

GRANDE PRAIRIE REGIONAL COLLEGE
DEPARTMENT OF ARTS, COMMERCE AND EDUCATION
ANTHROPOLOGY 2070, WINTER 2000
INTRODUCTION TO SOCIAL AND CULTURAL ANTHROPOLOGY

Instructor: Dr. Laurie Nock

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Office Hours: Tuesdays 1-2.30 p.m., Wednesdays 1-2.30p.m. Drop-ins welcome.

Prerequisite: Anthropology 1010

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course has three main purposes:

- 1) to establish an anthropological framework which can be used to facilitate understanding of the diverse cultures of this world, and to apply this framework to specific cultures;
- 2) to introduce students to a variety of research methods used by anthropologists; and
- 3) to study a variety of topics in cross-cultural perspective.

REQUIREMENTS AND EVALUATION

A total of six written assignments are required, each worth 12.5% of the final course grade (75% in total). They are marked using the stanine system, and should be double-spaced. Length should not exceed ten pages (2500 words). Assignments must be handed in to the instructor by Friday at 3 p.m. of the week they are due. Tardiness will likely result in the loss of 3 out of 9 grade points on the assignment. Timing is crucial, and you are advised to begin work quickly!

Ethnography assignments: At the beginning of term, students will select one ethnography and one culture in which they will become experts. At least twice during the term, they will submit a discussion of particular aspects of that culture, making use also of course texts and supplementary materials, with appropriate references. Two of these assignments are required.

Ethnology assignments: Many cultures and many topics are presented in class discussions and in course readings. Select two of these and pursue them through a modest amount of further research in the Library (in print materials) or on the Internet. Write up your findings in a five-page paper (double-spaced) with proper references. At least two of these are required.

Research methods: Students will implement different forms of research methodology, to be written up in a short report (approximately 5 double-spaced pages). Two of these are required.

More than two of any of these assignments may be submitted to improve grades, but one type may not be substituted for another. For due dates and more detailed descriptions, see below. The final week of classes (Week 13), you may submit one missed assignment of any sort.

On Thursdays, you will be requested to report on your assignment for the week, and there will also be in-class assignments (quizzes, group discussions, etc.) timed at the instructor's discretion. These will be worth 25% percent of the final course grade. Ample opportunity to earn points will be provided, so there will be no make-ups for in-class work. For this portion of the course, calculate your mark as a percentage of total marks obtainable.

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|---------|-----|
| 70-100% | = 9 |
| 61-69% | = 8 |
| 55-60% | = 7 |
| 50-54% | = 6 |
| 45-49% | = 5 |
| 40-44% | = 4 |
| 35-39% | = 3 |
| 30-34% | = 2 |
| 10-29% | = 1 |
| 0-10% | = 0 |

TEXTS

Barbara Miller, CULTURAL ANTHROPOLOGY. Allyn and Bacon, 1999. (CA)

William A. Haviland and Robert J. Gordon, Eds., TALKING ABOUT PEOPLE: READINGS IN CONTEMPORARY CULTURAL ANTHROPOLOGY. Mayfield Publishing, 1993. (TAP)

SCHEDULE OF TOPICS, READINGS AND ASSIGNMENTS

Readings are in Barbara Miller, CULTURAL ANTHROPOLOGY (CA) and William A. Haviland and Robert J. Gordon, Eds., TALKING ABOUT PEOPLE: READINGS IN CONTEMPORARY CULTURAL ANTHROPOLOGY (TAP).

Week 0. Introduction; Research Methods
CA 1 Anthropology and the study of culture.
2 Methods in cultural anthropology

Weeks 1-2 Economic systems
CA 3 Economies and their modes of production
4 Consumption and exchange
TAP Nomads on notice (73-75)
The secrets of ancient Tiwanaku are benefiting today's Bolivia (76-78)
Crack in Spanish Harlem (88-94)
Coca eradication: a remedy for independence? (223-230)
Dealing with used clothing (95-103)

WEEK 1: ETHNOGRAPHY: ECONOMIC ORGANIZATION

WEEK 2: ETHNOLOGY: ECONOMIC TOPIC

WEEK 2: RESEARCH METHOD: PARTICIPANT OBSERVATION

Weeks 3-4 Political systems
CA 11 Politics and leadership
12 Social order and social conflict
TAP What's a nation? Latest thinking (188-189)
Deceptive stereotypes about "tribal warfare" (190-192)
Why the women went to war (182-187)

WEEK 3: ETHNOGRAPHY: POLITICAL ORGANIZATION

WEEK 4: ETHNOLOGY: POLITICAL TOPIC

WEEK 3: RESEARCH METHOD: INTERVIEW

WEEK 4: RESEARCH METHOD: FOCUS GROUP

Weeks 5-7 Social systems: social interaction, kinship, gender, life cycle
CA 10 Social groups and social stratification
8 Kinship dynamics
9 Domestic groups
5 Birth and death
TAP Owning places and buying time (167-175)
Arranging a marriage in India (106-109)
"Ladies" behind bars: a liminal gender as cultural mirror (110-114)
Polygamists emerge from secrecy, seeking not just peace but respect
(125-127)

