

Introduction to Cultural Anthropology
ANTH-2
El Camino College
Section 2032, Fall 2009

Class Time: Tuesdays & Thursdays, 7:45am – 9:10am
Classroom: ARTB 334
Instructor: Dr. Gregory Simon
Office: ARTB 332C
Office Hours: Tuesdays & Thursdays, 9:15am-9:45am, or by appointment
Email: gsimon@elcamino.edu (email is the best way to contact me)
Telephone: X4528 (Dial 310-660-3593, then the extension)

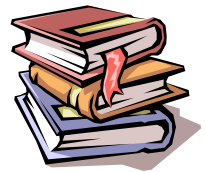
About the Course:

This course is designed to introduce you to the field of cultural anthropology. It will cover a broad range of concepts and methods that anthropologists use in the analysis of human culture and society. The course will also introduce you to a wide variety of cultural patterns that human beings use to adapt to the environment, guide social interaction, and understand the human condition. The course is thus designed to provide you not only with knowledge about the field of cultural anthropology, but also to deepen your insight into other societies, your own society, and what it means to be human.

Required Texts:

The following two required books are available at the bookstore:

- *Mirror for Humanity* (Sixth Edition) by Conrad Phillip Kottak.
- *Classic Readings in Cultural Anthropology* (2004 edition), edited by Gary Ferraro.



In addition, there will be three required articles that I will make available to you later in the semester:

- “Deep Play: Notes on the Balinese Cockfight,” by Clifford Geertz. *Daedalus*, Fall 2005, Vol. 134, No. 4, Pages 56-86. Available through Literature Resource Center database.
- “The Hegemony of Discontent,” by Daniel Linger. *American Ethnologist*, Vol. 20, No. 1 (Feb., 1993). Pp. 3-24. Available through the library’s electronic reserve system.
- “In Search of Masculinity: Violence, Respect and Sexuality among Puerto Rican Crack Dealers in East Harlem,” by Philippe Bourgois. *British Journal of Criminology*, Vol. 36, No. 3 (1996). Pp. 412-427. Available through the library’s electronic reserve system.

Later in the semester I will offer some instruction regarding how to access the databases and electronic reserve system for those of you who have never done so. The articles you access through the databases and electronic reserve system are free for you, although you will probably want to print them out.

Course Work & Grading:



Final Grade Scale: Your final grade will be determined by the number of points you earn in the class based on all your exams, reading quizzes, papers, and any extra-credit that may be offered during the semester. Assuming you meet minimum requirements on your reading quiz scores (see below for an explanation), your final grade will be determined as follows:

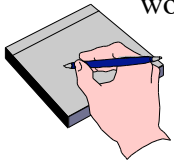
- A = 900-1000 points
- B = 800-899 points
- C = 700-799 points
- D = 600-699 points
- F = <600 points

Exams: 600 points, or 60% of your grade.

There will be **three midterm exams, each worth 150 points**. Each will cover only material from a particular five-week section of the semester. The **final exam, also worth 150 points**, will be given the last day of class, and will cover course material from the entire semester. Some of the questions on the exams will be true/false or multiple-choice questions, but the emphasis will be on questions that require written responses. Study guides will be made available for all of the exams.

Papers: 300 points, or 30% of your grade.

There will be three short writing assignments due in this course, the first one worth 60 points, the second worth 90 points, and the third worth 150 points. The first will ask you to identify three activities you participate in during a single day and analyze them using the categories of “human universals,” “culture,” and “individual personality.” The second will ask you to respond to several questions about the Bourgeois article. The third will require you to gain experience as a cultural anthropologist by observing and participating in some kind of social interaction, and then writing a paper which analyzes that interaction, its functions and/or its meanings. More details regarding all of these assignments will be offered later in the semester.



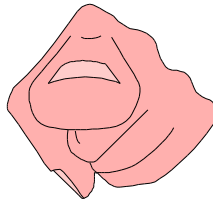
Reading Quizzes: 100 points, or 10% of your grade (at least).

There will be occasional, short reading quizzes testing whether you have thoroughly read the assigned readings, and whether you are attending class – if you have completed the readings, they should be relatively easy. Please note that **readings must be completed before class on the day that they are due**, as indicated on the course outline below. Each quiz will be graded on a 100-point scale. If you are not in class for a quiz, or if you take a quiz and then do not stay for the day’s class, you will receive no points for that quiz. Quizzes cannot be made up. At the end of the semester, your lowest quiz score will be dropped, and the remainder of your scores will be averaged to calculate your final reading quiz score.

IMPORTANT: IN ORDER TO EARN AN “A” IN THIS COURSE, YOU MUST RECEIVE A MINIMUM OF 80 OUT OF 100 POINTS ON YOUR READING QUIZ SCORE for the semester, no matter what your final point total in the class. If, for example, you earn 979 points in the class, but only 79 points come from your reading quizzes, you will earn a “B” in the course.

