

ANTHROPOLOGY 2/ EL CAMINO COLLEGE
Sec # 2046/ MW 10:30-11:31; F 10:30-11:20; ARTB 305
Office Hours: MW 12:00-2:00;
F 11:30-12:30

Instructor: Rodolfo A. Otero
Office: ARTB 332D
Extension: 3578
rotero@elcamino.edu

COURSE SYLLABUS/ SPRING 2010
INTRODUCTION TO CULTURAL ANTHROPOLOGY

WELCOME TO ANTHROPOLOGY 2! This is an introductory course to Cultural Anthropology, one of the main branches of general anthropology. Cultural Anthropology is the study of human cultures and societies. It is a field with deep historical roots and profound relevance to contemporary life. The main objective of the course is to provide you with an understanding of the basic concepts and approaches developed by anthropologists for the study of human communities.

There are three parts to the course. Part I includes a basic introduction to the field of anthropology, to the methods of anthropological study, to the concept(s) of culture, and to the basic characteristics of human language. The emphasis of Part II is on the four social systems/institutions on which anthropologists focus their research: economics, kinship, politics, and religion. Part III will briefly address culture change, seen mainly as a result of European colonization, the development and spread of capitalism, and globalization.

Ethnographic material is incorporated to several topics, in order to clarify the concepts discussed in lectures. Topics will be discussed through lecture, assigned readings, and/or anthropological videos. The assigned readings must be completed before the scheduled meetings, as they will enable you to participate in the ongoing discussions.

The following is a list of the course objectives. These are the major concepts you should thoroughly understand by the completion of the semester.

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 human 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.

The following Student Learning Outcome has been developed for the course. By the sixth week of class, the students should be able to successfully complete the requirements outlined in the course level SLO.

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

The following Student learning Outcome has been developed for the program. By the sixth week of class, the students should be able to successfully complete the requirements outlined in the program level SLO.

Students will demonstrate an understanding of the four-field approach in anthropology by outlining each field, identifying which aspects of the study of human beings each field addresses and providing two examples of specializations within each field.

REQUIRED READINGS:

Textbook

Nanda, S. and Warms, R. Cultural Anthropology, 9th edition
Wadsworth, 2007

GRADING:

There will be two components to the grade: exams and weekly assignments.

- (1) There will be three exams, each of which will consist of multiple choice questions. Each exam will be worth 100 points. Regardless of total points accumulated, you need to take every exam in order to be considered for a passing grade in the course.
- (2) You will be required to answer questions (I will provide you with these) on assigned ethnographic segments that are included in the textbook. These are short and easy to read accounts drawn from actual field experiences. The typed answers you submit will serve as platforms for class discussions and **they will be due on the day in which the particular discussions are to take place** (absolutely no exceptions). Each of these assignments is worth 5 points, bringing the total points for these assignments to 50 (there are a total of 10 written assignments).

Grading criteria is as follows:

Three exams @100 points each-----300

Written assignments----- 50

Total possible points-----350

A= 100-90% of total possible points

B= 89-80%

C= 79-70%

D= 69-60%

F= 59% and below

Note:

- (1) **Attendance is mandatory**. Those students with more than five absences will be dropped. Keep in mind that a tardy is equivalent to ½ absence.
- (2) Students who have missed more than four meetings will not be eligible for possible extra credit assignments (no exceptions). Keep in mind that a tardy is equivalent to ½ absence.
- (3) Scantrons (Form 882-E) and #2 pencils will be needed for all exams. You will also need blank sheets of paper on which you will write the answers to essay questions. Exams schedules will not be extended beyond the allotted time, so you should arrive on time.
- (4) Exams are based on text, lecture, and video material. Make-ups will be given on exceptional circumstances only (which will be assessed by the instructor), and only when consultation with the instructor is made no later than 24 hours after the exam, no exceptions.
- (5) Cheating is absolutely prohibited. If a student is caught cheating during an exam, an “F” will be assigned to the exam.
- (6) Please turn all cell phones off before entering the classroom.

- (7) Students are expected to remain in the class for the entire length of the meeting. Those who leave early without previous consultation with the instructor will be marked absent.
- (8) Any changes to this syllabus will be announced in class. It is your responsibility to know of those changes.

LECTURES, READINGS, WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS, VIDEO COMPONENT, AND EXAM SCHEDULE

(According to availability and scheduling, some of the films may be substituted)

Feb. 17, 19, 22	<p>Introduction/ Anthropology and Human Diversity <i>Text:</i> Chapter 1 <i>WA:</i> “Body Ritual among the <i>Nacirema</i>” <i>Video:</i> “The Nature of Anthropology”</p>
Feb. 24, 26, March 1	<p>Doing Cultural Anthropology <i>Text:</i> Chapter 3 <i>WA:</i> “An Ethnographic Field Study in India” <i>Video:</i> “How Cultures are Studied”</p>
March 3, 5, 8	<p>The Idea of Culture <i>Text:</i> Chapter 4 <i>WA:</i> “Preschools in Japan, China, and the United States”</p>
March 10, 12, 15, 17	<p>Language <i>Text:</i> Chapter 5 <i>WA:</i> “Genderlects”</p>
March 19	<p><u>Review for Exam #1</u></p>
March 22	<p>EXAM # 1</p>
March 24, 26, 29, 31, April 2	<p>Making a Living <i>Text:</i> Chapter 6 <i>WA:</i> (1) “The Maasai of East Africa” (2) “The Lua” of Thailand <i>Videos:</i> “Patterns of Subsistence: Food Foragers and Pastoralists” “Patterns of Subsistence: The Food Producers”</p>
April 5	<p>Economics <i>Text:</i> Chapter 7 (selected sections)</p>
April 7, 9, 19	<p>Marriage and Family <i>Text:</i> Chapter 8 <i>WA:</i> “Matrilineal Families among the Minangkabau of Sumatra”</p>

April 21, 23, 26	Kinship <i>Text:</i> Chapter 9 <i>Videos:</i> “Kinship and Descent, Part I”
April 28, 30 May 3	Gender <i>Text:</i> Chapter 10 (selected sections) <i>WA:</i> “The Hijras: An Alternative Gender Role in India”
May 5	<u>Review for Exam #2</u>
May 7	EXAM # 2
May 10, 12, 14	Political Organization <i>Text:</i> Chapter 11 <i>WA:</i> “Wealth and Power in the Precolonial <i>Asante</i> State” <i>Video:</i> “Political Organization”
May 17, 19, 21, 24	Religion and Ritual <i>Text:</i> Chapter 14 <i>WA:</i> “The Rastafari: Religion and Resistance to Domination” <i>Video:</i> “The <i>Asmat</i> of New Guinea”
May 26, 28, June 2, 4	Culture Change in the Modern World <i>Text:</i> Chapter 17
June 7	<u>Review for Final Exam</u>
June 9, 11	FINAL EXAM
	HAVE A GREAT SUMMER!!!