INTRODUCTION TO CULTURAL ANTHROPOLOGY - ANTH 101 (Fall 2010)
Lectures: Mondays & Wednesdays, 2:15–3:35pm – Loree 022, Douglass Campus
Sections: Once a week according to registration schedule

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COURSE DESCRIPTION:
Cultural anthropology has long been considered the most humanistic of the social sciences and the most scientific of the humanities. Anthropology intersects in its subject matter with almost every area in the academy—the arts, literature, religion, history, politics, economics, and the natural sciences—but its particular claim to knowledge build on its singular method and practice – that of ethnographic fieldwork – makes it unique among the disciplines. The anthropological method – what the late Clifford Geertz called “deep hanging out” - presumes that the ethnographer uses his or her own mind and body as the units of measurement, tracking their own degrees of understanding, alienation, and learning as they immerse themselves in someone else’s world and try to make sense of it while simultaneously overcoming one’s own ethnocentric thinking. The classic fieldwork goal is to document how “cultural knowledge”—that is to say, the discursive and bodily practices that constitute a sense of the appropriate in any given setting—is marked at multiple registers by legal codes, “common sense,” aesthetic judgments, unspoken habits, and even “patterned randomness.”

Using lectures, films and discussion, this course surveys the key areas of inquiry in contemporary cultural anthropology and offers insights into how the seemingly most commonsensical aspects of any person’s life can be informed by the cultural and social contexts of which they are part, contexts that may shift continually and resist easy and straightforward scrutiny. Questions addressed include: What is anthropology? What do cultural anthropologists study? What is the role of fieldwork and ethnography in the work of anthropologists? What is culture? And what is the role of culture in shaping social organization, economic pursuits, political strategies, religious beliefs, and other dimensions of human life? How do ideas about culture contribute to practices of discrimination and social exclusion along the lines of race, gender, class, or citizenship? How do we study local and not-so-local people in relationship to global and transnational processes and structures such as colonialism, capitalism, and neoliberalism? This course is a prerequisite for most upper-level anthropology courses and a requirement for anthropology majors.

COURSE OBJECTIVES: After taking this course, attentive students will be able to:

- Understand patterns of similarity and difference in human societies worldwide including the U.S.
- Grasp the role of culture in shaping the lives of societies and individuals.
- Identify, explain and historically contextualize the fundamental concepts, modes of analysis, and central questions of cultural anthropology.
- Acquire awareness of own ethnocentric thinking and become reflexive about it.
- Use anthropological concepts and examples to understand contemporary social issues.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS: Student grades will be based on 100 points divided as follows: three exams (20 each), one short paper (15 points), the best three out of four pop quizzes (5 points each, 15 points total), and section participation (10 points).

Exams: Each exam will consist of 50 multiple choices and fill in the blank questions that address material covered in lectures, discussions, films and course readings since the last exam. Exams will be taken using Scantron sheets. Exam III will only cover material from the last third of the course, i.e. it is not a cumulative exam.
Short Paper: One three-page paper will be assigned, due the week of Monday, November 29 (depending on your Section), worth 15 points, or 15% of your final grade. The grading criteria will be specified on the assignment sheet.

Pop Quizzes: Four unannounced pop quizzes will be given in Lecture during the course of the semester. They will consist of five short-answer questions based on the readings assigned for that class. You may drop your lowest quiz grade, so that your three best quizzes count towards your course grade. No make up quizzes will be given.

COURSE POLICIES:
Attendance: Although the lecture class is too large to monitor attendance, exam questions will address material covered in class but not in the readings, so regular attendance is highly recommended. Attendance at recitation sections is required and attendance will be taken at the beginning of each recitation. More than two unexcused absences and/or late arrivals (defined as more than 10 minutes after class has started) from recitation section will lower your final grade by 10 points.

Exams: On exam days, you are required to bring your student ID and a pencil. NO CHEATING will be tolerated, and anyone found cheating will receive an “F” grade for the class. Only TWO MAKE-UP TIMES will be scheduled for Exam I and II. To qualify to take a make-up exam during these times, you must contact your TA or Prof. Berg within 24 hours of missing the exams, and have a letter from your Dean as proof of an excused absence (those defined by University rules, such as a documented medical problem). If you miss Exam I or II with an approved excused absence, you must take the make-up during one of the two scheduled make-up times – no exceptions will be made. If you miss Exam III with an approved absence, you will receive a “Temporary” “F” grade for the class and have to take a different version of the exam during the first week of classes in January – no exceptions will be made.

