

**San José State University
Department of Anthropology
Anthropology 142, Fall 2013**

Instructor:	Dr. John Marlovits
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Email:	john.marlovits@sjsu.edu
Office Hours:	Monday 3-4 pm or by appointment
Class Days/Time:	M/W 1:30-2:45
Classroom:	WSQ 004
GE/SJSU Studies Category:	Area D1

Course Description and Goals

This course addresses the intersection of culture and psychology. Course materials will introduce students to a range of anthropological approaches to how culture shapes interiority or psychological life. Course readings draw from a variety of approaches and topics within anthropology, including: the Culture and Personality school; Cross-Cultural Psychology; the study of psychiatry and psychiatric disorders through the lens of Critical Medical Anthropology; Poststructuralist approaches to the interface of technology and subjectivity; Alterity and Otherness; and Affect Theory. Throughout the course students will come to understand what anthropologists mean when they use the clumsy term “subjectivity,” and the ways in which cultural, technical, and medical systems help to shape identity, emotions, desires, and even mental illnesses. And students will come to develop an appreciation and sensibility for the uses and significance of sociocultural approaches and applications to contemporary psychological and psychiatric problems.

Course topics range from the emotional development of Samoan adolescents, to the exportation of Western psychological concepts and practitioners in global context. From the management of sleep disorders and the relationship of American sleep habits and capitalist development, to the forms of consciousness made material in the emergence of digital capitalism and the expansion of internet technologies. From the making of zones of abandonment for marginal and colonized populations, to the relationship between the built environment and affect in a postwar polity. Through this material students will come to understand how the things that we feel are most intimate, personal, and unique to us are not simply individually-bound, but rather, developed through interaction with cultural, technical, and material environments that differ across space and time.

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.

Student Learning Objectives

Students who satisfactorily complete this course will be able to identify and analyze the social dimension of society as a context for human life, the processes of social change and social continuity, the role of human agency in those social processes, and the forces that engender social cohesion and fragmentation, and

1. place contemporary developments in cultural, historical, environmental, and spatial contexts;
2. identify the dynamics of ethnic, cultural, gender/sexual, age-based, class, regional, national, transnational, and global identities and the similarities, differences, linkages, and interactions between them; and
3. evaluate social science information, draw on different points of view, and formulate applications appropriate to contemporary social issues, and
4. recognize the interaction of social institutions, culture, and environment with the behavior of individuals.

Departmental Learning Objectives and Skills:

By

the completion of this course, students should have an increased:

1. Understanding the influence of culture on individual psychology.
2. Awareness of human diversity and the ways humans have categorized diversity.
3. The role of social, political, and technical systems in the shaping of mental life.
4. An understanding of the distinction – and complementarities – between anthropological and psychological approaches to contemporary mental illnesses.
5. A grasp of theoretical traditions in the anthropological study of psychology.

Required Course Texts

Margaret Mead, *Coming of Age in Samoa*

Ethan Watters, *Crazy Like Us: The Globalization of the American Psyche*

Matthew Wolf-Meyer, *The Slumbering Masses: Sleep, Medicine, and Modern American Life*

Additional readings will be added to my faculty page in electronic form.

Classroom Protocol/Student Responsibilities

Please do not use your cell phones or MP3 players for any purpose during class. However, if you are expecting an important call you should notify me so we can make arrangements. Please do not use your computers to take notes during in-class films.

There will be various in-class assignments intended to help students grasp and apply concepts that are discussed in class. I highly recommend students attend class as often as possible. Some in-class assignments will be given at the beginning of class and others at the end of the class; thus, it is important to arrive on time and attend the entire class period. Students will not be able to make-up the in-class assignments. If you know in advance that you should be unable to attend an exam, it is your responsibility to contact me immediately by either e-mailing me, leaving a message for me at the main department office, or coming by during my office hours.

Only students with a valid documented excuse will be able to take a make-up exam or hand in a late assignment. Late assignments will not be accepted otherwise. Students will not be able to make-up the in-class assignments.

I have a zero-tolerance on cheating and plagiarism; if you cheat or plagiarize you will fail the course! Incidences of cheating and plagiarism will be turned into the academic integrity office. Students are responsible for understanding and adhering to the academic integrity policy.

I will not answer questions about what occurred in class due to an absence. Please ask your fellow students for copies of their notes.

Students are responsible for understanding policies about adding, dropping, and incompletes.

Students are responsible for being aware of assignment due dates, midterm date, and the final exam schedule.

If you have any concerns about your class performance or comprehension, come by my office during 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.

