

**Anthropology 11**  
**Introduction to Cultural Anthropology**  
**Section 3**

Instructor: Professor R. González  
Semester: Spring 2008  
Meeting Room: CL 204  
Meeting Time: Tu-Th 9:00-10:15 am  
Course Number: 47932

Introduction

Anthropology is the study of humans in the broadest sense; it analyzes the rich variety of ways that humans have creatively adapted to and given meaning to the world in different places and times. This course introduces major concepts in sociocultural anthropology. We will begin with an overview of ideas about culture, society, and anthropological methods (fieldwork and ethnographic writing). Then we will analyze various concepts by examining human societies in different regions including the Americas, Asia, Africa, Oceania, Europe, and the Middle East. Many course concepts will be covered during lectures, so it is critical that you attend class and take lecture notes. Apart from course readings, we will view several ethnographic films. Exams will be based upon readings, films, and lectures.

Required Readings

Required books include the following:

James Spradley and David McCurdy, *Conformity and Conflict* (12th edition)  
Elizabeth Fernea, *Guests of the Sheik: Ethnography of an Iraqi Village*  
Leo Chavez, *Shadowed Lives: Undocumented Immigrants in the U.S.*  
Chinua Achebe, *Things Fall Apart*

These may be purchased at the campus bookstore. All materials will be placed on reserve at the campus library. This course fulfills the requirements for the core General Education human behavior course (Area D1). There are no course prerequisites.

Student Learning Objectives for Area D1

Students who satisfactorily complete this course should 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. Students should also be able to:

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
3. Evaluate social science information, draw on different points of view, and formulate applications appropriate to contemporary social issues
4. Recognize the interaction of social institutions, culture, and environment with the behavior of individuals

## Course Assignments

Assignments for this course include the following:

1. Three unannounced weekly quizzes at the beginning of class, designed to test your familiarity with the course readings for that week. (15% of final grade)  
(Meets GE Area D1 Learning Objectives 1, 2)
2. One mid-term exam (October 16), consisting of short definitions, essays, and maps. 20% of final grade)  
(Meets GE Area D1 Learning Objectives 1, 2, 3, 4)
3. One final exam, consisting of short definitions, essays, and maps. Final exam will be administered on December 15 from 7:15-9:30 am in the usual class meeting room. (25% of final grade)  
(Meets GE Area D1 Learning Objectives 1, 2, 3, 4)
4. One 4-page term paper based on an in-class interview on migration, due November 20. See description of assignment below. (20% of final grade)  
(Meets GE Area D1 Learning Objectives 2, 3, 4)
5. One 6-page ethnographic term paper, due December 9. See description of assignment below. (20% of final grade)  
(Meets GE Area D1 Learning Objectives 1, 2, 3, 4)

All assignments 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, etc. No assignments will be accepted via e-mail—I must receive hard copies of all assignments.

## Anthropology Department Objectives

The goals of the anthropology department include helping students to:

- learn about the culture concept and significant findings in anthropology
- examine interconnections between human culture and biology
- develop awareness of past and present cultures
- understand the multicultural aspects of contemporary society
- make good use of social science data and scholarly literature
- increase knowledge of qualitative and quantitative research methods
- recognize anthropology's relevance in addressing social issues

## ANTH 11 Course Objectives

Students who successfully complete this course will:

- be introduced to the culture concept and cultural approaches to understanding human behavior
- explore how cultural anthropologists conduct research by participating in a class project
- develop cross-cultural perspectives on how humans relate to one other and material world
- learn about several societies in depth by reading ethnographies
- the relevance of anthropology for understanding the complexities of modern life

### Guidelines for Migration Life History Paper

Twenty percent of your semester grade will come from a migration life history paper which will be based on (1) an in-class interview in which you will ask your informant a series of open-ended questions; (2) a geographical analysis of the informant's migration, reproduced on a map of the globe; and (3) a 4-page paper which introduces the reader to the informant, describes his or her migratory life history, and discusses some of his or her ideas about global processes. This paper will be due in class on November 20. A detailed description of this assignment will be provided to you during Week 5 of the course.