Pop Quizzes: If you are late to class and arrive after the pop quiz has started, or if you are absent from class on the day a pop quiz is given, whatever your excuse, you will not be able to take a make-up.

Short Paper: You must bring a typed, printed copy of your paper to your Section on the date it is due – no late papers will be accepted. If you have to miss class on the day the paper is due, you must put a copy in your TAs mailbox (on the 3rd floor of the Ruth Adams Building) by the end of the class you missed. No email attachments will be accepted unless your TA authorizes you to do so!

Grading Scale: A = 90 and above; B+ = 88-89; B = 80-87; C+ = 78-79; C = 70-77; D = 60-69; F = 59 and below.

Grade Appeals: I do not discuss grades with students via email. If you want to know your score on an exam, or have a question or a complaint about your grade, please come see me in office hours.

Films: If you miss a class where a film is shown, the films will be available on reserve for one week from the date of the class showing at the Media Center on Douglass Campus. The title and call number of each video are listed on the syllabus. Call ahead to make an appointment: 732-445-4980. There will be questions on all films on each exam.

Academic Integrity: All students must strictly adhere to the Rutgers Academic Integrity Policy, which identifies and defines violations of cheating, fabrication, facilitating academic dishonesty, plagiarism, and denying others access to information or material. Full definitions of each of these violations, as well as the consequences of violating the Academic Integrity Policy are available as part of the student handbook. For details see: http://ctaar.rutgers.edu/integrity/policy.html#integrity

Classroom expectations:
• Cell phones and IPods must be turned off!
• No chatting during class
• No headphones or listening to music
• Come to recitations prepared to discuss
• No reading the newspaper or other non-course material
• Show courtesy to your instructors and classmates

COURSE WEBSITE: There is a Sakai website (sakai.rutgers.edu) that accompanies this course from which students can download course materials (syllabus, exercises, lecture outlines) and receive announcements. If you have trouble accessing the site, please consult your TA.
ASSIGNED TEXTS (available at the Rutgers University Bookstore, the Cook-Douglass Bookstore, the Livingston Bookstore and from online commercial bookstores):

James Spradley & David McCurdy, Conformity and Conflict: Readings in Cultural Anthropology. New York: Longman. THIRTEENTH EDITION – no other edition is acceptable. [CC in course outline]


The following additional required readings [S in course outline] are available on Sakai under the “Resources” link:

S-1 Raymond Williams. 1985, “Culture” and “Society.” In Keywords: A Vocabulary of Culture and Society. New York: Oxford University Press
S-3 Bronislaw Malinowski: Intro to Argonauts of the Western Pacific.
S-17 Raymond Williams. 1985, “Capitalism.” In Keywords: A Vocabulary of Culture and Society. New York: Oxford University Press
New York University Press.
S-32 Elana Zilberg. 2004. Fools Banished from the Kingdom: Remapping Geographies of Gang Violence between  
the Americas (Los Angeles and San Salvador). In American Quarterly, Vol. 56(3): 759-779
S-33 Barbara Myerhoff. Number Our Days, selection TBD.

Films:
Cannibal Tours (2-2625, Dir. by Dennis O'Rourke, 1988, TRT 72 mins)
Off the Verandah (2-2520, Dir. by Andre Singer, 1985, TRT 52 mins)
Franz Boas, 1858-1942 (2-967; Dir. by T. W. Timreck, 1988, TRT 60 mins)
Ongka’s Big Moka (327, Granada television International, 1974, TRT 60 mins)
First Person Plural (10-722, Dir. by Deann Borshay Liem, 2000, TRT 60 mins)
XXXY (10-1001, Produced by Porter Gale and Laleh Soomekh, 2000, TRT 13 mins)
Les Maîtres Fous (2-7852, Dir. by Jean Rouch, 1954, TRT 35 mins)
Little Injustices (2-9572, Dir. by Terry Kay Rockefeller, 1981, TRT 59 mins)
Mirrors of the Heart (2-1916, Dir. by Lourdes Portillo, 1993, TRT 60 mins)
Amazon Journal (2-2757; Dir. by Geoffrey O’Connor, 1995, TRT 58 mins)
Number Our Days (D-323, Dir. by Lynne Littman, 1983, TRT 29 mins)
Anthropology: Real People, Real Careers (42 mins)

COURSE OUTLINE

We  9/1  Introduction – What is Anthropology?  
CC- pp. 2-6, CC-1 (Spradley)

Mo  9/6  Labor Day – no class!

