

Anthropology 2

Dr. Blair Gibson

Office: ArtB 330 D

Cultural Anthropology

Phone: (310) 532-3670 x 3580

Office hrs: MW 1:30-2:30 PM; TTh 8:30-9 AM; 2-2:30 PM; F 1-2 PM

Faculty web page: www.elcamino.edu/faculty/dbgibson/

Spring 2009

email: dbgibson@elcamino.edu

Course description: This course represents a sampling of the subject matter of the subfields of cultural anthropology. The aim of the course is to impart impressions of the subject matter and accomplishments of the discipline, as well as the concepts and methodologies employed by anthropologists in doing their work. A case study of several specific cultures will be examined as a way of demonstrating the differing ways anthropologists go about the study of culture.

Required Course Texts: *Cultural Anthropology*, 7th ed. Raymond Scupin
Friend by Day, Enemy by Night, Lincoln Keiser
Neither Man nor Woman, Serena Nanda

Course resources: Syllabi, handouts, and Powerpoint lectures can be viewed on the class web page, accessed through my faculty index page. A copy of the textbook is on reserve in the library in the reserve reading area.

Course Objectives / Student Outcomes

The following are what you should be able to do after completing this class

1. Identify the fields of anthropology and major subfields of cultural anthropology and explain which aspect of the human condition each field addresses.
2. Identify and explain each of the major concepts that make up the anthropological perspective.
3. List and assess the different methodologies utilized by cultural anthropologists in the field.
4. Analyze the changes exhibited in the ethnographic description of non-Western social groups from the 19th century to the present.
5. Analyze each aspect of culture (learned, shared, symbolic, patterned, adaptive, ever-changing) and discuss the major theoretical schools associated with each perspective.
6. Assess the importance of language in human communication and outline and explain each of the approaches used to the study of human languages.
7. Compare and contrast the various subsistence strategies (modes of production) utilized by human societies as they interact with the environment.
8. Compare and contrast the systems of exchange typical of foragers, pastoralists, horticulturalists, and agriculturalists.

9. Assess the importance of surplus in the development of social stratification.
10. Describe and analyze the major kinship systems and types of marriages present in humans societies, and reflected by cross-cultural studies.
11. Evaluate the importance of gender studies in anthropology and identify the socioeconomic factors that influence the status of women in societies around the world.
12. Describe and analyze the various levels of sociopolitical organization achieved by human societies.
13. Assess the criteria for social stratification and the potential for social mobility.
14. Compare and contrast the characteristics and functions of religious beliefs and practices by making reference to the level of political organization (band, tribe, chiefdom, state) achieved by a society.
15. Evaluate the factors that account for the emergence of Movements of Revitalization in modern as well as in traditional societies.
16. Assess the effects of European expansion and colonization, industrialism, and globalization on developing nations in general and on indigenous groups in particular.

Anthropology 2 Student Learning Outcome

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

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

2 midterms, 4 quizzes, final exam

Grading: quizzes 15%, midterms 57%; final 28%
Point breakdown : quizzes: 10-25 pts., exams 100 pt. ea..

The tests and quizzes: These are multiple choice and, with the exception of the quizzes, non-cumulative. The tests (but not the quizzes) are multiple choice/matching objective exams that cover the information from the lectures, texts, and the films that will be shown. Bring form 882 ES Scantron form to the exam, and a pencil. Quizzes cover just the reserve and ethnography readings, and don't require a Scantron form. Under no circumstance will I administer an exam to a student before the date published in the syllabus.

How the tests are scored: Only points are awarded on an exam. The instructor will provide a grade scale when handing back the exams. The top of this scale will be set by the highest score achieved on the exam, and the boundaries of grade categories will descend in 10% increments from this score. Periodically throughout the semester 'progress report' scales will be provided as well.

Make-ups: Make-ups are not permitted for quizzes under any circumstances, including arriving late for class on the day of the quiz. Exams, with the exception of the final exam, may only be made up under the following conditions: 1) the reason for missing the exam is a very serious crisis or a school-sanctioned activity, and is documentable – **a family vacation is not an allowable excuse** 2) the instructor has been contacted on the day of the crisis or before. 3) Documentation of the problem is furnished to me prior to taking the make-up. Make-ups may only be taken in my office during my office hours. I will not turn back test results until all make-ups have been completed. I will only delay turning back exams to students one class meeting to allow time for make-ups.

