

Anthropology 11
Introduction to Cultural Anthropology
Fall 2008

Professor Guadalupe Salazar Office: Clark Hall 402 H Phone: 924-5730 Email: guadalupe.salazar@sjsu.edu	Class: Tuesday & Thursday 1:30 – 2:45 Room: Washington Square Hall 004 Office Hours: Tuesday, Thursday 9-10 am Tuesday 3-6 pm
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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 has meant to be human in different places at different times. The course is divided into three major parts:

1. Human Nature and Culture
2. Sociocultural Systems in Cross-cultural Comparison
3. Anthropology and the Modern World

By the end of the class, you should have a sense of the anthropological perspective and its merits. After learning some basic concepts and cross-cultural comparisons, we finish the class by showing the practical applications of this perspective in America and elsewhere. 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.

Student Learning Objectives

Students who satisfactorily complete this course will:

- Be able to understand and apply appropriately the concept of culture to human behavior.
- Gain a working knowledge of how cultural anthropologists conduct field research through completing a class project.
- Be able to recognize and analyze the interaction of social institutions, culture and environment with individual and collective behavior.
- Develop a cross-cultural perspective on how humans relate to each other and the material world through symbols.
- Have knowledge about several societies in depth using ethnographies.
- 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.

Learning Objectives of the Anthropology Department

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

6. Ability to access various forms of anthropological data and literature.
7. Awareness of importance and value of anthropological knowledge in contemporary society, and the ability to apply it to social issues.
8. 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.
9. Ability to present and communicate anthropological knowledge and the results of anthropological research to different audiences.

PROFESSIONAL VALUES

10. Knowledge of political and ethical implications of social research.

Required Texts

- 1) Spradley, James and David McCurdy (2008) Conformity and Culture: Readings in Cultural Anthropology (2008 Edition)
- 2) Fernea, Elizabeth (1989) Guests of the Sheik: An Ethnography of an Iraqi Village
- 3) Chagnon, Napoleon (1997) The Yanomamö
- 4) Stack, Carol (1997) All of Our Kin

The books are available through the Spartan Bookstore and Amazon.com. All material will be on reserve in the MLK Library.

Course Assignments and Grading

There are two midterm examinations (20% each), two ethnographic exercises (10% each), a course project (20%) and a final exam (20 %) in this course.

Examinations: The exams will consist of multiple choice, True and False, Fill-in the blank and Short Answer questions based on the lectures and readings. Please bring a blank T & E 200 answer sheet and a blue book to class on test dates, as well, as a # 2 pencil and a pen.

Course Project: The project is an effort to “do” some anthropology in the real world. It is intended to develop your skills as an observer and interpreter of social life.

Ethnographic Exercises: The two 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. They might help you decide on your course project.

Grading Distribution

100-97 A+	89-87 B+	79-77 C+	69-67 D+
96 - 93 A	86-83 B	76-73 C	66-63 D
92 - 90 A-	82-80 B-	72-70 C-	>63 F

I assign plus and minus grades at my discretion and use participation to adjust marginal grades.

General Policies

- **No electronic submission of work – do not email me your papers!**
- **You must turn in a hard copy of your paper.**
- **Format of papers:** Papers should be typed, double-spaced, and pages numbered. Please staple together pages, and it is helpful to use 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.
- **Late papers:** Will be accepted with permission. 2 points subtracted for each day the paper is late.
- **Classroom Etiquette:** Please arrive 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 class purposes.

Academic Integrity Policy

Plagiarism is the use of someone else's language, images, data, or ideas without proper attribution. It is a very serious offense in both academic and professional environments. In essence, plagiarism is both theft and lying: you have stolen someone else's ideas, and then lied by implying that they are your own.

Plagiarism will lead to grade penalties. It might also result in you failing the course and/or having the incident permanently noted in your SJSU student records.
If you are unsure what constitutes plagiarism, it is your responsibility to educate yourself, or ask for clarification, before you hand in written work.

Learning when to cite a source, and when not to, is an art, not a science. However, here are some examples of plagiarism that you should be careful to avoid:

- If you use a sentence (or even a part of a sentence) that someone else wrote and do not reference the source, you have committed plagiarism.
- If you paraphrase somebody else's theory or idea and do not reference the source, you have committed plagiarism.
- If you use a picture or table from a web page or book and do not reference the source, you have committed plagiarism.
- If your paper incorporates data that someone else has collected and you do not reference the source, you have committed plagiarism.

The SJSU library has a tutorial that explains how to identify and avoid plagiarism, available at:
<http://tutorials.sjlibrary.org/plagiarism/index.htm>.

