

Eastern Illinois University
Anthropology 2200
Introduction to Anthropology
Fall 2012
Section 002: TR 11-12:15
Section 003: TR 12:30-1:45

Classroom: Blair Hall 1165
Office: Blair Hall 3140
Office Hours: TR 10-11; F 10-12 and by appt

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Anthropology is the most humanistic of the sciences and the most scientific of the humanities.

--Alfred L. Kroeber

The purpose of anthropology is to make the world safe for human differences.

--Ruth Benedict

Anthropology demands the open-mindedness with which one must look and listen, record in astonishment and wonder that which one would not have been able to guess.

--Margaret Mead

People sometimes think of anthropology as the study of exotic people who live in faraway places, and “culture”—one of anthropology’s key concepts—as something that dictates the actions of those “other” people. Our task in this course will be to complicate both of these notions. We will explore what cultural anthropology is, who practices it, and what it claims to teach us about the human condition.

If this is your first course in cultural anthropology, you may feel challenged by the immense variety of human experiences that we will address, as well as the open-mindedness with which anthropologists interpret them. Your key to success (beyond showing up prepared and working hard) will be to develop a similarly open mind, but also a willingness to think *critically* about all those parts of human culture and society that we take for granted.

Aims of the Course

- To introduce you to the diversity of cultural practices and beliefs in the world;
- To demonstrate how anthropologists study and interpret cultural diversity;
- To encourage you to think critically about a variety of anthropological perspectives;
- To give you the opportunity to look at your own society with an “anthropological eye.”

Assigned Readings

Lassiter, Luke Eric. 2004. *Invitation to Anthropology*. Third Edition. Lanham, MD: AltaMira Press.

Fadiman, Anne. 1998. *The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down: A Hmong Child, Her American Doctors, and the Collision of Two Cultures*. New York: Farrar Straus & Giroux.

Abu-Lughod, Lila. 1999[1986]. *Veiled Sentiments: Honor and Poetry in a Bedouin Society*. Updated Edition. Berkeley: University of California Press.

Additional readings will be available electronically on WebCT. You are responsible for reading these **before** you come to class. We will also view several films and short videos in class. You will be responsible for their content in exam questions.

Assessment

The following will be used to assess your grade.

	Points	% of Grade
<p>In-Class/Take-Home Exercises (5 exercises, 10 pts each) Throughout the semester, we will spend some class time working with analytical techniques and concepts, and ones that you will find useful in your final papers.</p>	50	20%
<p>Participant Observation Project* 10 points for proposal paragraph, 15 points for field notes, and 25 points for the finished paper.</p>	50	20%
<p>Exams There will be three exams in this course: two during the course of the semester and one during finals week. The final will not be cumulative. Each is worth 50 points, or 20% of your grade. Exams will cover material drawn from readings, course lectures, films, maps, in-class exercises, and any other material covered in class. Format includes multiple choice, true/false, matching, short answer, and essay.</p>	150	60%
Total	250	100%

**See separate handout for details about this three-part ethnographic assignment.*

Class Schedule

Note: This schedule is subject to change at the instructor's discretion.

Date	Topic/Assignment	Readings (to be read before class)
Aug 21 Aug 23	Introduction/Anthropology as a discipline Fieldwork & Ethics	AAA Stmt on Ethics, Rosaldo (WebCT)
Aug 28 Aug 30	Race Culture	Lassiter, chap. 1; AAA Stmt on Race (WebCT) Lassiter, chap. 2
Sep 4 Sep 6	Culture Ethnography	Bohannon (WebCT) Lassiter, chap. 3; Golden-Biddle (WebCT)
Sep 11 Sep 13	Economic Systems Political Systems Project proposals due	Herrmann (WebCT) Lassiter, chap. 4
Sep 18 Sep 20	Film: <i>A Chief in Two Worlds</i> Exam I	
Sep 25 Sep 27	Language Food	Agar (WebCT) Douglas, Sutton (WebCT)
Oct 2 Oct 4	Kinship & Marriage “	Lassiter, chap. 6
Oct 9 Oct 11	Body Health & Healing	Schildkrout (WebCT)
Oct 16 Oct 18	Gender & Sexuality Field notes due “	Lassiter, chap. 5
Oct 23 Oct 25	Film: <i>Paris is Burning</i> Exam II	Finish reading <i>The Spirit Catches You</i> for Exam II
Oct 30 Nov 1	Death Religion	Metcalf (WebCT) Lassiter, chap. 7
Nov 6 Nov 8	Aesthetics, Performance & Ritual Anthropology and/of Tourism	Maschio (WebCT)
Nov 13 Nov 15	Film: <i>Cannibal Tours</i> **No class (AAA meetings)**	
Nov 19-23	** Thanksgiving Break—No Classes**	
Nov 27 Nov 29	Music & Dance Final projects due Anthropology and/of New Media	
Dec 4 Dec 6 Dec 10	Ethics Revisited: Human Terrain [evals] Changing Futures Exam III Sec 002: 10:15-12:15/ Sec 003: 12:30-2:30	Human Terrain readings; Abu-Lughod article (WebCT) Finish reading <i>Veiled Sentiments</i> for exam III

