

San José State University  
Anthropology 11 - Spring 2008

# Introduction to Cultural Anthropology

Dr. Sandra Cate  
Office: Clark 426, Tel 924-5714  
Office Hours: MW 1245-1315, 1500-1600  
or by appointment

scate@ix.netcom.com  
Section 1: MW 0900-1015  
Section 2: MW 1330-1445  
Clark 204

## Course Description

Anthropology is the study of human beings around the world and throughout history. Cultural anthropology focuses on the concept of culture: the systems, beliefs, and practices through which we view the world, organize our everyday lives, develop social relationships with others, and make life meaningful. We will explore many of the basic themes, issues, and methodologies of anthropology, explore connect our readings and discussions to current events, and will consider contributions anthropologists have and continue to make in diverse fields to solving social problems – from medicine and law to economic development to education.

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 (Area D1)

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 .

## 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 Readings

James Spradley & David McCurdy, *Conformity and Conflict: Readings in Cultural Anthropology* (12<sup>th</sup> edition)

Elizabeth Fernea, *Guests of the Sheik: An Ethnography of an Iraqi Village*

Leo R. Chavez, *Shadowed Lives: Undocumented Immigrants in American Society*, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition

Patricia V. Symonds, *Calling in the Soul: In a Hmong Village*

## Course Website

Many of the course materials -- lecture outlines, video guides, exam study guides, citation and reference guide, extra credit list, and the class grading policy -- are available on my Faculty Web Page (from SJSU Home Page → Quick Links → Faculty Web Pages)

[http://stage.sjsu.edu/faculty\\_and\\_staff/faculty\\_detail.jsp?id=1010](http://stage.sjsu.edu/faculty_and_staff/faculty_detail.jsp?id=1010)

## Course Requirements

Class lectures, videos, and discussion will supplement required readings, thus your preparation and participation in class becomes critical to your understanding of the material. To be successful in this class, you should read assignments before class, show up on time, and have questions ready.

You will write 3 short (4-5 pp) papers, all of which encourage you to experience some of the challenges and pleasures of “doing anthropology.” Please type and double-space your papers.

**Assignment #1 (Learning Objective D1-1):** 500 words, My Favorite Thing: A Commodity Chain Analysis

**Assignment #2 (Learning Objective D1-2, 4):** 500 words, Mini-Ethnography: The American Social Hierarchy

**Assignment #3 (Learning Objective D1-3, 4):** 500 words, Designing Cultural Change

## Course Evaluation

|                       |            |            |  |
|-----------------------|------------|------------|--|
| 2 Quizzes             | @ 50       | 100 points | A+ = 396-400 pts, A = 372-395, A- = 360-371 pts. |
| Final exam            |            | 100        | B+ = 352-359 pts, B = 332-351, B- = 320-331 pts. |
| Short papers (3 @ 50) |            | 150        | C+ = 312-319 pts, C = 292-311, C- = 280-291 pts. |
| Class Participation   | <u>50</u>  |            | D+ = 272-279 pts, D = 252-271, D- = 240-251 pts. |
|                       | 400 points |            | F = below 240 pts                                |

## General Policies

- **Class Participation:** These points are earned through participation in class discussions, group discussions, the occasional reflective paper, and other classroom activities.
- **Format of papers:** Papers should be typed, double-spaced, and pages numbered. Please staple together pages, and **do not 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:** 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 (last page) 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 and true/false questions. Questions will cover class lectures, readings, and films. I will provide a study guide for each exam.
- **Disability Accommodations** If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, or if you need 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 DRC to establish a record of their disability.
- **Classroom Etiquette: Please be respectful, to your instructor and your classmates.** If you come late to class or leave early, please enter and exit quietly, without letting the door slam. Cellphones 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

January 23                      Course Introduction: The Anthropological Perspective

### Part I – Culture & Ethnography

January 28, 30                The Concept of Culture  
Readings: C&C, Chapters 1, 2; Fernea, Chapters 1-8  
Video: *Cannibal Tours* (excerpt)

February 4, 6                Fieldwork and its Applications  
Readings: Fernea, Chapters 9-19, C&C, Chapters 4-5  
Video: *The Goddess and the Computer* (excerpt)

### Part II – Ecology, Subsistence, Exchange

February 11, 13              Cultural Ecology & Modes of Production  
Readings: C & C, pp. 104-07, 142-145; Fernea, Chapters 20-26  
Slides: *Swidden Agriculture in Laos and Thailand*

February 18                    Video: *Faces of Culture – Modes of Production*  
Readings: C & C: Chapters 10, 11, 12