Extra credit: Students are encouraged to do extra-credit assignments. See guidelines for details. Some movies may be viewed for extra credit – they will be announced at the appropriate time. **Warning:** students will be cut off from extra credit if their total of unexcused absences exceeds **two week's worth**. No extra credit will be accepted after the 14th week.

If you have any special problems that may affect your course participation or achievement I will be sympathetic if you discuss them with me at the beginning of the term, not at the end.

STANDARDS OF STUDENT BEHAVIOR

Student responsibilities: *Full participation* is expected from the participants in this course. This responsibility entails attending class meetings and reading the assigned materials. There are consequences for not living up to these responsibilities:

Attendance - I take attendance at the beginning of the period. I don't adjust attendance retroactively, so if a student is late and misses roll, it is the student's responsibility to seek a correction on the day of the tardy. A student who is absent on a given day is still responsible for what transpired in class on that day. Missing class often means not receiving materials, like study guides and guidelines for assignments. The student is to come to the instructor's office during the office hour to obtain any handout or unclaimed work a student has missed due to an absence. Attendance will figure into my grading at the end of term if the grade is borderline. **I consider absences exceeding a week to be excessive. Unexcused absences totaling in excess of two weeks will disqualify one from receiving extra credit.**

Unrighteous behavior - These are the behaviors of students who end up failing or dropping. What they have in common is that they are disruptive to the class. 1) leave the

classroom while lecture is in progress, and for added effect, cross directly in front of me to make sure I lose my train of thought. **I will deduct 20 points from the score from any student leaving class before class has ended.** 2) read a newspaper, talk to your neighbor, show off your laptop computer, or sleep while lecture is in progress. 3) take a cell phone call while class is in progress. These are all effective ways of communicating to me your interest level in the class, and your respect for me as a teacher and for your fellow students.

Cheating: I don't fool around with those who cheat – you will get a 0 for every instance of academic dishonesty, and so will any other collaborator.

Drops - Generally speaking, I will automatically drop anyone with two consecutive week's worth of absences. I may also drop anyone whose point total falls to more than 30 points below passing (after discussing the situation with the affected student). However, oversights occur, so ultimately it is the responsibility of the student to withdraw from the class if the student wishes to do so.

Incompletes - an incomplete will only be given to a student caught in the throes of a crisis not related to class performance. I will not give an incomplete if the student has missed or cannot take the final at the scheduled time except in cases of medical or family emergency.

Grade Reporting – School policy forbids the posting of final grades. If you wish to know your grade ahead of official reporting, bring me a grade card at the final exam, or send an email to me.

Week	Topics	Readings
1	Anthropology: the nature of the field. Culture: what is it?	Scupin: Chpt. 1 Chpt. 6: 139-140: 'Materialism vs. Culturalism.' Scupin: Chpt. 3
2	Research design, methodologies, problems, and ethics Reserve reading: Culture Shock . Keiser: <i>Friend by Day, Enemy by Night</i> , Chpt. 8 - "The politics of fieldwork" Nanda: Epilogue – Fieldwork among the Hijras	Scupin: Chpt. 7
Quiz #1 Thursday, February 25th on class policies and on the above readings (excluding the textbook) (25 pts.).		
3 - 4	The anthropology of the mind	Scupin: Chpt. 4; Chpt. 6: 128-132
5 - 6	Linguistic anthropology	Scupin: Chpt. 5
6 Midterm I on Thursday, March 25th		
7	Family-level foragers and horticulturalists.	Scupin: Chpt. 9; Chpt. 6: 133-135 'Twentieth Century Evolutionism'; 'Steward and Cultural Ecology'

8 - 10 The local group

Scupin: Chpts. 9 & 15
Keiser: the entire book.

9 **Quiz #2 on Keiser: Chpts. 1-4, on Tuesday, April 20th**

10 **Quiz #3 on Keiser: Chpts. 5-7, on Tuesday, April 27th**

11 Chiefdoms

Scupin: Chpt. 10 Chpt. 14: 366-67

Reserve article: 'Chiefdoms, Confederacies, and Statehood in Early Ireland'

12 **Midterm II on Thursday, May 13th**

13 State level organization: primitive states and empires.

Scupin: Chpt. 11

14-16 Industrial states and gobalization,

Scupin Chpts. 12, 13, 14: 364-5 & 15

Nanda: the entire book

15 **Quiz #3 on Nanda, Chpts. 1-5, Tuesday June 1st.**

16 **Final on Thursday of the last week of class – June 10th.**