15% of final grade): 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!

Final Examination

Midterm and Final Exams (each counts for 25% of final grade, 50% total). The exams will consist of multiple choice, True and False, Fill-in the blank, and short answer questions based on the lectures and readings. The exams will be based on lectures, readings, films, class discussions, and presentations by any guest speakers who might be coaxed to come to class.

Determination of Grades

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

Classroom Protocol

1. It is expected that students will be attentive and respectful of their fellow students and of their instructor and, perhaps more importantly, respectful of cultures and traditions which are not their own.
2. Students arriving habitually late to class will be asked to leave as this is disruptive to the learning process.
3. **Mobile phones, laptops, and tablets 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.**
4. Students may record lectures for their own private use only, **not to be redistributed or sold.**
5. Students are required to read SJSU's Academic Integrity Policy S07-2 (see below). **This university policy on plagiarism and cheating will be strictly honored.**
6. In the event that the building is evacuated because of an emergency during class time, the class will convene in the parking lot directly adjacent to the building. No assignment will be canceled because of any such emergency.
7. If you miss a class, ask your fellow students for copies of their notes. If you need further help, please see me in my office hours.
8. Students are responsible for being aware of exam dates and assignment deadlines
9. If you have any concerns about your class performance or comprehension, see me in my office hours or schedule an appointment. I am always willing to help students and I care about whether students are grasping the material and enjoying the class.

ANTH 11: Cultural Anthropology Fall 2016 Course Schedule

Schedule is subject to change with fair notice.

Please note that the *Conformity and Conflict* text is abbreviated as “C&C”

***Articles marked with an asterisk can be found on Canvas

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
1	Thursday, August 25	Introduction to class goals and format, review syllabus, group assignments, add/drop process and deadlines
2	Tuesday, August 30	CULTURE AND ETHNOGRAPHY Readings: C&C, Chapter 1 – Ethnography & Culture C&C, Chapter 2 – Eating Christmas in the Kalahari C&C, Chapter 31 – Body Ritual among the Nacirema C&C, Chapter 4 – Nice Girls Don’t Talk to Rastas Download & bring to class Ethnography Exercise 1
	Thursday, September 1	Read: All Our Kin, Introduction and Chapter 1
3	Tuesday, September 6	LANGUAGE AND COMMUNICATION Readings: C&C, Chapter 5 – Shakespeare in the Bush C&C, Chapter 6 – Manipulating Meaning: The Military Name Game C&C, Chapter 7 – Conversation Style: Talking on the Job
	Thursday, September 8	Read: All Our Kin, Chapters 2-3
4	Tuesday, September 13	ECOLOGY AND SUBSISTENCE Readings: C&C, Chapter 8 – The Hunters: Scarce Resources in the Kalahari C&C, Chapter 9 – Illegal Logging and Frontier Conservation Nelson (2012) Eskimo Science**
	Thursday, September 15	Read: All Our Kin, Chapters 4-5
5	Tuesday, September 20	ECONOMIC SYSTEMS Readings: C&C, Chapter 12 – Reciprocity and the Power of Giving C&C, Chapter 13 – Poverty at Work: Office Employment and the Crack Alternative C&C, Chapter 14 – Women in the Mine
	Thursday, September 22	Read: All Our Kin, Chapters 6-7 Ethnographic Exercise 1 Due
6	Tuesday, September 27	KINSHIP AND FAMILY Readings: C&C, Chapter 16 – Mother’s Love: Death without Weeping C&C, Chapter 17 – Family and Kinship in Village India C&C, Chapter 18 – Polyandry: When Brothers Take a Wife C&C, Chapter 19 – Marriage and Adulthood in West Africa
	Thursday, September 29	Read: All Our Kin, Chapter 8 Download & bring to class Ethnographic Exercise 2

7	Tuesday, October 4	IDENTITY, ROLES, AND GROUPS Readings: C&C, Chapter 20 – Negotiating Work and Family in America C&C, Chapter 21 – Becoming Muslim in Europe C&C, Chapter 22 – Mixed Blood
	Thursday, October 6	Read: The Golden Wave, Chapters Intro and 1
8	Tuesday, October 11	GENDER Readings: Abu-Lughod (2012) Do Muslim Women Really Need Saving** C&C, Chapter 35 – Global Women in the New Economy C&C, Chapter 37 – Medical Anthropology: Improving Nutrition in Malawi Exam Review
	Thursday, October 13	MIDTERM EXAM
9	Tuesday, October 18	LAW AND POLITICS Readings: C&C, Chapter 24 – Cross-Cultural Law: The Case of the Gypsy Offender C&C, Chapter 25 – Law and Order C&C, Chapter 26 – Navigating Nigerian Bureaucracies
	Thursday, October 20	Read: The Golden Wave, Chapters 2-3 Ethnographic Exercise 2 Due
10	Tuesday, October 25	RELIGION, MAGIC, AND WORLD VIEW Readings: C&C, Chapter 28 – The Worst Lover: Boyfriend Spirits in Senegal C&C, Chapter 29 – Baseball Magic C&C, Chapter 30 – Run for the Wall: An American Pilgrimage
	Thursday, October 27	Read: The Golden Wave, Chapters 4-5 Download & bring to class Ethnographic Exercise 3
11	Tuesday, November 1	GLOBALIZATION Readings: C&C, Chapter 32 – How Sushi Went Global C&C, Chapter 33 – Village Walks: Tourism and Globalization among the Tharu of Nepal C&C, Chapter 34 – Nuer Refugees in America
	Thursday, November 3	Read: The Golden Wave, Chapters 6-7
12	Tuesday, November 8	APPLIED ANTHROPOLOGY Readings: Gwynne (2003) Orientations to an Anthropology of Practice** C&C, Chapter 36 – Advice for Developers
	Thursday, November 10	Read: The Golden Wave, Chapters 8, 9, and Conclusion

13	Tuesday, November 15	ENVIRONMENT AND ECOLOGY REVISITED Readings: C&C, CH 10 – We Are Going Underwater Fierce Climate, Sacred Ground, Chapter 3
	Thursday, November 17	NO CLASS – Annual Meetings of the American Anthropological Association
14	Tuesday, November 22	Read: Fierce Climate, Sacred Ground, Chapters 1-2 Ethnographic Exercise 3 Due
	Thursday, November 24	NO CLASS MEETING – THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY
15	Tuesday, November 29	Read: Fierce Climate, Sacred Ground, Chapters 4-5
	Thursday, December 1	PRACTICING ANTHROPOLOGY Readings: C&C, Chapter 39 – Using Anthropology Cernea (2008) – Development Anthropology is a Contact Sport** Omohundro (2012) Career Advice for Anthropology Undergraduates**
16	Tuesday, December 6	Read: Fierce Climate, Sacred Ground, Chapters 6-7
	Thursday, December 8	Semester Debrief and Final Exam Review
FINAL EXAM	Monday, December 19	9:45am-12pm in regular classroom

University Policies

Per University Policy S16-9, university-wide policy information relevant to all courses, such as academic integrity, accommodations, etc. will be available on Office of Graduate and Undergraduate Programs' [Syllabus Information web page](http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/>