WEEK 6: ETHNOGRAPHY: SOCIAL ORGANIZATION

WEEK 7: ETHNOLOGY: SOCIAL TOPIC

WEEK 5: RESEARCH METHOD: ORAL HISTORY

WEEK 6: RESEARCH METHOD: LIFE HISTORY

WEEK 7: RESEARCH METHOD: ARCHIVAL RESEARCH

Weeks 8-9 Ideological systems: religion, art, worldview, science
CA 13 Religion
15 Expressive culture
7 Illness and healing
TAP Into the endzone for a touchdown: a psychoanalytic consideration of
American football (64-70)
The anthropologist as mother (57-63)

WEEK 8: ETHNOGRAPHY: IDEOLOGICAL / RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATION

WEEK 9: ETHNOLOGY: IDEOLOGICAL TOPIC

WEEK 8: RESEARCH METHOD: DOCUMENTARY RESEARCH

WEEK 9: RESEARCH METHOD: CONTENT ANALYSIS

Weeks 10-12 "Cultures" in contact: development and modernization

CA 16 People on the move

17 Development anthropology

TAP The anti-politics machine: "development" and bureaucratic power in
Lesotho (234-240)

The Bushmen of today (269-275)

A special sort of pleading: anthropology at the service of ethnic groups
(15-23)

WEEK 11: ETHNOGRAPHY: DEVELOPMENT

WEEK 12: ETHNOLOGY: DEVELOPMENT

WEEK 10: RESEARCH METHOD: GENEALOGY

ETHNOGRAPHY ASSIGNMENTS

Two of these assignments are required.

At the beginning of term, select one ethnography and one culture in which you will become an expert. At the appropriate time during the term, submit a discussion of particular aspects of that culture, including the information specified below.

You must include enough information about the way of life of the people you are studying to provide a context for your topic. Include at the beginning of your paper a brief presentation of your ethnographic source material: the ethnographer, when and how materials were collected, and your general evaluation of the text. In this way, you can avoid constant reference to source material.

You are also expected to demonstrate an understanding of how the practices of this culture make sense in the context of anthropology as a whole. For this, make use of the course texts, using the Reference Guidelines below.

ECONOMIC ORGANIZATION

geographical location, climate
productive activities, resources available and used, technological base
access to and ownership of resources, e.g. land, animals, tools
division of labor and/or occupational specialization
distribution of production: sharing, trade and/or tribute

SOCIAL ORGANIZATION

demographic features (size of population and population density)
residence/settlement pattern
type of community; egalitarian or hierarchical society
non-kin based organizations
family and kinship structure
marital patterns and practices; gender relations

POLITICAL ORGANIZATION

type of government and authority structures
conflict resolution and social control—law, enforcers
relations w/ neighbors—war, trade

IDEOLOGY, WORLDVIEW, RELIGION

art forms
mythology, deities, forms of worship
ceremonies and rituals

ETHNOLOGY ASSIGNMENTS

Two of these assignments are required.

This is your opportunity to carry out further research on topics or cultures which intrigue you. Pursue your interest in a particular topic through further research in the Library (in print materials) or on the Internet. Write up your findings in a paper of up to ten pages, (double-spaced) with proper references. Your topic must coincide with the subject area of focus in the course at the time (see Course Schedule). Proper referencing is required.

RESEARCH METHODS

Two of these assignments are required.

Following a discussion of the research methods, you will devise and carry out a short research project and evaluate the usefulness of the method to research and to yourself. A very short report on your experience and the results of your research will be presented to the class and submitted in writing to the instructor (up to ten pages). See Course Schedule for appropriate dates.

GUIDE TO REFERENCES

It's not as difficult as it seems!

If you use a direct quote from an author, your source must be acknowledged. The quotation must be exact!

- Example: "English, which has terms for many special vehicles—cart, stretcher, auto, sled, snowmobile—lacks a general term for wheeled vehicles. Yet this does not prevent communication about wheeled vehicles as distinguished from sleds and helicopters when the need arises" (Harris, 1997, p. 110).

If you paraphrase an author or use ideas which are not your own, your source must still be acknowledged.

- Example: To maintain support for their actions, politicians commonly conceal the horror of war by manipulating language (Macdonald, 1995, p.185).

In referring to an author whose work is cited in a text you are using, refer to the latter, not to the original source.

- Example: When the speech of some social groups is labeled substandard, it is usually for political reasons (Gal, Woolard and Schieffelin as paraphrased in Harris, 1997, p.111).

List of References

Macdonald, Sally (1995). Armed situation impacts severely, linguistics-wise: war is hell on plain speaking. In Jean-Luc Chodkiewicz (Ed.), Peoples of the Past and Present: Readings in Anthropology (pp. 185-186). Toronto: Harcourt Brace.

Harris, Marvin (1997). Culture, People, Nature: An Introduction to General Anthropology. New York: Longman.

Saletan, W. (1996, June). The dark side: What you need to know about Bob Dole. Mother Jones [Online].

<http://www.mojones.com/MOTHERJONES/JF96/dole/dole.html>

These go in alphabetical order according to the (first) author's surname. Anthology articles (and journal articles) are attributed to the author/s of the article, not the editors of the volume. The year of publication is the year of the anthology, not the original year of publication of the article. Underline titles of books or journals. Consult an APA formal style guide, if you have doubts.