In addition, the University of Indiana has developed a very helpful website with concrete examples about proper paraphrasing and quotation. See, in particular, the following three pages:

- <http://www.indiana.edu/~istd/overview.html>
- <http://www.indiana.edu/~istd/examples.html>
- <http://education.indiana.edu/~frick/plagiarism/item1.html>

If you have questions about the official SJSU policy on plagiarism, please read the “Academic Integrity Policy” at <http://info.sjsu.edu/web-dbgen/narr/soc-fall/rec-369.html>.

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, if you have emergency medical information to share with me, or if you need to make special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please make an appointment to speak with me as soon as possible. SJSU Presidential Directive 97-03 requires that students with disabilities register with the Disability Resource Center to establish a record of their disability (924-6000).

Course Schedule

Students will be informed about changes to the schedule ahead of time. Students are responsible for noting those changes.

Part 1: Human Nature and Culture

Week 1: Introduction and The Concept of Culture

August 26, Tuesday

Introduction to class goals and format, review syllabus, add/drop process and deadlines...

Video: *The God's Must be Crazy* (98 minutes)

August 28, Thursday

Read: Spradley and McCurdy (2008). “Culture and Ethnography,” pp. 1-6

Read: Chagnon (1997). “Prologue” and “Chapter 1: Doing Fieldwork Among the Yanomamö,” pp. 1-43

Video: *The Gods Must be Crazy*, cont'd (98 minutes)

Week 2: The Concept of Culture

September 2, Tuesday

Read: Spradley and McCurdy (2008). “Chapter 1: Ethnography and Culture,” and “Chapter 2: Eating Christmas in the Kalahari,” pp. 7-22

**ETHNOGRAPHY EXERCISE #1 AND ETHNOGRAPHIC PROJECT GUIDELINES
DISTRIBUTED**

September 4, Thursday

Read: Chagnon (1997). “Chapter 2: Cultural Ecology,” pp. 45-97

Week 3: The Concept of Culture

September 9, Tuesday

Read: Spradley and McCurdy (2008). “Chapter 3: Shakespeare in the Bush,” pp. 23-32

September 11, Thursday

Read: Chagnon (1997). "Chapter 3: Myth and Cosmos," and "Chapter 4: Social Organization and Demography," pp. 99-158

Week 4: Fieldwork

September 16, Tuesday

Read: Spradley and McCurdy (2008). "Chapters 4: Fieldwork on Prostitution in the Era of AIDS," and "Chapter 5: Lessons from the Field," pp. 46-57

To learn more: Take Anth 149 Ethnographic Methods

September 18, Thursday

Read: Chagnon (1997). "Chapter 5: Political Alliances, Trading and Feasting," and "Chapter 6: Yanomamö Warfare," pp. 159-206

Video: *The Yanomamö* (45 min)

Week 5: Culture and the Individual

September 23, Tuesday

Read: Spradley and McCurdy (2008). "Identity, Roles and Groups," pp. 218-222

Read: Spradley and McCurdy (2008). "Chapters 20: Symbolizing Roles: Behind the Veil," and "Chapter 21: Society and Sex Roles," pp. 223-239

To learn more: Take Anth 25 Human Development, Anth 141 Culture and Gender, and Anth 142 Culture and Personality

ETHNOGRAPHY EXERCISE # 1 DUE

September 25, Thursday

Read: Spradley and McCurdy (2008). "Chapters 22: A Woman's Curse?," and "Chapter 23: Mixed Blood," pp. 240-259

Read: Chagnon (1997). "Chapter 7: Alliance with the Mishishimaböwei-teri," pp. 207-226

Week 6: Communication

September 30, Tuesday

Read: Spradley and McCurdy (2008). "Language and Communication," pp. 58-62

Read: Spradley and McCurdy (2008). "Chapters 6: The Sapir-Whorf Hypotheses: Worlds Shaped by Words," and "Chapter 7: How to Ask for a Drink," pp. 63-84

ETHNOGRAPHY EXERCISE # 2 DISTRIBUTED

October 2, Thursday

Read: Spradley and McCurdy (2008). "Chapters 8: Body Art as Visual Language," and "Chapter 9: Conversation Style: Talking on the Job," pp. 85-101

Read: Chagnon (1997). "Chapter 8: The Acceleration of Change in Yanomamöland," pp. 227-260

Week 7:

October 7, Tuesday

Midterm # 1

October 9, Thursday

Video: *My Journey, My Islam* (56 min)

ETHNOGRAPHIC PROJECT PROPOSAL DUE

Part 2: Sociocultural Systems in Cross-Cultural Perspective

Week 8: Kinship

October 14, Tuesday

Read: Spradley and McCurdy (2008). "Kinship and Family," pp 178-182

To learn more take: Anth 171 Culture Through Film

Read: Spradley and McCurdy (2008). "Chapters 16: Mother's Love: Death without Weeping," and "Chapter 17: Family and Kinship in Village India," pp. 183-200