### Guidelines for Ethnographic Term Paper

Twenty percent of your semester grade will come from an ethnographic term paper project. The results of the project should be written up in a 6-page report which describes in anthropological terms the "culture" of a particular group of people or of a particular place in the Bay Area. Your field site must be located off campus. Cultural knowledge of all kinds surrounds us, so you have a wide range of choices. Some examples might include:

- the culture of the local Department of Motor Vehicles office
- the social organization of a battered women's shelter
- the hidden world of an automotive assembly plant
- the operation of a Vietnamese cultural center
- the culture of a local union office
- a street corner where day laborers wait to be contracted
- a day in the life of a person living in a "nursing home"

Your project should include at least two informant interviews (more on this later in the course) and should focus on one or more of the anthropological concepts discussed in this course (for example, kinship, reciprocal exchange, sex and gender roles, ritual, migration, inequality). After Week 6 of class I will ask you for a mandatory one-paragraph proposal outlining the plan for your project. You will find examples of how you might model your ethnography on reserve at King Library.

### Course Policies

Laptop computers are not permitted in class unless you have a note from the Disability Resource Center justifying a need. You should write lecture notes by hand, or else make audio recordings of lectures and transcribe them after class meetings. Cell phones must be turned off during class to avoid disruption and out of sight or else the instructor will collect the device from the student until the end of class. Text messaging is prohibited. Any student who allows a cell phone to ring during class will first be given a formal warning by the instructor. A second infraction of this rule will be promptly reported to the Office of Judicial Affairs.

Disabled students with special needs should make arrangements with the instructor as soon as possible. If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of disability or if you need special arrangements in case of building evacuation, please make an appointment with the instructor as soon as possible, or during office hours. SJSU Presidential Directive 97-03 requires students with disabilities to register with the Disability Resource Center to establish a record of their disability.

Plagiarism, cheating, and academic dishonesty will be reported to the University. The SJSU Academic Integrity Policy requires you to be honest in your academic course work. Faculty members are required to report all infractions to the Office of Judicial Affairs. The SJSU academic integrity policies are located at <http://www2.sjsu.edu/senate/S04-12.pdf>.

Office Hours

Office hours are held at the following times:

Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10:30 am-12:00 pm

Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6:00 pm-7:00 pm

I am also available by appointment if you are unable to meet at these times. All office hours are held in CL402G. You can contact me at [roberto.gonzalez@sjsu.edu](mailto:roberto.gonzalez@sjsu.edu) or by phone at 924-5715.

Grading Distribution

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

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COURSE READINGS AND SCHEDULE

- Week 1**      **Ethnography and the Fieldwork Experience**  
**8/26-8/28**      Horace Miner, "Body Ritual among the Nacirema" (distributed in class)  
 \*J. Spradley and D. McCurdy, "Culture and Ethnography" (CC, pp. 1-5)  
 \*James Spradley, "Ethnography and Culture" (CC, pp. 7-14)
- Week 2**      **Kinship and Social Organization**  
**9/2-9/4**      \*J. Spradley and D. McCurdy, "Kinship and Family" (CC, pp. 179-181)  
 \*Nancy Scheper-Hughes, "Mother's Love" (CC, pp. 183-192)  
 \*David McCurdy, "Family and Kinship in Village India" (CC, pp.193-200)  
 FILM: "Small Happiness"
- Week 3**      **The Culture Concept**  
**9/9-9/11**      Elizabeth Fernea, *Guests of the Sheik* (Chapters 1-5)  
 FILM: "Shackles of Tradition: The Life and Work of Franz Boas"
- Week 4**      **Law and Political Systems**  
**9/16-9/18**      \*J. Spradley and D. McCurdy, "Law and Politics" (CC, pp. 261-263)  
 \*Marvin Harris, "Life without Chiefs" (CC, pp. 284-298)  
 Elizabeth Fernea, *Guests of the Sheik* (Chapters 6-12)  
 FILM: "Little Injustices: Laura Nader Looks at the Law"

**Week 5**      **Ritual, Religion, and Worldview**  
9/23-9/25    \*J. Spradley and D. McCurdy, "Religion, Magic, and Worldview" (pp. 295-298)  
                 \*George Gmelch, "Baseball Magic" (CC, pp. 306-315)  
                 \*Stephen Leavitt, "Cargo Beliefs and Religious Experience" (CC, pp. 330-339)  
                 Elizabeth Fernea, *Guests of the Sheik* (Chapters 13-18)

**Week 6**      **Sex and Gender**  
9/30-10/2    \*J. Spradley and D. McCurdy, "Identity, Roles, and Groups" (CC, pp. 219-222)  
                 \*Ernestine Friedl, "Society and Sex Roles" (CC, pp. 231-239)  
                 Elizabeth Fernea, *Guests of the Sheik* (Chapters 19-26)  
                 FILM: "Covered"

