

San José State University
Anthropology Department
ANTH 11 Introduction to Cultural Anthropology, Sec. 4
Spring 2010 Semester

Instructor:	Professor Gonzalez
Office Location:	Clark 402G
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Office Hours:	TuTh 12:00-2:00, Tu 6:00-7:00
Class Days/Time:	TuTh 3:00-4:15
Classroom:	WSQ 004
Prerequisites:	None
GE/SJSU Studies Category:	D1 (Human Behavior)
Course Fees:	N/A

Course Description

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.

Course Goals and Student Learning Objectives

GE/SJSU Studies Learning Objectives

Upon successful completion of this course, students should be able to:

1. 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 processes, and the forces that engender social cohesion and fragmentation.

2. Place contemporary developments in cultural, historical, environmental, and spatial contexts.
3. 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.
4. Evaluate social science information, draw on different points of view, and formulate applications appropriate to contemporary social issues.
5. Recognize the interactions of social institutions, culture, and environment with the behavior of individuals.

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

Required Texts/Readings

Textbooks

James Spradley and David McCurdy, *Conformity and Conflict* (13th edition)

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

Steve Striffler, *Chicken: The Dangerous Transformation of America's Favorite Food*

Holly Barker, *Bravo for the Marshallese*

Classroom Protocol

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 strictly prohibited. Any student who allows a cell phone to ring during class, or who texts messages will first be given a formal warning by the instructor. A second infraction of this rule will be promptly reported to the Office of Student Conduct with a recommendation that the student be immediately expelled from the course. Students should be aware that according to Title 5 of the California Code of Regulations, "Standards for Student Conduct," grounds for student discipline includes: "Participating in an activity that substantially and materially disrupts the normal operations of the University," {Section 41301(b)(4)} which could include use of unauthorized electronic devices in classroom settings.

Dropping and Adding

Students are responsible for understanding the policies and procedures about add/drops, academic renewal, etc. [Information on add/drops are available at http://info.sjsu.edu/web-dbgen/narr/soc-fall/rec-298.html](http://info.sjsu.edu/web-dbgen/narr/soc-fall/rec-298.html). [Information about late drop is available at http://www.sjsu.edu/sac/advising/latedrops/policy/](http://www.sjsu.edu/sac/advising/latedrops/policy/). Students should be aware of the current deadlines and penalties for adding and dropping classes.

Assignments and Grading Policy

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 (on March 26), 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 May 20 from 2:45-5:00 pm 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 May 4. 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 May 13. 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.

University Policies

Academic integrity

Students should know that the University's [Academic Integrity Policy is available at http://www.sa.sjsu.edu/download/judicial_affairs/Academic_Integrity_Policy_S07-2.pdf](http://www.sa.sjsu.edu/download/judicial_affairs/Academic_Integrity_Policy_S07-2.pdf). Your own commitment to learning, as evidenced by your enrollment at San Jose State University and the University's integrity policy, require 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 website for [Student Conduct and Ethical Development is available at http://www.sa.sjsu.edu/judicial_affairs/index.html](http://www.sa.sjsu.edu/judicial_affairs/index.html).

Instances of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Cheating on exams or plagiarism (presenting the work of another as your own, or the use of another person's ideas without giving proper credit) will result in a failing grade and sanctions by the University. For this class, all assignments are to be completed by the individual student unless otherwise specified. If you would like to include in your assignment any material you have submitted, or plan to submit for another class, please note that SJSU's Academic Policy F06-1 requires approval of instructors.

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.

ANTH 11 Introduction to Cultural Anthropology

Spring 2010

Course Schedule

Schedule is subject to change with fair notice.

