

GRANDE PRAIRIE REGIONAL COLLEGE
DEPARTMENT OF ARTS, COMMERCE AND EDUCATION
ANTHROPOLOGY 2070 3(3-0-0), WINTER 2006
INTRODUCTION TO SOCIAL AND CULTURAL ANTHROPOLOGY

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

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

William A. Haviland, Robert J. Gordon and Luis A. Vivanco, Eds., Talking about people: readings in contemporary cultural anthropology. Mayfield Publishing, 2002.

Michael V. Angrosino, (Ed.) Doing cultural anthropology: Projects for ethnographic data collection. Prospect Heights, Ill.: Waveland, 2002.

Other readings may be assigned during the term.

RECOMMENDED TEXT

An introductory anthropology text. At least one will be on reserve in the library; consult the instructor about your choice.

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

Students will often be called upon to report on their learning activities (comments on readings, discussion of assignments and/or reflections of course content in life outside the classroom) and there will also be in-class assignments (quizzes and group discussions of readings) timed at the instructor's discretion. These reports and assignments will be worth 20% percent of the final course grade. As a bonus "in-class" assignment worth ten points, students may meet with me for an in-depth writing tutorial on one of their assignments (or to discuss any topic related to the course) at any point during the term before the last week of classes. Ample opportunity to earn points will be provided, so there will be no make-ups for in-class work.

When doing your assigned readings, make note of comments and questions on theoretical vocabulary and/or concepts and/or case studies. Bring these to class and be ready to submit them to the instructor as in-class assignments. **THESE NEED NOT BE LONG OR NUMEROUS.**

For in-class assignments and reports **ONLY**, calculate your mark as a percentage of total marks obtainable. All other assignments are marked on the alpha scale.

Alpha grade	4-point equivalent	Percentage
A+	4.3	80-100
A	4.0	76-79
A-	3.7	73-75
B+	3.3	70-72
B	3.0	67-69
B-	2.7	64-66
C+	2.3	60-63
C	2.0	55-59
C-	1.7	50-54
D+	1.3	45-49
D	1.0	40-44
F	0.0	< 40

A total of four written assignments are required, each worth 20% of the final course grade (80% in total). These are ethnographies, ethnologies, and reports on research methods. They are marked using the alpha scale. One of each kind of assignment must be submitted, and a second of one of them for a total of four. If more than the required assignments are submitted, the best marks will be used in calculating the final grade. For due dates and more detailed descriptions, see below. You must complete at least one assignment per month, but only one assignment per week. One and only one late assignment may be handed in any Monday until Week 14. E-mailed assignments are not accepted.

YOU MAY WISH TO KEEP TRACK OF ASSIGNMENTS AND MARKS HERE.

ASSIGNMENT	MARK
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Ethnography 1	
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Ethnography 2	
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Ethnology 1	
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Ethnology 2	
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Research Methods 1	
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Research Methods 2	
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IN-CLASS ASSIGNMENTS AND REPORTS

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

DATE	MARK	DATE	MARK
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ANTHROPOLOGY 2070: ETHNOGRAPHY ASSIGNMENTS

The ethnographic assignment on economic organization is **REQUIRED**. A second ethnography assignment is optional.

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), with proper APA references.

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 use anthropological terms appropriately, and 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 a general anthropology text, using the Reference Guideline.

ECONOMIC ORGANIZATION, MONDAY OF WEEK 3 **REQUIRED**

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, MONDAY OF WEEK 5

decision-making and decision makers
type of government and authority structures
dealing with conflict
social control--law, enforcers, coercion
relations w/ neighbors--war, trade, diplomacy, subordination

SOCIAL ORGANIZATION, MONDAY OF WEEK 8

demographic features (size of population and population density)
residence/settlement pattern
type of community; egalitarian or hierarchical society
class relations, ethnic and race relations
non-kin based organizations
kinship structure: descent, kin terms
domestic unit, domestic life
marital patterns and practices; preferences and prohibitions
gender relations

IDEOLOGY, WORLDVIEW, RELIGION, MONDAY OF WEEK 11

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

DEVELOPMENT, MONDAY OF WEEK 14

Explore the effects of modernization on the economic, social, political and ideological structures of the people in your ethnography. How have they dealt with these influences?

