

ANTHROPOLOGY 201.01

Cultural Anthropology

Fall 2017

TR 12:15-1:30 pm, RSS 106

Dr. Hector Qirko
Office Hours: TR 9:00-11:00 am,
MW 10:00-11:30 am, 1:00-2:30 pm, and by appt.

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Course description: A comparative review of the principles used in social organization among various peoples of the world. In particular, non-Western societies and their transformations through contact with the West will be examined.

Course objectives and student learning outcomes: Students will

- learn and apply basic cultural anthropology theory and methods;
- increase their understanding of human cultural similarities and differences;
- obtain perspective on modern life and current issues through the application of anthropological concepts; and
- improve critical thinking, effective writing, and oral discussion skills.

Course structure Class periods will consist of lectures, films, and discussion of topics and readings.

Graded work

Three exams, each 20% of course grade.

Four exercises

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|------------------------------|-----|
| 1. "Defamiliarization" | 5% |
| 2. Kinship* | 10% |
| 3. Interviews | 10% |
| 4. Cross-cultural comparison | 10% |

Class participation 5%

Extra-credit quizzes +5%

Grade scale

A 92-100%; A- 90-91; B+ 88-89; B 82-87; B- 80-81; C+ 78-79; C 72-77; C- 70-71; D+ 68-69; D 62-67; D- 60-61; F 59 or below.

Readings

Nanda, Serena, and Warms, Richard L. (2015). *Culture Counts: A Concise Introduction to Cultural Anthropology*, 3rd edition. Wadsworth Publishing.
ISBN-10: 1111301530, ISBN-13: 978-1111301538

Spradley, James, and McCurdy, David W. (2011). *Conformity and Conflict: Readings in Cultural Anthropology*, 14th edition. Prentice Hall.
ISBN-10: 0205234100, ISBN-13: 978-0205234103

Shostak, Marjorie (2000). *Nisa: The Life and Words of a !Kung Woman*. Harvard University Press.
ISBN-10: 0674004329, ISBN-13: 978-0674004320

Chagnon, Napoleon (2013). *The Yanomamo*, 6th edition. Harcourt Brace.

ISBN-10: 0155053272, ISBN-13: 978-0155053274

Exams (on 9/21, 10/26, 12/12)

There will be three in-class, short identification exams designed to ensure course engagement and understanding of materials covered in the lectures, readings, films, and class discussion. In addition to fundamental terms, concepts and illustrations, you will be expected to identify specific research and researchers as highlighted in lectures. Exams are not cumulative, and study guides will be provided prior to each. Exams missed due to excused and documented absences can be made-up on 12/5 (Reading Day) at 10:00 a.m., location TBA. You **must** contact me prior to that date if you plan on taking the test. Make-up exams will be in essay form.

Exercises (due 9/12, 10/5, 11/2, 11/30)

You will complete 4 brief (3-4 page) reports on exercises that focus on basic methodological skills in cultural anthropology. These will provide you with opportunities to practice (1) analyzing cultural phenomena (2); tracing kinship relationships (3); interviewing key informants (4) and engaging in cross-cultural analysis. The exercises are due on assigned course dates, and may be handed in earlier, but will not be accepted late without a legitimate and documented excuse (more details and guidelines later in class and our Oaks site).

***NOTE: General Education student learning outcomes**

ANTH 201 is one of the anthropology courses approved to satisfy 3 of the 6 credits of social science required to complete the General Education Curriculum. The desired social science learning outcome is that “*Students can apply social science concepts, models, or theories to explain human behavior, social interactions or social institutions.*” This outcome will be assessed in the second graded exercise (on kinship), which will comprise 10% of your final course grade.

Extra-credit Quizzes (TBA)

In order to encourage consistent attendance and the timely reading/viewing of course materials, there will be six (very) short quizzes given at the beginning of selected class periods. Each quiz will be worth 1% of course grade, for a maximum extra credit of 5 extra-credit course points.

Class participation

Class attendance, engagement, and participation are essential for success in this course, as much of the material on exams will stem directly from lectures, videos and other materials, and class discussion. While attendance will not be taken, you are (obviously) expected to attend all classes, and are responsible for all information disseminated in the course. Further, 5% of your course grade will be based on your consistent, constructive, and informed contributions to class discussion of course topics. If you must miss a class, obtain notes from classmates and feel free to meet with me during office hours to discuss them prior to the relevant exam. I will not provide lecture notes, although I will make study guides, assignment guidelines, and other materials available as applicable.

