

Anthropology 146: CULTURE AND CONFLICT (Course Code) – Section 1
Fall 2007

Professor Annapurna Pandey
Mon-Wed Section 1 Clark 204, 9-10.15am
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Office Hours: Mon- Wed 12- 1.30pm 4.30 -5pm and by appointment

I. Course Description

When anthropologists discuss social change, they usually mean change brought about in pre-industrial societies through long-standing interaction with the nation-states of the industrialized world. Often this kind of change has been discussed in terms of “culture contact” and acculturation,” even when the term “catastrophic change” is perhaps more appropriate. More recently anthropologists have realized that in talking about change we must pay attention to the very real issues of dominance, subordination, and dependence that characterize the colonial experience, and the many situations of encounter by two or more cultures. Drawing on a survey of contemporary cultures (with some historic examples to provide comparative material) this course will examine situations of culture and conflict that have arisen in the process of modernization, globalization, and war. We will focus on several case studies from different societies, for example, the pluralistic Indian society, Indigenous people of the Americas and other parts of the world, the Hmong, a tribal agrarian group from Laos who are one of the newest immigrant groups in the United States. Our goal is to develop a theoretical framework for understanding our case studies, and to develop alongside this theoretical framework a proposal for how anthropologists and world citizens can positively affect these issues.

Prerequisites

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

Course Learning Objectives

- An understanding of theoretical frameworks and anthropological perspectives on change, conflict, and development
- A grasp of several key ethnographic case studies of societies experiencing conflict and change
- Ability to write about a particular culture and its experience of change and conflict, including a recommendation for how policy-makers should deal with the problems with which this group is faced
- Reflect critically on the processes of, and theories about, culture and conflict

SJSU Studies Objective (Advanced 6E, Area V)

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.

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 Reading

Maybury-Lewis, David, 1997 *Indigenous Peoples, Ethnic Groups and the State*. Allyn and Bacon.

Lee Barnes, Virginian and Janice Boddy, 1994. *Aman: The Story of a Somali Girl*. Vintage

Fadiman, Anne, 1997, *The Spirit Catches you and you Fall Down*. Farrar, Straus and Giroux, New York.

Culture and Conflict Course Reader – available at Maple Press, San Carlos between 10th and 11th

Course Assignments and Evaluation

Midterms (2 @ 50 points)	100 points	A- to A+ = 315-350 points
3-part sequential project (3@ 50)	150 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	350 points	F = below 210 points

General Policies

- **Class Participation:** These points are earned through participation in class discussions; peer-editing sessions, class quizzes, video analysis papers, the occasional reflective paper and other classroom activities.

No electronic submission of work – don't email me your papers!

- **Format of papers:** Papers should be typed, double-spaced, and pages numbered. Please staple together pages, and it is helpful to use folders, covers, or a cover sheet (put 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.
- **Late papers:** Will be accepted with permission. 2 points subtracted for each day the paper is late.
- **Exams:** All exams will consist of multiple choice/short answer questions. Questions will cover class lectures, readings, and films. I will provide a study guide for each exam.
- **Special Arrangements:** If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, if you have emergency medical information, or if you need special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please let me know as soon as possible.
- **Classroom Etiquette:** If you come late to class or leave early, please enter and exit quietly. Cell phones must be turned off and put away – no text messaging in class. Computers may be used only for note taking – if I find you surfing the web in class, you will have to leave.

Course Schedule

August 27

Course Introduction

A lecture on Culture, Conflict and their correlation in studying the indigenous people in different parts of the world

1) Concepts, Issues, & Theoretical Frameworks

August 29

Anthropology and Indigenous Peoples

Read: Spradley and McCurdy; Lee (reader)

September 5

Video: *The Shock of the Other* (60 min.)

Read: Maybury-Lewis, p. 1-31

- September 10 Colonialism & Development
Video: *Contact: the Yanomami* (30 min.)
Read: Maybury-Lewis, pp. 31-46
- September 12 Constructing the State: Ethnic groups in comparative perspective
Read: Maybury-Lewis, Chapter 2
Due: Proposal for progressive term paper
- September 17 Land appropriation, genocide, ethnic cleansing
Video: *Delta Force* (30 min)
Read: Maybury-Lewis, Chapter 3
- September 19 Indigenous peoples: Strategies of Survival I
Read: *Cultural Survival articles* (Reader) Indigenous peoples:
Strategies of Survival II
Video: *The Tightrope of Power*
Read: Maybury-Lewis, Chapters 4-5
Due: Bibliography for Progressive Term Paper
- September 24 Discussion: Issues of Indigenous Peoples and Nation States
Midterm Review – see Concepts & Frameworks to be discussed in class
- September 26 **MIDTERM #1**

2) Issues of Settlement & Development: Australian Aborigines

- October 1 Cultural Ecology of the Aborigines: food collecting
Read: Chapter 1, *The Mardu Aborigines* (Reader)
- October 3 Video: "Where the Green Ants Dream"
- October 8 Finish **Where the Green Ants Dream**
Concepts of the Land: The Dreamtime
Read: Chapter 2, *The Mardu Aborigines* (Reader)
- October 10 Aboriginal/settler relations, the state and the anthropologists
In-Class Peer Edit (bring 2 copies of paper)
Read: Chapter 7, *The Mardu Aborigines* (Reader)
- October 15 Movie: *Rabbit Proof Fence*
Section 1 of project DUE
- October 17 Movie: *Rabbit Proof Fence (cont)*
Discussion of video

October 22 Contemporary problems and conflicts
Video: *Murrandoo Yanner in Australia* (26 min.)
Web work: BBC Stories on Aborigines ("Summit Discusses Aboriginal Abuse" and other stories linked to this one, e.g., KEY NEWS STORIES) <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/asia-pacific/5115964.stm>

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

October 27 Cultural ecology of Somalis: Pastoralism

Challenges facing pastoral women
Video: *Maasai Women* (52 min.)
Read: *Aman*, Chapters 1-5 and Afterward, pp. 289-308

October 29 Female Circumcision
Video: *Three Maasai Women Have Their Say* (30 min.)
Read: *Aman*, Chapters 6-8, and pp. 308-336

October 31 War in Somalia
Read: *Aman*, Chapters 9-14
In-Class Peer Edit (bring 2 copies of paper)

November 5 Video: *Somalia: Good Intention, Deadly Results*
Read: *Aman*, Chapters 22-27
Section 2 of project DUE Rebuilding Somalia

November 7 Video: *Talk Mogadishu*
Web work: explore BBC website: *Somalia: Emerging from Ruins?*
http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/in_depth/africa/2004/somalia/default.stm

November 12 Veterans Day (Holiday)

November 14 Midterm review

November 19 **MIDTERM #2**

4) A Culture in Conflict Finds a New Home: Hmong Refugees in Wisconsin

November 21 Cultural ecology of the Hmong/Mien: Agrarian societies
Read: Fadiman, Preface and Chapters 1- 7, pp.3-92

- November 26 War and the trauma of migration
Read Fadiman, Chapters 8-12, pp. 93-170
- November 28 Video: *Bombies* (57 min.)
Read: Fadiman, Chapters 13-16, pp.171-249
- December 3 Hmong/Mien refugees in the U.S.
Read: Fadiman, Chapters 17- 19, pp.250-28
Video: *Death of a Shaman* (57 min.)
- December 5 Discussion on Refugee issues in the world. Bring articles from
Newspapers, Journals to share in class.

Section 3 of paper DUE

- December 10 Review for final Exam

FINAL EXAMS, Monday, December 17 0715-0930 AM