IMPORTANT: IN ORDER TO PASS THIS COURSE, YOU MUST RECEIVE A MINIMUM OF 60 OUT OF 100 POINTS ON YOUR READING QUIZ SCORE for the semester, no matter what your final point total in the class. If, for example, you earn 959 points in the class, but only 59 points come from your reading quizzes, you will earn a “D” in the course **AND YOU WILL NOT PASS**.

More Things to Know and Do:



Attendance: Attendance is required, so please make an effort to **attend every class meeting, arriving on time and staying** until the end of the class period. If you are absent, you are responsible for finding out what you have missed, including the contents of the lectures and any handouts or announcements made in class regarding assignments, exams, due dates, changes in the course schedule, etc. Please exchange contact information with other students in this class so that you can contact them to find out what you missed. If you are going to miss class, please let me know in advance if at all possible.

Reading: You are required to **thoroughly read all of the assigned readings before class by the date they are due**, as indicated on the course outline below. Not only will it be impossible for you to learn what I want you to learn about cultural anthropology if you do not read the material, it will also be impossible for you to pass the class. If you already know that you are not willing or able to do all of the reading for this course, you should consider dropping this class.

Make-Up Exams and Late Papers: Make-up exams and forgiveness for late papers will be offered only in cases where students can document significant illness or other extreme and unforeseeable circumstances beyond their control. If you absolutely cannot make it to class on time on a day that a paper is due, you should turn in an electronic copy of the paper to my email address by class time rather than turn it in late. Paste the text of your work into the email as well, just to be safe. You should then bring me a hard copy of the paper the next time you come to class. Late papers will receive 90% credit if they are turned in by the beginning of the class meeting following the due date, and 80% credit if they are turned in within three class meetings of the due date. Papers turned in later than this will receive 60% credit. Reading quizzes cannot be made up under any circumstance.

Plagiarism and Cheating: Don't. When you do work for this (or any) class, explain things in your own words. **Never copy the words of someone else** and submit them as part of your own work, unless you are quoting the other person (using quotation marks) *and* attributing those words to them. This means that when you do work for this class, never explain your understanding of something by simply repeating the words you find in your textbook, in one of the articles you read for class, in another book or article, or on a web site. Further, even if you use your own words, you must always acknowledge when you are taking ideas from someone else, rather than implying that they are your own ideas.

In Class:

- You are encouraged to **discuss your ideas**. Of course, treat your fellow students (and instructor) and their ideas respectfully. In addition, please help to create an atmosphere conducive to learning by eliminating unnecessary distractions. Please make sure that your **cellphones and other electronic devices are silent** during class time.
- Always **bring this syllabus, and your books** and other current readings to class.
- **Let me hear from you!** Please ask questions when you do not understand something discussed in the readings or lectures, and please participate in class discussions.

Office Hours: Please come talk with me! If you have a question or concern, or just want to talk in more depth about the class material, please come to my office hours. You are welcome to make an appointment with me in advance. If you have other obligations during my office hours, I will try to arrange a better time to meet with you. Email is always the best way to contact me outside of class, and you are welcome to email questions to me as well.

Course Outline Objectives and Student Learning Outcomes:

According to El Camino College's course outline, the following are listed as "course objectives" for Anthropology 2. These are things you should be able to do by the time you complete this course:

1. Compare and contrast the various subsistence strategies which are practiced cross-culturally.
2. Analyze and describe the various kinship and marriage systems which exist cross-culturally.
3. Evaluate the various levels of social and political organization which exist cross-culturally.
4. Identify the various economic systems which exist cross-culturally.
5. Compare and contrast the role that religious belief systems play in affecting behavior cross-culturally.
6. Assess the current effects of the industrialized world on developing nations and on the indigenous peoples of the world.

In addition, the following has been proposed as a student learning outcome statement for this course, identifying one way your learning may be assessed in this course:

1. On an objective exam students will demonstrate an understanding of the holistic approach in anthropology by identifying the appropriate definition.

COURSE TIMELINE

INCLUDING READING ASSIGNMENTS & DUE DATES

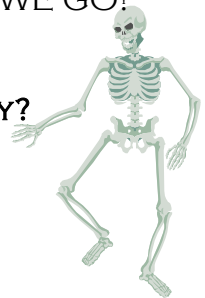
THIS IS JUST A SKELETON—WATCH FOR CHANGES AS WE GO!

WEEK 1

TUE, SEPT 1 INTRODUCTION & WHAT IS ANTHROPOLOGY?

THURS, SEPT 3 WHAT IS ANTHROPOLOGY? (CONT.)

DUE: KOTTAK CHPT. 1, "WHAT IS ANTHROPOLOGY"



WEEK 2

TUE, SEPT 8 DOING RESEARCH IN CULTURAL ANTHROPOLOGY

DUE: KOTTAK CHPT. 2, "ETHICS AND METHODS"

FERRARO CHPT. 4, "EATING CHRISTMAS IN THE KALAHARI" BY LEE

THURS, SEPT 10 THE CONCEPT OF CULTURE

DUE: FERRARO CHPT. 2, "QUEER CUSTOMS" BY KLUCKHOHN

WEEK 3

TUE, SEPT 15 THE CONCEPT OF CULTURE (CONT.)

