

GRANDE PRAIRIE REGIONAL COLLEGE
DEPARTMENT OF ARTS, COMMERCE AND EDUCATION
ANTHROPOLOGY 2070 3(3-0-0), WINTER 2004
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

Conrad Phillip Kottak, Mirror for humanity: A concise introduction to cultural anthropology. Boston: McGraw Hill, 2003.

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, Doing cultural anthropology: Projects for ethnographic data collection. Prospect Heights, Ill.: Waveland, 2002.

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, 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 20% percent of the final course grade. As one of these assignments (worth ten points), students are to meet with me for an in-depth writing tutorial on one of their assignments, at any point during the term. Ample opportunity to earn points will be provided, so there will be no make-ups for in-class work. For in-class assignments and reports ONLY, calculate your mark as a percentage of total marks obtainable.

A total of four written assignments are required, each worth 20% of the final course grade (80% in total). They are marked using the alpha scale. Assignments must be handed in to the instructor by 1 p.m. of the Monday following the week they are assigned. Late papers will not be accepted. 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 once 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.

Ethnology assignments: Many cultures and many topics are presented in class discussions and in course readings. Select at least one of these topics and pursue it through (primarily) a modest amount of cross-cultural research. Write up your findings with proper references.

Research methods: Students will implement at least one form of research methodology, to be written up in a report.

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 may submit one missed assignment of any sort one week after last class.

GRADING Abbreviated from Approved Grading Policy 2003/2004

<i>Alpha Grade</i>	<i>4-Point Equivalent</i>	<i>Percentage Guidelines</i>	<i>Designation</i>
A	4.0	85 - 100	
A-	3.7	80 - 84	<i>First Class Standing</i>
B+	3.3	76 - 79	
B	3.0	73 - 75	
B-	2.7	70 - 72	<i>Good</i>
C+	2.3	67 - 69	<i>Satisfactory</i>
C	2.0	64 - 66	
C-	1.7	60 - 63	
D+	1.3	55 - 59	<i>Minimal Pass</i>
D	1.0	50 - 54	
F	0.0	0 - 49	<i>Fail</i>

All other assignments are marked on the alpha scale.

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

ASSIGNMENT	MARK
Ethnography 1	
Ethnography 2	
Ethnology 1	
Ethnology 2	
Research Methods 1	
Research Methods 2	

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

One of these assignments is 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 9

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

One of these assignments is 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), supplemented by 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. Concentrate on the topic; this is not just a description, but also an analysis of what can be learned through cross-cultural comparison.

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

tobacco use

ANTHROPOLOGY 2070: RESEARCH METHODS

One of these assignments is 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). Demonstrate that your use of the chosen research method is consistent with anthropological methodology as discussed in Angrosino's text.

PARTICIPANT OBSERVATION

GENEALOGY

LIFE HISTORY

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, 2001, p. 167).

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, 2002, 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, 2001, p. 101).

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

- Diamond, J. (2001). Easter's end. In Aaron Podlefsky and Peter J. Brown (Eds.), *Applying anthropology: an introductory reader* (pp. 98-103). Mountain View, California, Mayfield Publishing.
- Ember, C.R., Ember, M. & Peregrine, P.N. (2002). *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>
- Kinzer, S. (1997). Journal: inhale the pleasure of an unhurried Ottoman past. *New York Times*, 6/10/97. Retrieved December 22, 2002 from <http://hookahkings.com/articles/article4.htm>
- Maltz, D.N. & Borker, R.A. (2001). A cultural approach to male-female miscommunication. In Aaron Podlefsky & Peter J. Brown (Eds.), *Applying anthropology: an introductory reader* (pp. 162-173). Mountain View, California: Mayfield Publishing.
- Moyers, B. (Executive Editor) & Tatge, C. (Producer) (1988). The first storytellers, Program Three of *The First Storytellers*. 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.

ANTHROPOLOGY 2070
SCHEDULE OF TOPICS, READINGS AND ASSIGNMENTS

Readings are Conrad Kottak's Mirror for humanity (Mirror) and William A. Haviland and Robert J. Gordon, Eds., TALKING ABOUT PEOPLE: READINGS IN CONTEMPORARY CULTURAL ANTHROPOLOGY (TAP).