We  9/8  The Culture Concept  
CC-2 (Lee), S-1 (Williams), S-2 (Geertz)

Mo  9/13  Cultural Encounters  
CC-3 (Bohannan), CC-29 (Fox)  
Film: Cannibal Tours (TRT 72 min)

We  9/15  Ethnographic Fieldwork  
CC-4 (Sterk), CC-5 (Gmelch)  
S-3 (Malinowski), S-4 (Gupta and Ferguson)  
Film: Off the Verandah (2-2520, TRT 52 min)

Mo  9/20  A Brief History of Sociocultural Anthropology – the Anglo-American Traditions  
S-5 (Kuper), S-6 (Boas)  
Film: Franz Boas, 1858-1942 (2-967; TRT 60 mins)
We 9/22  Writing about Culture  
S-7 (Behar), S-8 (Clifford)

Mo 9/27  Anthropological Controversies: Ethics and Fieldwork  
S-9 (Freeman), S-10 (Weiner), S-11 (Gledhill), S-12 (NYTimes article)

We 9/29  Language and Culture  
CC: pps. 53-55.  
S-13 (Whorf), S-14 (Boroditsky)  
Special presentation by Dr. Laura Ahearn

Mo 10/4  Language, Power, and Race  
S-15 (Hill), S-16 (Graham et al.)

We 10/6  EXAM I

Mo 10/11  Ecology and Subsistence  
CC–pps. 84-87, CC-10 (Lee), CC-13 (Reed)  
Film: N!ai, The Story of a !Kung Woman (2-1638, TRT 59 min.)

We 10/13  Economic Systems I: Exchange and Circulation  
The Gift (Mauss)

Mo 10/18  Exchange and Circulation, cont.  
CC: pps. 136-138, CC-27 (Harris)  
Film: “Ongka’s Big Moka” (327, TRT 60 min)

We 10/20  Economic Systems II: Anthropology and Political Economy  
S-17 (Williams), S-18 (Edelman and Haugerud [Intro + Smith, Marx & Engels, Weber, and Polanyi])  
CC-14 (Weatherford), CC-15 (Bourgois)

Mo 10/25  Kinship and family  
CC – pps. 173-175  
CC-16 (Scheper-Hughes), CC-17 (McCurdy), S-19 (Starck)

We 10/27  After Kinship: Cultures of Relatedness  
S-20 (Carsten), S-21 (Weston), S-22 (Yngvesson)  
Film: First Person Plural (TRT 60 min)

Mo 11/1  Gender and Sexuality  
S-23 (Martin), S-24 (Fausto-Sterling), S-25 (di Leonardo)  
Film: XXXY (TRT 13 mins)

We 11/3  EXAM II

Mo 11/8  Religion, Ritual, Magic, and Worldview  
CC – pp. 299-302  
CC-31 (Gmelch), CC-32 (Dubisch), CC-33 (Miner)  
Film: Les Maitres Fous (Mad Masters) (2-7852, TRT 35 min)

We 11/10  Law, Politics & Social Order  
CC-pps. 260-262  
CC-26 (Sutherland), S-26 (Goldstein)  
Film: Little Injustices (2-957; TRT 59 mins)
Mo 11/15  Race and ethnicity
S-27 (AAA statement on race), S-28 (Delgado and Stefancic), S-29 (Hartigan), S-30 (De la Cadena)

We 11/17  Film: “Mirrors of the Heart” (2-1916, TRT 60 min.)

*** No sections on Nov. 15-19 because of the Annual Meetings of the American Anthropological Association***

Mo 11/22  Nation-States, Citizenship, and Belonging
S-31 (De Genova and Ramos-Zayas), S-32 (Zilberg)

*** No class on Wed 24 Nov because of Thanksgiving schedule ***
*** No sections on Wed 21 Nov or Thurs 22 Nov because of Thanksgiving schedule***

Mo 11/29  Beyond Nation-states: Global Migration and Diasporas [SHORT PAPER DUE IN SECTIONS]
CC-pps. 341-343
CC-15 (Ehrenreich and Hochschild), CC-34 (Shandy)

We 12/1  Anthropology and Social Change
CC-pps. 381-384
CC-37 (Turner), CC-35 (Patten)
Film: Amazon Journal (2-2757; TRT 58 mins)

Mo 12/6  Culture and Continuity
S-33 (Myerhoff)
Film: Number Our Days (D-323, TRT 27 min)

We 12/8  Putting Anthropology to Use
CC-36 (McCurdy), CC-37 (Omohundro)
Film: Anthropology: Real People, Real Careers (42 mins)

Mo 12/13  Conclusion & Review: What have we learned?

Fri 12/22  EXAM III (4-7pm, Place TBA)