DUE: KOTTAK CHPT. 3, "CULTURE"

FERRARO CHPT. 1, "BODY RITUAL AMONG THE NACIREMA" BY MINER

THURS, SEPT 17 LANGUAGE

DUE: KOTTAK CHPT. 4, "LANGUAGE AND COMMUNICATION"

"THREE ACTIVITIES" PAPER DUE TODAY

WEEK 4

TUE, SEPT 22 LANGUAGE (CONT.)

DUE: NOTHING DUE TODAY – *START READING THE GEERTZ ARTICLE NOW!*

THURS, SEPT 24 INTERPRETING CULTURAL SYMBOLS: AN EXAMPLE

DUE: “DEEP PLAY: NOTES ON THE BALINESE COCKFIGHT” BY GEERTZ

WEEK 5

TUE, SEPT 29 CATCH UP + EXAM REVIEW

THURS, OCT 1 **EXAM #1, WEEKS 1-5**

WEEK 6

TUE, OCT 6 ECONOMIES

DUE: KOTTAK CHPT. 5, “MAKING A LIVING”

FERRARO CHPT. 5, “THE POTLATCH” BY HARRIS

THURS, OCT 8 ECONOMIES (CONT.)

WEEK 7

TUE, OCT 13 POLITICS AND SOCIAL CONTROL

DUE: KOTTAK CHPT. 6, “POLITICAL SYSTEMS”

START READING THE LINGER ARTICLE NOW!

THURS, OCT 15 POLITICS AND SOCIAL CONTROL (CONT.)

DUE: “THE HEGEMONY OF DISCONTENT” BY LINGER

WEEK 8

TUE, OCT 20 FAMILY, KINSHIP, AND MARRIAGE

DUE: KOTTAK CHPT. 7, “FAMILIES, KINSHIP, AND DESCENT”

THURS, OCT 22 FAMILY, KINSHIP, AND MARRIAGE (CONT.)

DUE: FERRARO CHPT. 6, “WHEN BROTHERS SHARE A WIFE” BY GOLDSTEIN

WEEK 9

TUE, OCT 27 FAMILY, KINSHIP, AND MARRIAGE (CONT.)

THURS, OCT 29 PARENTS AND CHILDREN

DUE: FERRARO CHPT. 7, “DEATH WITHOUT WEeping” BY SCHEPER-HUGHES

FERRARO CHPT. 11, “AMERICAN SCHOOLROOMS: LEARNING THE NIGHTMARE” BY HENRY

WEEK 10

TUE, NOV 3 GENDER + EXAM REVIEW

DUE: KOTTAK CHPT. 8, “GENDER”

FERRARO CHPT. 8, “SOCIETY AND SEX ROLES” BY FRIEDL

THURS, NOV 5 GENDER (CONT.) + EXAM REVIEW

DUE: “IN SEARCH OF MASCULINITY” BY BOURGOIS

BOURGOIS PAPER DUE TODAY

WEEK 11

TUE, NOV 10

EXAM #2, WEEKS 6-10

THURS, NOV 12 RELIGION & THE SUPERNATURAL

DUE: KOTTAK CHPT. 9, "RELIGION"

WEEK 12

TUE, NOV 17

RELIGION & THE SUPERNATURAL

DUE: FERRARO CHPT 12, "THE NOTION OF WITCHCRAFT" BY EVANS-PRITCHARD
FERRARO CHPT 13, "BASEBALL MAGIC" BY GMELCH

THURS, NOV 19 THE WORLD SYSTEM AND COLONIALISM

DUE: KOTTAK CHPT 10, "THE WORLD SYSTEM AND COLONIALISM"
FERRARO CHPT. 14, "STEEL AXES FOR STONE-AGE AUSTRALIANS" BY SHARP

WEEK 13

TUE, NOV 24

THE WORLD SYSTEM AND COLONIALISM (CONT.)

DUE: FERRARO CHPT. 15, "THE PRICE OF PROGRESS" BY BODLEY

THURS, NOV 26

THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY – NO CLASS

WEEK 14

TUE, DEC 1

ETHNICITY AND RACE

DUE: KOTTAK CHPT. 11, "ETHNICITY AND RACE"

THURS, DEC 3 APPLYING ANTHROPOLOGY

DUE: KOTTAK CHPT. 12, "APPLYING ANTHROPOLOGY"

WEEK 15

TUE, DEC 8

CULTURAL CHANGE AND ENDURANCE

DUE: **ETHNOGRAPHIC PAPER DUE TODAY**

THURS, DEC 10 CULTURAL CHANGE AND ENDURANCE + EXAM REVIEW

DUE: KOTTAK CHPT. 13, "CULTURAL EXCHANGE AND SURVIVAL"

WEEK 16

TUE, DEC 15

EXAM #3, WEEKS 11-15

THURS, DEC 17

FINAL EXAM: COMPREHENSIVE