Course Assignments

Students will complete three essay assignments for this course. Papers correspond roughly with three main topics that we'll cover: adolescence in Samoa; cross-cultural psychology, culture-bound syndromes, or "transient mental illness"; medicine, technology, and psychic life. There will also be a midterm and final exam.

Grading

Paper 1 = 100 points

Paper 2 = 100 points

Paper 3 = 100 points

Midterm = 100 points

Final exam = 100 points

500 total points

Grades will be based on percentages: 90-100% = A, 80-89% = B, 70-79% = C, 60-69% = D, below 60 = F

University Policies and Resources

Academic integrity

Students are expected to be familiar with the University's Academic Integrity Policy. Your own commitment to learning, as evidenced by your enrollment at San José State University, and the University's Academic Integrity Policy 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 policy on academic integrity and other resources related to student conduct can be found at http://sa.sjsu.edu/student_conduct.

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 requires that students with disabilities requesting accommodations must register with the DRC (Disability Resource Center) to establish a record of their disability. Special accommodations for exams require ample notice to the testing office and must be submitted to the instructor well in advance of the exam date.

Student Technology Resources

Computer labs for student use are available in the new Academic Success Center located on the 1st floor of Clark Hall and on the 2nd floor of the Student Union. Additional labs may be available to students in your department/college. Computers are also available in the Martin Luther King Library.

Learning Assistance Resource Center

The Learning Assistance Resource Center is designed to assist students in the development of their full academic potential and to motivate them to become self-directed learners. The center provides support services, such as skills assessment, individual or group tutorials, subject advising, learning assistance, summer academic preparation and basic skills development. The Learning Assistance Resource Center is located in Room 600 in the Student Services Center.

SJSU Writing Center

The Writing Center in Clark Hall 126 offers tutoring services to San Jose State students in all courses. Writing Specialists assist in all areas of the writing process, including grammar, organization, paragraph development, coherence, syntax, and documentation styles. For more information, visit the Writing Center website at <http://www.sjsu.edu/writingcenter> or call 924-2308.

1	8/21	Introduction
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2	8/26 – 8/28	Week 2: Culture and Personality Margaret Mead, <i>Coming of Age</i> first half
3	No class Monday 9/2 Sept 4	Week 3: Samoa Margaret Mead, <i>Coming of Age</i> , second half
4	9/9 – 9/11	Week 4: Fieldwork II: Cultural Psychology 9/9: Michelle Rosaldo Tomas Matza Joao Biehl 9/11: Ethan Watters, Intro and Ch 1
5	9/16 – 9/18	Week 5: Cross-cultural psychology Watters, chapters 2 and 3 Paper #1 Due 9/16
6	9/23 – 9/25	Week 6: Cross-cultural psychology Watters, chapters 4 and conclusion
7	9/30 – 10/2	Week 7: Transient Mental Illness Ian Hacking, selections from <i>Mad Travelers: Reflections on the Reality of Transient Mental Illness</i>
8	10/7 – 10/9	Week 8: Psy-ences: Medicine and Subjectivity Matthew Wolf-Meyer, <i>The Slumbering Masses</i> , part 1 Midterm 10/9
9	10/14 – 10/16	Week 9: Sleep Medicine and Sleep Disorders Wolf-Meyer, part 2
10	10/21 – 10/23	Week 10: Capitalism and Sleep Wolf-Meyer, part 3
11	10/28 – 10/30	Week 11: Nature/Culture of the Mind Wolf-Meyer, part 4
12	11/4 -11/6	Week 12: Time, Self, and Digital Capitalism Jonathan Crary, selections from <i>24/7: Late Capitalism and the Ends of Sleep</i> John Marlovits, “Give Me Slack” Paper 2 Due 11/6

13	11/11 (no class) – 11/13	Week 14: The Financialization of Identity No class 11/11 11/13: viewing: David Fincher, <i>The Social Network</i> (documentary) Optional: Franco Berardi, selections from <i>The Uprising: On Poetry and Finance</i>
14	11/18 – 11/20	Week 15: Alterity and zones of abandonment Hugh Raffles, “Jews” in <i>Insectopedia</i> Documentary viewing: <i>Frantz Fanon: Black Skin, White Mask</i>
15	11/25 – 11/27	Week 16: Affect Yael Navaro-Yashin, selections from <i>The Make Believe Space: Affective Geography in a Postwar Polity</i>
16	12/2 – 12/4	Week 16: Review Paper 3 Due 12/4
Final Exam And last day	12/9	Last Day of Class Final Exam: Wednesday December 11, 12:15-2:30 WSQ 004