**Week 7**      **Language**  
10/7-10/9    \*J. Spradley and D. McCurdy, "Language and Communication" (CC, pp. 58-62)  
                 \*Enid Schildkrout, "Body Art as a Visual Language" (CC, pp. 85-92)  
                 \*David Thomson, "The Sapir-Whorf Hypothesis" (CC, pp. 63-75)  
                 FILM: "He Said, She Said"

**Week 8**      **Ecology, Environment, and Human Food Systems**  
10/14-10/16 \*J. Spradley and D. McCurdy, "Ecology and Subsistence" (CC, pp. 102-105)  
                 \*Richard Lee, "The Hunters: Scarce Resources in the Kalahari" (CC, pp. 107-121)  
                 \*Jared Diamond, "Adaptive Failure: Easter's End" (CC, pp. 122-131)  
                 \*Richard Reed, "Forest Development the Indian Way" (CC, pp. 132-141)

### **MIDTERM EXAM—OCTOBER 16**

**Week 9**      **Economic Systems**  
10/21-10/23 \*J. Spradley and D. McCurdy, "Economic Systems" (CC, pp. 142-146)  
                 \*Lee Cronk, "Reciprocity and the Power of Giving" (CC, pp. 147-153)  
                 \*Philippe Bourgois, "Office Work and the Crack Alternative" (CC, pp. 154-164)  
                 \*Denise Brennan, "Men's Pleasure, Women's Labor" (CC, pp. 355-369)  
                 FILM: "A Poor Man Shames Us All"

**Week 10**     **Patterns of Human Migration**  
10/28-10/30 Leo Chavez, *Shadowed Lives*, (Introduction and Chapters 1-4)

### **IN-CLASS INTERVIEWS TO BE CONDUCTED ON OCTOBER 30**

**Week 11**     **"Race," Ethnicity, and Identity in the Modern World**  
11/4-11/6    \*Jeffrey Fish, "Mixed Blood" (CC, pp. 249-259)  
                 Leo Chavez, *Shadowed Lives*, (Chapters 5-8)

**Week 12**     **Anthropological Perspectives on Globalization**  
11/13        \*J. Spradley and D. McCurdy, "Globalization" (CC, pp. 340-344)  
                 \*Ian Condry, "Japanese Hip-Hop" (CC, pp. 370-385)  
                 Leo Chavez, *Shadowed Lives* (Chapters 9-10 and Epilogue)  
                 FILM: "Global Assembly Line"

**Week 13**      **Colonialism and Resistance**  
11/18-11/20    Chinua Achebe, *Things Fall Apart* (Chapters 1-6)  
                  \*Terence Turner, "The Kayapo Resistance" (CC, pp. 391-409)

**MIGRATION LIFE HISTORY PAPERS DUE NOVEMBER 20**

**Week 14**      **Neoliberalism, Economic Development and Its Dilemmas**  
11/25            Chinua Achebe, *Things Fall Apart* (Chapters 7-16)  
                  FILM: "N!ai: The Story of a !Kung Woman"

**THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY—NO CLASS MEETING NOVEMBER 27**

**Week 15**      **Applied Anthropology in the 21st Century**  
12/2-12/4      Chinua Achebe, *Things Fall Apart* (Chapters 17-25)

**Week 16**      **Review and Discussion**  
12/9             No required readings

**ETHNOGRAPHIC TERM PAPERS DUE DECEMBER 9**

**FINAL EXAM—MONDAY, DECEMBER 15 (7:15-9:30 am) in CL 204**

## **ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:**

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 which 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:

The act of 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; and representing another's artistic/scholarly works such as musical compositions, computer programs, photographs, painting, drawing, sculptures, or similar works as one's own.

# Fall 2008 Class Schedule Information

v002

Monday, June 2, 2008

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## Registration > Dropping a Class

### Go to <http://my.sjsu.edu>

- Enter your SJSU ID and Password – you may now use your nine-digit SJSU ID to login to MySJSU. If you are a continuing student and have previously been given a User ID beginning with an uppercase W, you can continue to use this ID to log in.
- If you drop a class, you must do so prior to the time you submit payment to ensure that your registration fees are properly assessed.

### Navigate to "Self Service" > Student center > Drop a class"

- Click on "Drop Classes"
- Click the checkbox next to each class you wish to drop and click "Drop Selected Classes."
- Review your selection and click "Finish Dropping."

### Instructor Drops

Instructors are permitted to drop students who fail to attend the first scheduled class meeting and who fail to inform the instructor prior to the second class meeting of the reason for any absence and their intention to continue in the class. Some instructors will drop students who do not meet the stated course prerequisites. However, they are not required to do so. **It is the student's responsibility to make sure classes are dropped.**