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
1	1/28	<u>Introduction to Course</u> (No required readings)
2	2/2 - 2/4	<u>Ethnography and the Fieldwork Experience</u> *Horace Miner, "Body Ritual among the Nacirema" (CC, pp. 334-339) *J. Spradley and D. McCurdy, "Culture and Ethnography" (CC, pp. 1-6) *James Spradley, "Ethnography and Culture" (CC, pp. 7-14)
3	2/9 - 2/11	<u>Kinship and Social Organization</u> *J. Spradley and D. McCurdy, "Kinship and Family" (CC, pp. 172-175) *Nancy Scheper-Hughes, "Mother's Love" (CC, pp. 176-186) *David McCurdy, "Family and Kinship in Village India" (CC, pp.187-194) FILM: "Small Happiness"
4	2/16 - 2/18	<u>The Culture Concept</u> Elizabeth Fernea, <i>Guests of the Sheik</i> (Chapters 1-5) FILM: "Shackles of Tradition: The Life and Work of Franz Boas"
5	2/23 - 2/25	<u>Law and Political Systems</u> *J. Spradley and D. McCurdy, "Law and Politics" (CC, pp. 259-262) *Marvin Harris, "Life without Chiefs" (CC, pp. 272-280) Elizabeth Fernea, <i>Guests of the Sheik</i> (Chapters 6-12) FILM: "Little Injustices: Laura Nader Looks at the Law"
6	3/2 - 3/4	<u>Ritual, Religion, and Worldview</u> *J. Spradley and McCurdy, "Religion, Magic, Worldview" (pp. 298-302) *George Gmelch, "Baseball Magic" (CC, pp. 310-319) *Jill Dubisch, "Run for the Wall" (CC, pp. 320-333) Elizabeth Fernea, <i>Guests of the Sheik</i> (Chapters 13-18)
7	3/9 - 3/11	<u>Sex and Gender</u> *J. Spradley and D. McCurdy, "Identity, Roles, Groups" (CC, pp. 210-214) *Dianna Shandy and Karine Moe, "Heading Home" (CC, pp. 215-226) Elizabeth Fernea, <i>Guests of the Sheik</i> (Chapters 19-26) FILM: "Covered"
8	3/16 - 3/18	<u>Language</u> *J. Spradley and McCurdy, "Language Communication" (CC, pp. 52-55) *Jennifer Boehlke, "Kinds of Talk: Tattoo World" (CC, pp. 69-78) *Sarah Boxer, "Manipulating Meaning" (CC, pp. 56-68) FILM: "He Said, She Said"
9	3/23 - 3/25	<u>Ecology, Environment, and Human Food Systems</u> *J. Spradley and McCurdy, "Ecology and Subsistence" (CC, pp. 83-87) *Richard Lee, "The Hunters" (CC, pp. 88-103) *Richard Reed, "Forest Development the Indian Way" (CC, pp. 124-134) Steve Striffler, <i>Chicken</i> (Introduction and Chapter 1)

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
		MIDTERM EXAM: MARCH 25 SPRING BREAK: MARCH 29 - APRIL 2
10	4/6 - 4/8	<u>Economic Systems</u> *J. Spradley and D. McCurdy, "Economic Systems" (CC, pp. 135-138) *Lee Cronk, "Reciprocity and the Power of Giving" (CC, pp. 139-145) *P. Bourgois, "Office Work and Crack Alternative" (CC, pp. 227-239) Steve Striffler, <i>Chicken</i> (Chapters 2-3) FILM: "A Poor Man Shames Us All"
11	4/13 - 4/15	<u>"Race," Ethnicity, and Identity in the Modern World</u> *Jeffrey Fish, "Mixed Blood" (CC, pp. 248-258) Steve Striffler, <i>Chicken</i> (Chapters 4-6) IN-CLASS MIGRATION INTERVIEWS CONDUCTED MARCH 15
12	4/20 - 4/22	<u>Anthropological Perspectives on Globalization</u> *J. Spradley and D. McCurdy, "Globalization" (CC, pp. 340-343) *Ian Condry, "Japanese Hip-Hop" (CC, pp. 365-379) Steve Striffler, <i>Chicken</i> (Chapters 7-8) FILM: "Global Assembly Line"
13	4/27 - 4/29	<u>Colonialism and Resistance</u> Holly Barker, <i>Bravo for the Marshallese</i> (Introduction and Chapters 1-4)
14	5/4 - 5/6	<u>Neoliberalism, Economic Development and Its Dilemmas</u> Holly Barker, <i>Bravo for the Marshallese</i> (Chapters 5-8) FILM: "N!ai: The Story of a !Kung Woman" MIGRATION LIFE HISTORY PAPERS DUE MAY 4
15	5/11 - 5/13	<u>Applied Anthropology in the 21st Century</u> Holly Barker, <i>Bravo for the Marshallese</i> (Chapters 9-11) ETHNOGRAPHY PAPERS DUE MAY 13
16		N/A
Final Exam		FINAL EXAM TO BE ADMINISTERED THURSDAY, MAY 20 (2:45-5:00 PM) IN REGULAR CLASS MEETING ROOM