

**San José State University
Anthropology Department
ANTH 131: Theories of Culture and Society
Spring 2012 Semester**

Instructor:	Professor González
Office Location:	Clark 459
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Office Hours:	F 10:30 am - 3:30 pm
Class Days/Time:	TuTh 12:00 - 1:15 pm
Classroom:	CL 204
Prerequisites:	None
GE/SJSU Studies Category:	N/A
Course Fees:	N/A

Course Description

This course provides a general introduction to the history of anthropological thought since the late 19th century. The first half of the course focuses on the emergence of cultural and social anthropological approaches in the US and Great Britain as a response to theories of biological determinism. The second half of the course emphasizes the changing meanings of culture, society, and biology in the context of colonialism, the Cold War, corporate globalization, and other contemporary phenomena. We will also examine the diffusion of the culture concept—from American anthropology, across academic disciplines, and out into the general public. By the end of the course you should have a thorough understanding of the development of cultural and social anthropological thought, the most influential theoretical approaches of the 20th century, and the political and economic circumstances under which anthropological ideas emerged.

Course Goals and Student Learning Objectives

1. To learn about different theories of culture and society developed by British, French, US, and other anthropologists from the late 19th century to the present.
2. To understand how historical, political and economic contexts shaped and impacted these theories.

3. To examine the relationship between anthropological theories and methods and the relationship between anthropological theories and practices.
4. To compare and contrast classic ethnographies from the past and the present.
5. To analyze and discuss the relationship of anthropological knowledge and the general public.
6. To conduct library research and prepare an academic term paper.

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

Required Texts/Readings

Textbooks (all are required)

Stephen Jay Gould, *The Mismeasure of Man*

Zora Neale Hurston, *Tell My Horse: Voodoo and Life in Haiti and Jamaica*

E.E. Evans-Pritchard, *The Nuer*

William Rathje and Cullen Murphy, *Rubbish: The Archaeology of Garbage*

Roberto J. González, *Militarizing Culture: Essays on the Warfare State*

These materials will be on reserve at King Library. In addition, there will be several required articles that will either be distributed in class by the instructor, or that will be available online (see pp. 5-6 of this syllabus for more information).

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. During exams and quizzes, any use of cell phones will be considered cheating and reported to the Office of Student Conduct. 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 that week's course readings. These will be averaged into your grade. (Five points each quiz, for a total of 15% of final grade.)
2. Two mid-term exams (March 1 and April 12), consisting of short definitions, essays, and maps. (Each mid-term counts for 20% of final grade.)
3. One final exam, consisting of identifications/definitions, essays, and maps. (Final exam counts for 30% of final grade.) Final exam will be administered on May 23 from 9:45 am -12:00 pm in the usual class meeting room.
4. One 10-page term paper (not including title page or bibliography), due at the last regular class meeting (May 15). (Paper counts for 15% of final grade.) Description of term paper assignment will be distributed in class during the third week of the semester. Students must submit a typed 250-word term paper proposal to the instructor on March 15. This proposal is worth 10% of the assignment.

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.

Grading distribution is as follows:

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

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](http://www.sa.sjsu.edu/judicial_affairs/index.html) is available at 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.

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Spring 2012 Course Schedule

Schedule is subject to change with fair notice.

Wk	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
1	01/26	Introduction Eric Wolf, "American Anthropologists and American Society"*
2	01/31 - 02/02	Social Evolutionism in the Victorian Era S.J. Gould, <i>The Mismeasure of Man</i> (Ch. 1-3)
3	02/07 - 02/09	Franz Boas and the Culture Concept S.J. Gould, <i>The Mismeasure of Man</i> (Ch. 4,5 and 7--Ch. 6 is optional) FILM: "The Shackles of Tradition: Franz Boas"
4	02/14 - 02/16	Culture and Personality Ruth Benedict, <i>The Chrysanthemum and the Sword</i> (excerpts)*
5	02/21 - 02/23	Structural Functionalism E.E. Evans-Pritchard, <i>The Nuer</i> (Ch. 1-3)
6	02/28 - 03/01	Cultural Ecology and Cultural Materialism E.E. Evans-Pritchard, <i>The Nuer</i> (Ch. 4-6) MIDTERM EXAM 1--MARCH 1
7	03/06 - 03/08	Colonial Critiques Vine Deloria, "Anthropologists and Other Friends"*
8	03/13 - 03/15	Feminist Influences and the Anthropology of Gender Zora Neale Hurston, <i>Tell My Horse</i> (Ch. 1-6) FILM: "Small Happiness" TERM PAPER PROPOSAL DUE MARCH 15
9	03/20 - 03/22	Interpretive and Post-Structural Anthropology Zora Neale Hurston, <i>Tell My Horse</i> (Ch. 7-12)
		SPRING BREAK--NO CLASS MEETING
10	04/03 - 04/05	Experimenting with Ethnography Zora Neale Hurston, <i>Tell My Horse</i> (Ch. 13-18) FILM: "Zora Is My Name!"
11	04/10 - 04/12	Political Economy and Marxist Approaches Sidney Mintz, "Remembering Haiti"*** (http://www.bostonreview.net/BR35.2/mintz.php) William Rathje and Cullen Murphy, <i>Rubbish!</i> (Ch. 1-2) MIDTERM EXAM 2--APRIL 12
12	04/17 - 04/19	Approaches to Archaeological Theory William Rathje and Cullen Murphy, <i>Rubbish!</i> (Ch. 3-6)

Wk	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
13	04/24 - 04/26	Towards an Anthropology of Globalization William Rathje and Cullen Murphy, <i>Rubbish!</i> (Ch. 7-9)
14	05/01 - 05/03	Anthropology and the Contemporary World William Rathje and Cullen Murphy, <i>Rubbish!</i> (Ch.10-11) Roberto González, <i>Militarizing Culture</i> (Introduction and Ch. 1) FILM: "Losing Knowledge"
15	05/08 - 05/10	The Future of Anthropology Roberto González, <i>Militarizing Culture</i> (Ch. 2-5)
16	05/15	Discussion, Summary, and Course Review Roberto González, <i>Militarizing Culture</i> (Ch. 6-7, Afterword) TERM PAPERS DUE TO INSTRUCTOR ON MAY 15
Final		FINAL EXAM--WEDNESDAY, MAY 23 (9:45 AM - 12:00 PM)

Notes:

1. Readings marked with one asterisk (*) will be distributed by the instructor.
2. Readings marked with two asterisks (**) are available on line at listed URL addresses.