- Week 0. Introduction; Research Methods
Mirror Chapter 1, Exploring cultural diversity
Chapter 2, Culture
Chapter 12, Cultural exchange and survival
TAP Intro to Chapter 1, What is distinctive about anthropology? (1-3)
Intro to Chapter 2, What is the meaning of culture? (24-25)
2, Fact versus fiction: An ethnographic paradox set in the Seychelles.
Marion Benedict (15-18)
3, Going native? William J. Klausner (19-21)
7, When does life begin? A cross-cultural perspective on the
personhood of fetuses and young children. Lynn M. Morgan
(35-46)
9, Forms of address: How their social functions may vary. Salikoko S.
Mufwene (53-55)
4, The pathways of an anthropologist. Robert L. Welsch (22-23)
18, Food is good to think. Amy Trubek (91)
26, Are we there yet? Getting to the field. David Houston (128-129)
33, An anthropologist learns the value of fear. Elizabeth Garland
(168-171)
37, Participant observation on a motorcycle. Andrew Cornish (190-191)
44, In the disaster zone—anthropologists and the ambiguity of aid.
Alex de Waal (226-229)
45, A career in waste. Glenn McRae (230-231)

- Weeks 1-2 Economic systems
Mirror Chapter 5, Making a living
TAP Intro to Chapter 5, How do people adapt to nature? (78-79)
Intro to Chapter 6, How do people make a living? (92-93)
15, Nomads on notice. Daniel Stiles (80-82)
17, A taste of history. Sidney Mintz (87-90)
20, Crack in Spanish Harlem. Philippe Bourgois (97-104)
21, Cities without care or connection. Richard Sennett (105-108)

WEEK 1: ETHNOGRAPHY: ECONOMIC ORGANIZATION

WEEK 2: ETHNOLOGY: ECONOMIC TOPIC

- Weeks 3-4 Political systems
 Mirror Chapter 7, Political systems
 TAP Intro to Chapter 10, How do people control the behavior of others?
 (172-173)
 32, The genocidal state. Alex de Waal (162-168)
 34, Say "Cheese!" The Disney order that is not so Mickey Mouse.
 Clifford D. Shearing and Philip C. Stenning (174-177)
 35, The modern state: Nation-builder or nation-killer? Pierre L. Van Den
 Berghe. (178-186)
 36, Deceptive stereotypes about "tribal warfare". Neil L. Whitehead and
 R. Brian Ferguson (187-189)
 46, Visions of the future: The prospect for reconciliation.
 Ian S. McIntosh (234-237)
 48, The Zapatistas and the electronic fabric of struggle.
 Harry Cleaver (241-244)

WEEK 3: ETHNOGRAPHY: POLITICAL ORGANIZATION

WEEK 4: ETHNOLOGY: POLITICAL TOPIC

- Weeks 5-7 Social systems: social interaction, kinship, gender, life cycle
 Mirror Chapter 3, Ethnicity and race
 Chapter 6, Families, kinship and marriage
 Chapter 8, Gender
 TAP Intro to Chapter 7, How do women and men relate to each other?
 (109-110)
 Intro to Chapter 8, What does it mean to be in a family? (130-131)
 Intro to Chapter 9, How do people express status and group membership?
 (148-149)
 22, Arranging a marriage in India. Serena Nanda (111-115)
 23, "Ladies" behind bars: a liminal gender as cultural mirror.
 John M. Coggleshall (116-120)
 24, Female chiefs and their wives: Tradition and modernity in Venda,
 South Africa. Gina Buijs (121-124)
 25, The anthropologist's public-image problem. Micaela di Leonardo
 (125-127)
 28, Land of the walking marriage. Lu Yuan and Sam Mitchell. (140-142)
 29, The persistence of polygamy. Timothy Egan. (143-147)
 30, The new Latin labor. Alan Zarembo. (150-151)
 12, Growing up American: doing the right thing. Amparo B. Ojeda
 (63-66)

WEEK 6: ETHNOGRAPHY: SOCIAL ORGANIZATION

WEEK 7: ETHNOLOGY: SOCIAL TOPIC

Weeks 8-10 Ideological systems: religion, art, worldview, science
Mirror Chapter 9, Religion
TAP Intro to Chapter 11, How do people relate to the supernatural? (192-193)
16, A view from the headwaters. Gerardo Reichel-Dolmatoff (83-86).
38, Witchcraft in anthropological perspective. Isak Niehaus (194-199)
40, Treating the wounds of war: The culture of violence. Carolyn Nordstrom (204-207)
13, The anthropologist as mother: Reflections on childbirth observed and childbirth experienced. Alma Gottlieb (67-73)
49, The museum of me. Ellen Ullman (245-248)

WEEK 9: ETHNOGRAPHY: IDEOLOGICAL / RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATION

WEEK 10: ETHNOLOGY: IDEOLOGICAL TOPIC

Weeks 11-12 "Cultures" in contact: development and modernization

Mirror Chapter 10, Modern world system
Chapter 11, Colonialism and development
Chapter 13, Applied anthropology
TAP Intro to Chapter 12, How do cultures change? (208-209)
Intro to Chapter 13, What does the future hold for anthropology?
(232-233)
41, The ugly American revisited. James Brain (210-213)
43, Counter-development in the Andes. Frédérique Appfel-Marglin (221-225)
5, Cultural survival on "cultural survival". Ian S. McIntosh and David Maybury-Lewis (26-27)

WEEK 11: ETHNOGRAPHY: DEVELOPMENT

WEEK 12: ETHNOLOGY: DEVELOPMENT

WEEK 14: ONE MISSED ASSIGNMENT