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GRANDE PRAIRIE REGIONAL COLLEGE
DEPARTMENT OF ARTS, COMMERCE AND EDUCATION
ANTHROPOLOGY 2070, 2001
INTRODUCTION TO SOCIAL AND CULTURAL ANTHROPOLOGY

Instructor: Dr. Laurie Nock

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Office Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays 1-2:30 p.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., the week they are due. Timing is crucial, and you are advised to begin work quickly! You should have completed at least two assignments by week 7.

Ethnography assignments: At the beginning of term, students will select an ethnography of 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 topics and pursue them through a modest amount of cross-cultural research in the Library (in print materials) or on the Internet. Write up your findings 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 report. 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 Fridays, students will report on their assignment for the week, and there will also be in-class assignments (quizzes, group discussions, etc.) timed at the instructor's discretion. These reports and assignments 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 only, calculate your mark as a percentage of total marks obtainable.

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, 1996. (TAP)

ANTHROPOLOGY 2070, 2001: 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 in a paper of up to 10 pages, double-spaced (2500 words).

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. It is your responsibility to select topics on which your ethnography provides sufficient information, or to supplement this information.

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 Guideline.

ECONOMIC ORGANIZATION, WEEK 1

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

POLITICAL ORGANIZATION, WEEK 3

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

SOCIAL ORGANIZATION, WEEK 6

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

IDEOLOGY, WORLDVIEW, RELIGION, WEEK 8

art forms
mythology, deities, forms of worship
ceremonies and rituals
values and beliefs that shape behavior

DEVELOPMENT, WEEK 11

Explore the effects of modernization on the economic, social, political and ideological structures of the people in your ethnography. How have they changed with, accommodated to and resisted development?

ANTHROPOLOGY 2070, 2001: ETHNOLOGY ASSIGNMENTS

Two of these assignments are required.

This is your opportunity to carry out cross-cultural research on topics and 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 10 pages, double-spaced (2500 words), with proper reference to approximately three sources. Your topic must coincide with the subject area of focus in the course at the time (see Course Schedule), and deal with at least two cultures.

ECONOMIC TOPIC, WEEK 2

POLITICAL TOPIC, WEEK 4

SOCIAL TOPIC, WEEK 7

IDEOLOGICAL TOPIC, WEEK 9

DEVELOPMENT TOPIC, WEEK 12

Sample topics:

war	rites of passage
family	voluntary organizations
child-rearing	mythology
gender	love
medicine / illness	racism / ethnicity
death	kinship
fabric	symbols
nutrition / food etiquette	media

ANTHROPOLOGY 2070, 2001: RESEARCH METHODS

Two of these assignments are required. You may hand in one a week at any time up to Week 12.

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 report on your experience and the results of your research will be presented to the class and submitted in writing to the instructor in a paper of up to 10 pages, double-spaced (2500 words).

PARTICIPANT OBSERVATION

INDIVIDUAL INTERVIEW

GROUP INTERVIEW (FOCUS GROUP)

ORAL HISTORY

LIFE HISTORY

ARCHIVAL

DOCUMENTARY

CONTENT ANALYSIS

GENEALOGY

ANTHROPOLOGY 2070, 2001
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
- 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
- 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

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

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