ANTHROPOLOGY 2070: ETHNOLOGY ASSIGNMENTS

One of these assignments is required.

This is your opportunity to carry out cross-cultural research on topics and cultures which intrigue you. Concentrate on the topic; this is not just a description, but also an analysis of what can be learned through cross-cultural comparison. Expectations include but are not limited to

- a) library research in print materials, supplemented by the Internet, and proper APA references to at least three sources;
- b) a length of up to 10 pages, double-spaced (2500 words);
- c) consideration of at least three cultures, one of which may be your own.

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
tobacco use	

ANTHROPOLOGY 2070: RESEARCH METHODS

One of these assignments is required.

Following a discussion of the research methods, you will devise and carry out a short research project.

- a) Submit a report of up to 10 pages, double-spaced (2500 words).
- b) In your introduction to this report, demonstrate that your use of the chosen research method is consistent with anthropological methodology as discussed in Doing cultural anthropology.
- c) Discuss both what you learn about the individual/s and cultural group or practice you are observing, and what light this sheds on our culture and society as a whole.
- d) Finally, evaluate the usefulness of the method to research and to yourself.

PARTICIPANT OBSERVATION

GENEALOGY

LIFE HISTORY or ORAL HISTORY

ARCHIVES AND DOCUMENTS

CONTENT ANALYSIS

GUIDE TO REFERENCES

If you use a direct quote (or a diagram, or statistics) from an author, your source must be acknowledged. The quotation must be exact! For example:

“There is a basic contradiction in the structure of girls’ social relationships. Friends are supposed to be equal and everyone is supposed to get along, but in fact they don’t always. Conflict must be resolved, but a girl cannot assert social power or superiority as an individual to resolve it” (Maltz & Borker, 2003, pp. 164-165).

If you paraphrase an author or use ideas which are not your own, your source must still be acknowledged. Include the name of the author, publication date, and (usually) page number. For example:

Poverty and ignorance are not necessarily the best explanation for why people avoid drinking milk. Lactase production is not common among adults around the world (Ember, Ember & Peregrine, 2005, p. 2).

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

Easter Island was apparently covered by subtropical forest for thousands of years before it lost its trees (Flenley & King as paraphrased in Diamond, 2003, p. 95).

References to information downloaded from the Internet are similar to those used for print materials. For example,

In seventeenth-century Turkish cafes, coffee was accompanied by smoking tobacco from elaborate *narghile* (Gercek, 1986).

REFERENCES

Barnes, N., et al. (coproducers), and Weitz, P. and Weitz, C. (Directors) (2002). About a boy. Universal Pictures.

Diamond, J. (2003) . Easter's end. In Aaron Podolefsky and Peter J. Brown (Eds.), *Applying anthropology: an introductory reader* (pp. 92-97). Boston, Mass.: McGraw-Hill Higher Education.

Ember, C.R., Ember, M. & Peregrine, P.N. (2005). *Anthropology*. Upper Saddle River, N.J.: Prentice Hall.

Gerkec, G. (1986). Narghiles. *Antikas, the Turkish journal of collectable art*, 11. Retrieved December 22, 2002 from <http://hookahkings.com/articles/article4.htm>

Maltz, D.N. & Borker, R.A. (2003). A cultural approach to male-female miscommunication. In Aaron Podolefsky & Peter J. Brown (Eds.), *Applying anthropology: an introductory reader* (pp. 160-171). Boston, Mass.: McGraw-Hill Higher Education.

Moyers, B. (Executive Editor) & Tatge, C. (Producer) (1988). The first storytellers, Program Three of *The power of myth*. New York, NY: Mystic Fire Video, Inc.

Theroux, P. (2002, December). Hawai'i: Preserving the breath. National Geographic 202 (6), 2-41.

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 style guide (some of which are available on-line), if you have doubts.