

Emory University
Department of Anthropology

Anthropology 202-000 (Opus #4429)
**Introduction to Cultural Anthropology:
Concepts and Methods**

Fall, 2015
Tuesdays / Thursdays: 10:00 – 11:15am
Anthropology Building, Room #303

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SYNOPSIS

This introductory course engages students with the depth and the breadth of human cultural diversity across different world areas in the present and in the past. We will address the nature and range of cultural orientations, including with respect to environment and economics, ethnicity and race, gender and sexuality, power and politics, and belief systems and religion. The course considers how cultural beliefs inform – and are sometimes at odds with – patterns of behavior. We will also explore how global and international forces alternately constrain and fuel cultural differences. This course is appropriate for beginning students and for any student interested in expanding their understanding of social and cultural diversity and of humanity as a whole. This course is also a requirement for Anthropology majors, including those seeking either a BA or a BS degree in Anthropology.

Reading for this course includes a broad cultural anthropology source book and three cultural anthropology case studies, including one authored by the instructor, concerning societies in different parts of the world.

This course has no pre-requisites and is geared to the interests of any student who is seriously interested in the dynamics of cultural diversity.

Turning Technologies electronic “clickers” will be used for class attendance, student polling, and answering questions in class. These clickers are required for all students.

Books to be bought [be sure you have the correct **edition**]:

Philippe Bourgois, *In Search of Respect: Selling Crack in El Barrio*, 2ND EDITION. Cambridge University Press, 2002

Jack David Eller, *Cultural Anthropology: Global Forces, Local Lives* 2nd EDITION. Routledge Press, 2013

Bruce M. Knauft, *The Gebusi: Lives Transformed in a Rainforest World*, 3rd EDITION.
McGraw-Hill, 2013

Wynne Maggi, *Our Women are Free: Gender and Ethnicity in the Hindukush*. University of Michigan Press, 2001

Note: It is important that readings be done in advance and that students come to class prepared for instruction. Check your syllabus ahead for assignments!

Honor Code. The honor code is in effect for this class. Please make certain that all written work is your own, not shared, and that any quoted or paraphrased material from public or published sources is acknowledged and cited appropriately. Closely paraphrased material from published sources must be cited by page number (or web page); directly quoted material must be enclosed by quotation marks and cited by page number. Course books can be cited in papers by simply indicating author and page number, e.g., (Maggi, p. 45).

Missed classes. Attendance will be taken at each class. Signing in for another student is a breach of the honor code and can result in flunking the class. *Procedures for recouping credit for missed classes are posted on the class BlackBoard site.*

Class conduct: Please arrive on time. Cell phones, blackberries, iPhones, iPods, etc. should not be used for communication during class, including SMS or web use. Use of personal computers or tablets for purposes other than taking notes or as directed by the instructor is not in the interest of students and is not allowed.

Assignments and late penalties. Course assignments will be submitted via Blackboard or email as designated by the instructors. Late assignments will have 3 percentage points deducted per hour for the first 72 hours -- that is, a maximum late penalty of two-and-a-quarter grades ($3\% \times 72 \text{ hours late} = 2.26 \text{ grades}$) for being three full days late.

Course Requirements

(1) Attendance and class participation = 8 points. Regular course attendance and reading the material in advance is key to success in this course. It is your responsibility to make sure you have registered your attendance by responding to the clicker questions in class. It is an honor code violation to misrepresent or to be misrepresented in attendance.

(2) On-line ethnographic assignments = 9 x 2 points each = 18 points.

Each assignment consists of (a) watching an on-line instructor video via the course BB site and (b) taking an associated online BB objective multiple answer quiz (typically 10 questions). You can watch the instruction video as many times as you like, but the quiz is taken online just once, with no backtracking. Partial +/- credit is given for partly correct quiz answers, with no question scores recorded lower than zero. Ethnographic assignment topics and time-frames are provided in the syllabus. Quizzes become automatically

unavailable after the deadline noted in the syllabus. NOTE: Use Firefox as your browser when taking the online quiz, as this is the most stable platform for BB. NOTE: It is an Honor Code violation to discuss the quiz with other students who have not taken it.

(3) Three ethnographic assignments = 6 points each = 18 points total. These short assignments consider key themes in each book and include specific illustration of points with cited examples, interpretation, and analysis. Specific instruction will be given for each of the three assignments. Configure your assignments directly, well, and concisely! Ethnographic assignments are submitted electronically *prior to class at 9:30am* on the day listed in the syllabus.

Note: If you are satisfied with your ethnographic assignment grades, you have the option of foregoing the final comparative ethnography assignment (see below) and instead have your three ethnographic assignment grades count for 8 points each = 24 points total.

(4) Mid-term examination = 20 points: October 20 in class. This exam will combine multiple choice and true/false questions. Make up exams will be analytic essay that for many students is at least as difficult as the original examination.

Note: The examination will include questions concerning course lecture material, films, and ethnographies in addition to material in the Eller sourcebook.

(5) Optional: One ethnographic comparative and analytic essay (750 words) = 6 points. Due last class December 8 @ 9:30am. [No late papers accepted after 5pm December 8.] This essay will document and analytically compare and contrast two of the three ethnographies along ONE of the following five issues:

- gender and sexuality
- the challenges of social and cultural change
- the challenges of economic survival and success
- the relation of the ethnographic community of focus to the outside / external world
- the relation of the ethnographer to the people and circumstances studied.