For absences that require documentation (for example, exam-date or extended absences related to health, personal or emergency situations), you **must** complete and turn in the appropriate forms to 67 George St. (more information and downloadable forms at <http://studenthealth.cofc.edu/absence-memo/index.php>).

Honor code

Violations of the honor code will be taken seriously. If you need reminding, you can find the sections of the Honor Code relevant to course work in a document on our Oaks page, as well as in the Student Handbook at <http://studentaffairs.cofc.edu/honor-system/studenthandbook/index.php>.

As plagiarism is a common (and sometimes unintentional) infraction, I recommend that you watch the “You quote it, you note it” tutorial video (http://www.sunywcc.edu/cms/wp-content/uploads/2013/library_files/flash/) and/or read the material from the Purdue Writing Lab site (<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/589/1/>).

Special needs

If you have a documented disability and have been approved to receive accommodations through SNAP Services (<http://disabilityservices.cofc.edu/>), please bring me your Professor Notification Letter (PNL) during the first week of classes, and feel free to discuss related issues with me at any time during office hours or by appointment.

Course Calendar

NOTE: subject to revision. Readings are listed as N&W: Culture Counts, S&M: Conformity and Conflict, K: !Kung ethnography, and Y: Yanomamo, followed by chapter numbers. You are expected to read assigned materials and be prepared to discuss them prior to class meeting.

8/22	introduction to course	
8/24	introduction to cultural anthropology	[N&W 1, S&M 5]
8/29	culture basics	[N&W 2]
8/31	theoretical schools	[S&M 2, 4]
9/5	methods: ethnography	[N&W 3]
9/7	methods: cross-cultural comparisons	[S&M 1, K intro, Y 1]
9/12	kinship basics	[N&W 9] [Exercise 1 due]
9/14	kinship methods	[S&M 17, 18 19, 20]
9/19	kinship case studies	[K 6, 7, Y 4]
9/21	Exam I	
9/26	subsistence basics	[N&W 5, S&M 9]
9/28	resource production	[S&M 10, K 3, Y 2]
10/3	resource distribution	[N&W 6, S&M 13]
10/5	sex and gender basics	[N&W 10] [Exercise 2 due]
10/10	sex and gender case studies	[S&M 22, K 4, 11]
10/12	social control basics	[N&W 7, S&M 25, 26]
10/17	no class- fall break	

10/19	social control case studies	[Y 5, 6]
10/24	identity basics	[N&W 8]
10/26	Exam II	
10/31	identity markers and authentication	[S&M 23, 24]
11/2	spiritual systems basics	[N&W 11, S&M 28] [Exercise 3 due]
11/7	spiritual systems case studies	[K 13, Y 3, S&M 29]
11/9	folklore and art	[N&W 12]
11/14	culture change basics	
11/16	culture change: diffusion	[S&M 15, 16]
11/21	culture change: acculturation	[K 10, N&W 14]
11/23	no class- Thanksgiving break	
11/28	culture change case studies	[S&M 33, 35, Y 8]
11/30	applying cultural anthropology	[S&M 38, 39] [Exercise 4 due]
12/12	Exam III* (12:00-3:00 pm)	

* Final exam day/time may not be changed unless you have too many exams scheduled on the same day (as defined by the College).

Films and internet resources

These will be used in class lectures as appropriate to material, and exam study guides will provide relevant titles, links, etc. to facilitate review.

Additional online resources (FYI, not required)

There are many good online articles on critical skills helpful to navigating this course and others. For example:

Critical thinking

http://www.criticalthinking.org/files/Concepts_Tools.pdf

Active reading

<http://www.mycollegesuccessstory.com/academic-success-tools/active-reading.html>

<http://www.mycollegesuccessstory.com/academic-success-tools/advanced-reading.html>

Critical reading

http://www.criticalreading.com/critical_reading.htm

Effective writing

[http://www9.georgetown.edu/faculty/kingch/How to Write a Research Paper.htm](http://www9.georgetown.edu/faculty/kingch/How_to_Write_a_Research_Paper.htm)

And don't forget that you can always make use of the walk-in labs and individualized tutoring for working on your study, writing, and presentation skills at the Center for Student Learning (<http://csl.cofc.edu/labs/index.php>).