Policies

Attendance & Classroom Environment

Attendance will not be a formal part of your course grade, though I will take attendance daily. If, at the end of the semester, you are on the “edge” between two letter grades, great attendance will bump you up; likewise, poor attendance will bump you down. More importantly, attendance is vital to your overall success in this class. A large portion of the exams will come from material that I present and that you discuss in class. Additionally, our discussions will reinforce the knowledge you gain from reading on your own, and will help you to understand assignments. Also, we will be doing a number of hands-on exercises in class throughout the semester.

Please refrain from using cell phones, checking e-mail or texting in class. It’s distracting to me and, quite frankly, to you. If you must respond to an emergency message, please do so during our break or step outside. If you need to take notes on a laptop, I will permit it but please stick to note-taking to avoid distracting your classmates.

One of the biggest mistakes students make is waiting too long to talk to me about classroom issues, subjects they don’t quite understand, or difficulties they may be having with an assignment. Please bring your questions or concerns to me during office hours or in an e-mail. The sooner we address them, the sooner they can be remedied.

Assignments

Written assignments (except for those done in class) must be **typed** and double-spaced, employ a standard 10-12 size font and 1-inch margins. Reference any sources cited in a bibliography following the body of the document, using AAA citation style (<http://www.aaanet.org/publications/guidelines.cfm>). If you are unsure how to properly cite or reference published works in your writing, please see me.

I encourage you to use EIU's Writing Center located at 3110 Coleman Hall. This free service provides one-to-one conferences with writing center consultants who can help you with brainstorming, organizing, developing support, documenting your papers, and working with sentence-level concerns. The writing center is open to help any student from any major at any stage of his or her writing process, and its system of one-to-one conferences demonstrates value and respect for individual writers, all of whom can benefit from feedback about their works in progress. To schedule an appointment, you can drop by the center (3110 Coleman Hall) or you can call 581-5929. The writing center is open Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., and 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. On Friday hours of operation are 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Your written assignments must reflect your own original work. I will not tolerate plagiarism. If you misrepresent another’s work as your own (from the internet, Wikipedia or anywhere else), you risk receiving an F for the entire semester, not to mention incurring other disciplinary action.

Disabilities Statement

Students with documented disabilities are encouraged to contact the Office of Disability Services (581-6583) if they wish to discuss any necessary academic accommodations.

Medical Emergency Statement

For medical emergencies, go to the nearest phone and call 911. All faculty offices have telephones and during normal business hours (8-12 & 1-4:30), the Sociology Office (Blair 3170) is open. Be sure to state the floor and room number of the emergency to the 911 operator. If possible, someone should go to the central entrance of Blair Hall to direct EMS personnel to the medical emergency scene. If the medical emergency is on the second or third floor, someone else should hold the elevator on the first floor for EMS use.

Tornado Statement

In case of a tornado warning, proceed to the center of the hallway on the first floor, near the posted severe weather signs. Under no circumstances should you attempt to leave the building.

Building Fire Statement

In case of fire, activate the fire alarm and exit the building. When a fire alarm sounds, everyone must exit the building and cannot re-enter the building until allowed by the building coordinator or fire department official. Fire alarms are located at the north and south ends of the corridors just inside the fire doors. The closest exits for all classrooms in Blair are on the north and south ends of the building. Under no circumstance should the elevator be used. Group assembly areas for all classes in Blair are either on the patio area between Blair and Old Main or on the southeast corner of the North Quad. As you exit the building, continue moving well away from the exits so that you do not impede the progress of other students or the work of fire officials. Move a safe distance away from the building.