Note: If you choose *not* to submit the comparative ethnographic essay, your individual ethnographic assignment grades (#2 above) will together count as 24 points toward your final grade rather than 18 points.

(6) Final examination = 30 points: Particulars similar to those for the mid-term exam. Approximately 70% of the final exam will concern material covered during the second half of the course (after the mid-term exam); the remaining 30% will cover material from the first half of the course. **The final exam is Tuesday, Dec 15, from 3:00 to 5:30pm.**

(7) Extra Credit. Extra credit up to 6 points (6/10 of one grade) will be available by attendance and write-up of non-class scholarly lectures at Emory or posted videos or films that are relevant to cultural anthropology. See separate handout and posting on Blackboard for details. Students submit extra credit assignments on Blackboard.

SYLLABUS

Aug 27, Thurs: Introduction to Cultural Anthropology and to the course

Sept 1, Tues: The nature of Anthropology and of cultural diversity

Read: Eller, Chapters 1, 2 + start reading "The Gebusi"

Online segment #1, "General Anthropology & Studying Culture," is available after class until Sept 4 at 5:00pm

Sept 3, Thurs: Language, symbolism, and cultural communication

Read: Eller, Chapter 4 + "The Gebusi," at least through Chapter 1

Online segment #2, "Language," is available after class until Sept 8 at 9:30am

Sept 8, Tues: Livelihood I: Subsistence

Read: Eller, Chapter 7 + "The Gebusi," at least through Chapter 2

Online segment #3, "Livelihoods," is available after class until Sept 15 at 9:30am

Sept 10, Thurs: Livelihood II: Economics and Exchange

Read: Eller, Chapter 7 + "The Gebusi," at least through Chapter 3

Sept 15, Tues: Social Organization and Kinship

Read: Eller, Chapter 8 + "The Gebusi," at least through Chapter 4

Online segment #4, "Social Organization," is available after class until Sept 22 at 9:30am

Sept 17, Thurs: The Gebusi (I): A Traditional Culture?!

Read: *The Gebusi* Part I (at least Chapters 1-6)

Sept 22, Tues: The Gebusi (II&III): Radical Change & Return to the Past

Read: *The Gebusi* Part II (chapters 7 – Conclusion) + Eller Chapter 11

Sept 24, Thurs: Race / Ethnicity

Read: Eller, Chapter 6

DUE: Short (450 words) analytic essay on *The Gebusi*, submitted by 9:30am. Late penalties apply.

Sept 29, Tues: Gender

Read: **Nanda & Warms**, Chapter 10, Re-read Gebusi Chapter 8-9

Online segment #5, "Gender," is available after class until Oct 6 at 9:30am

Oct 1, Thurs: Sexuality

Read: **Nanda & Warms**, Chapter 10, Re-read Gebusi Chapter 5

Online segment #6, "Sexuality," is available after class until Oct 8 at 9:30am

Oct 6, Tues: Film; *Middle Sexes*

Oct 8, Thursday: Alternative sexualities / Discussion of *Middle Sexes*

[Oct 13, Tues: Fall Break, No Class]

Oct 15, Thurs: Review session for the mid-term

Oct 20, Tues: Mid-term examination. Arrive on time. Do not miss!

Oct 22, Thurs: Review Midterm.

Read: Maggi, *Our Women are Free*, Introduction & chapter 1

Oct 27, Tues: Religion and Spirituality

Read: Eller, Chapter 10 + read Maggi *Our Women are Free*, Chapters 2 & 3

Oct 29, Thurs: Politics and Political formations

Read: Eller, Chapter 9

Online segment #7, "Applied Politics," is available after class until Nov 5 at 9:30am

Nov 3, Tues: Gender, Ethnography and Culture in the Hindu Kush, Part I

Read: *Our Women are Free*, Chapter 4 & 5

Nov 5, Thurs: Gender, Ethnography, and Culture in the Hindu Kush, Part II

Read: *Our Women are Free*, Chapters 6 & conclusion

Nov 10, Tues: Colonialism, globalization – and the origins of Anthropology

Read: Eller, Chapter 12 + start reading *In Search of Respect*

DUE: 9:30am: Assignment on *Our Women Are Free*. Late penalties apply.

Nov 12, Thurs: Economic Development, Modernization, and Modernity

Read: Eller, Chapter 14 + continue reading *In Search of Respect*

Online segment #8, "Development & Underdevelopment," is available after class until Nov 19 at 9:30am

Nov 17, Tues: Crack Dealers in Harlem, Part I

Read: Bourgois, *In Search of Respect*

Nov 19, Thurs: Crack Dealers in Harlem, Part II: Conclusion and Larger Context

Read: Final assigned chapters of *In Search of Respect*

Nov 24, Tues: Film, *Maria, Full of Grace*

DUE: 9:30am: Assignment on *In Search of Respect*. Late penalties apply.

[Nov 26, Thurs: Thanksgiving. No Class.]

Dec 1, Tues: Nationalism, Post-colonialism, Ethnicity, and Conflict

Read: Eller, Chapter 13

Online segment #9, "The Nation-State and Modern Conflict," is available after class until Dec 8 at 9:30am

Dec 3, Thurs: The Future of Ethnography

Read: Eller, Chapter 15

Dec. 8, Tues: The Future of Anthropology. Last day of class wrap-up

DUE: 9:30am Comparative ethnographic analytic paper. Late penalties apply through 5:00pm; no papers accepted after 5:00pm

Dec. 15, Tues, 3:00 – 5:30pm: Final examination. Not to be missed.