February 20 Exchange Systems  
Readings: C & C: Chap. 13; Chavez, Introduction, Chapters 1-3  
Video: *Contact: The Yanomami*

February 25, 27 Issues of Globalization and Migration  
Readings: Chavez, Chapters 4-6; C & C: Chapters 14-15  
Video: *Snakeheads: The Chinese Mafia and New Human Slavery*  
**Assignment #1 DUE**

March 3 **MIDTERM**

### **Part III – Social Hierarchy and Social Control**

March 5 Social Groups & Modes of Social Control  
Readings: C&C, pp. 261-263, Chapters 24, 25, 26

March 10, 12 Video and Discussion: *People Like Us*  
Readings: Chavez, Chap. 10, Epilogue

March 17 Race and Ethnicity

### **Part IV – Language and Communication**

March 19 Communication systems  
Readings: C & C-Chapters 7, 8, 9  
Slides: Body Modifications  
**Assignment #2 DUE**

**MARCH 24-28, SPRING BREAK!!!**

**MARCH 31, CESAR CHAVEZ' BIRTHDAY – NO CLASS**

### **Part V – Kinship & Family**

April 2, 7 Ideas of Relatedness  
Readings: C&C, pp. 179-181; Symonds, Introduction, Chapters 1-2  
Video: *Dadi's Family*

April 9 The Family in Society  
Readings: C&C, Chapters 16, 17, 18, 19  
Video: *The Love Chronicles: Arranged Marriages*

### **Part VI – Identity, Roles and Groups**

April 14, 16 Personhood and the life cycle  
Readings: C&C, pp. 219-222; Symonds, Chapters 3-5

April 21 Gendered social roles  
Video: *Kelly Loves Tony*

April 23, 28                      Sexualities  
Readings: C&C: Chapters 21, 22, 23  
Video: *Sunflowers*

**Part VII – Religion and Worldview**

April 30, May 5                  Religion and Belief  
Readings: C&C, pp. 295-298, Chapters 27, 28, 29  
Video: *The Split Horn*  
**Assignment #3 DUE**

**Part VIII – Culture Change, Applied Anthropology**

May 7                                  Culture Change  
Readings: C&C, pp. 386-390, Chapters 35, 36, 37; Symonds, Epilogue

May 12                                Video: *Holy Smokes*

**FINAL EXAM:                  Wednesday, May 21**  
**Section 1: 0800-0915**  
**Section 2: 1215-1430**

## ACADEMIC INTEGRITY - for Anth 11, Spring 2008

Academic integrity is essential to the mission of San José State University. As such, students are expected to **perform their own work** (except when collaboration is expressly permitted by the course instructor) without the use of any outside resources. Students are not permitted to use old tests, quizzes when preparing for exams, nor may they consult with students who have already taken the exam. When practiced, academic integrity ensures that all students are fairly graded. Violations to the Academic Integrity Policy undermine the educational process and will not be tolerated. It also demonstrates a lack of respect for oneself, fellow students and the course instructor and can ruin the university's reputation and the value of the degrees it offers.

We all share the obligation to maintain an environment that practices academic integrity. Violators of the Academic Integrity Policy will be **subject to failing this course and being reported to the Office of Judicial Affairs for disciplinary action** which could result in suspension or expulsion from San José State University.

### CHEATING

At SJSU, cheating is the act of obtaining or attempting to obtain credit for academic work through the use of any dishonest, deceptive, or fraudulent means. Cheating at SJSU includes but is not limited to:

Copying in part or in whole, from another's test or other evaluation instrument; Submitting work previously graded in another course unless this has been approved by the course instructor or by departmental policy. Submitting work simultaneously presented in two courses, unless this has been approved by both course instructors or by departmental policy. Altering or interfering with grading or grading instructions; Sitting for an examination by a surrogate, or as a surrogate; any other act committed by a student in the course of his or her academic work which defrauds or misrepresents, including aiding or abetting in any of the actions defined above.

### PLAGIARISM

At SJSU plagiarism is the act of representing the work of another as one's own (without giving appropriate credit) regardless of how that work was obtained, and submitting it to fulfill academic requirements. Plagiarism at SJSU includes but is not limited to incorporating the ideas, words, sentences, paragraphs, or parts thereof, or the specific substances of another's work, without giving appropriate credit, and representing the product as one's own work. **Appropriate citation and representation includes putting quotation marks around the sentences of other writers as well as full citation of the source in a footnote or in parentheses at the end of the sentence/paragraph.**

.....

**I have read the above statement and pledge to submit work according to these academic standards.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date