October 16, Thursday

Read: Fernea (1989). "Introduction" and "Part 1," ix-102

Video: *Kinship and Descent, part 1 (30 min)*

Week 9: Kinship

October 21, Tuesday

Read: Spradley and McCurdy (2008). "Chapters 18: Life without Fathers or Husband," and "Chapter 19: Uterine Families and the Women's Community," pp. 201-217

ETHNOGRAPHY EXERCISE # 2 DUE

October 23, Thursday

Read: Fernea (1989). "Part 2," 105-170

Video: *Kinship and Descent, part 2 (30 min)*

Week 10: Marriage and Family

October 28, Tuesday

Read: Spradley and McCurdy (2008). "Law and Politics," pp. 260-263

Read: Spradley and McCurdy (2008). "Chapters 24: Cross-Cultural Law: The Case of the Gypsy Offender," and "Chapter 25: Notes from an Expert Witness," pp. 265-283

October 30, Thursday

Read: Spradley and McCurdy (2008). "Chapters 26: Life without Chiefs," pp. 284-293

To learn more: take Anth 146 Culture and Conflict

Read: Fernea (1989). "Part 3," 173-248

Week 11: Making a Living

November 4, Tuesday

Read: Spradley and McCurdy (2008). "Economic Systems," pp 142-145

Read: Spradley and McCurdy (2008). "Chapters 13: Reciprocity and Power of Giving,"

"Chapter 14: Cocaine and the Economic Deterioration of Bolivia," and "Chapter 15: Office Work and the Crack Alternative," pp. 147-177

To learn more: take Anth 147 Wealth and Power

November 6, Thursday

Read: Fernea (1989). "Part 4" and "Part 5," 251-302

ETHNOGRAPHIC PROJECT DUE

Week 12: Religion and Ideology

November 11, Tuesday

Veteran's Day - No class

November 13, Thursday

Read: Spradley and McCurdy (2008). "Religion, Magic and World View," pp. 294-298

Read: Spradley and McCurdy (2008). "Chapters 27: Taraka's Ghost," and "Chapter 28: Baseball Magic," pp. 299-315
To learn more: take Anth 148 Religion and Anthropology
Read: Fernea (1989). "Part 6," 305-333

Week 13:

November 18, Tuesday

Midterm

Part 3: Anthropology and the Modern World

Culture Change

November 20, Thursday (American Anthropological Meetings)

Read: Spradley and McCurdy (2008). "Ecology and Subsistence," pp. 102-106

Read: Spradley and McCurdy (2008). "Chapters 11: Adaptive Failure: Easter's End," and "Chapter 12: Forest Development the Indian Way," pp. 122-141

To learn more: take Anth 143 Culture and Adaptation

Read: Stack (1997). "Introduction" and "Chapter 1: The Flats," pp. ix-21

Week 14: Culture Change and Colonialism

November 25, Tuesday

Read: Spradley and McCurdy (2008). "Globalization," pp. 340-343

Read: Spradley and McCurdy (2008). "Chapters 31: The Road to Refugee Resettlement," and "Chapter 32: Men's Pleasure, Women's Labor: Tourism for Sex," pp. 345-369

Read: Stack (1997). "Chapter 2: Black Urban Poor," "Chapter 3: Swapping: What Goes Round, Comes Round" and "Chapter 4: Personal Kindreds: All Our Kin" pp. 22-61

November 27, Thursday

Thanksgiving Holiday – No Class

Week 15: Colonialism

December 2, Tuesday

Read: Spradley and McCurdy (2008). "Chapter 33: Japanese Hip-Hop and the Globalization of Popular Culture," pp. 370-385

Read: Spradley and McCurdy (2008). "Culture Change and Applied Anthropology," pp. 386-390

Read: Stack (1997). "Chapter 5: Child-Keeping: 'Give Me a Little Sugar'" and "Chapter 6: Domestic Networks: 'Those You Count On,'" pp. 62-107

December 4, Thursday

Read: Spradley and McCurdy (2008). "Chapters 34: The Kayapo Resistance," and "Chapter 35: Medical Anthropology: Improving Nutrition in Malawi," pp 391-421

Read: Stack (1997). "Chapter 7: Women and Men: 'I'm Not in Love with No Man Really'" and "Conclusion," pp. 108-129

Week 16: Applying Anthropology

December 9, Tuesday (last day of instruction)

Read: Spradley and McCurdy (2008). "Chapters 36: Using Anthropology," and Chapter 37: Career Advice for Anthropology Undergraduates," pp. 422-446

To learn more: take Anth 105 Applied Anthropology, Anth 108 Medical Anthropology,

Anth 132 Creating Built Worlds, and Anth 133 Organizational Cultures

FINAL EXAM: Monday, December 15, 2008 from 12:15 pm – 2:30 pm