

GRANDE PRAIRIE REGIONAL COLLEGE  
DEPARTMENT OF ARTS, COMMERCE AND EDUCATION  
ANTHROPOLOGY 2070 3(3-0-0), WINTER 2002  
INTRODUCTION TO SOCIAL AND CULTURAL ANTHROPOLOGY

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Office Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays 1:30-2:30 p.m. Drop-ins welcome.

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Prerequisite: Anthropology 1010

Calendar description: The comparative study of human society and culture, particularly non-western communities, with special attention to the family, social structures, economic and political institutions, religion and processes of change/

#### REQUIRED 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)

Recommended: DOING CULTURAL ANTHROPOLOGY. On reserve in the Library.

#### COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course has three main purposes:

- 1) to establish an anthropological framework which can be used to facilitate an 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 (primarily) 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 two 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. You may submit one missed assignment of any sort one week after last class.

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 this course ONLY, calculate your mark as a percentage of total marks obtainable.

80-100%	= 9
72-79%	= 8
65-71%	= 7
60-64%	= 6
56-59%	= 5
50-55%	= 4
45-49%	= 3
28-44%	= 2
0-25%	= 1

## ANTHROPOLOGY 2070: 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: 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: 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: 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).

### 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]. Retrieved June 15 from the World Wide Web: <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.

ANTHROPOLOGY 2070  
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 8-10 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 9: ETHNOGRAPHY; IDEOLOGICAL / RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATION

WEEK 10: ETHNOLOGY; IDEOLOGICAL TOPIC

Weeks 11-12 "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