

ANT 2200G

Introduction to Anthropology

Section 1 = MWF 9:00-9:50 AM

Section 2 = MWF 10:00-10:50 AM

Section 5 = MWF 11:00-11:50 AM

Classroom: Blair 1165

Office: Blair 3153

Office Hours: MWF 12:00-2:00 or by appointment

Instructor: Dr. Jennifer Zovar

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Course Description

Simply put, anthropology is a social science that investigates what it means to be human. This is a very broad topic indeed! Cultural anthropologists might investigate kinship systems among a small Amazonian tribe or workplace culture in a large multinational corporation. Anthropological archaeologists could research Classic Maya pyramids or the slave quarters in Caribbean plantations. Biological Anthropologists may work with chimpanzees or study humanity's distant ancestors. Linguistic Anthropologists may consider differences in the way that men and women speak or record endangered languages in northern Australia.

In this class, we will be focusing primarily on Cultural Anthropology, a comparative and holistic exploration of contemporary societies around the world. The class is divided into three units, each of which focuses on a particular ethnographic book. In Unit 1, you will be introduced to anthropology and we will explore the academic, ethical and personal challenges of conducting anthropological fieldwork. In Unit 2, we will be looking at a traditional ethnographic study considering the economy, kinship systems, marriage practices, social organization, and religion of a culture very different from your own. In Unit 3, we will be exploring globalization, transnationalism, and cultural change in a setting that may seem more familiar.

Course Objectives

By the end of this course you will be able to:

- Define the central concepts of anthropology, and apply them to everyday life and broader world issues
- Identify, discuss, and compare various cultural beliefs and behavior using relevant ethnographic examples
- Be familiar with, and critically discuss, different approaches to anthropological study
- Practice *doing* anthropology through participant-observation and other exercises, and clearly present the results of your research
- Develop a broader understanding of fellow human beings and an appreciation of cultural and social diversity

Course Readings

Three books are required for this course:

Heider, Karl

1997 *Grand Valley Dani: Peaceful Warriors*, Third Edition. Belmont, CA: Wadsworth Cengage Learning.

Stoller, Paul

2002 *Money Has No Smell: The Africanization of New York City*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

Yu, Pei-Lin

1997 *Hungry Lightning: Notes of a Woman Anthropologist in Venezuela*. Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press.

These texts will be supported by additional readings noted in the course schedule.

Method of Evaluation

Exams – (20% each; 60% total)

There will be three exams over the course of the semester – two regular in-class exams and one final exam. The exams are not cumulative, although the final exam will require you to utilize some of the key concepts stressed throughout the course. Exams will include *both* material covered in lecture *and* material from the assigned readings. Exam questions will include multiple choice, fill-in-the-blank, maps, and short answer/essay questions.

Ethnographic Project – (20% total, divided between different assignments)

During this class you will not only be learning *about* anthropology, but you will have the chance to conduct some ethnographic research of your own. Over the course of the semester you will have an opportunity to conduct your own mini-ethnography in or around Eastern Illinois University or the wider community of Charleston. You will need to prepare a research proposal, conduct background research, collect data, and respond to the research projects of your classmates. Your final assignment will be to report on the results of your project in a 6-8 page paper.

Reading Discussions – (5% each; 10% total)

In the first week of class you will be assigned to a group of 5-7 students for regular discussion of the books we are going to be reading in this class. On Fridays, one group will prepare a brief (~10 min) presentation of the chapter(s) we have read for that week as well as a list of discussion questions for all students to consider. You will be assigned a group grade based on the quality of your presentation and discussion questions as well as an individual grade based on your group's evaluation of your participation.

Class Participation – (10% total)

Most class periods will include time for small and/or large group discussions as well as some hands-on projects. You are expected to come to class prepared and ready to participate fully in

all classroom activities. This means that attendance is *very* important. You cannot participate if you are not here! If you need to miss class for a work, court, or medical reason, please contact me *before* class to make sure your absence will be excused. Except under extraordinary circumstances, only three absences will be granted before it begins to affect your grade.

Extra Credit

Students will receive 3 extra credit points (out of a class total of 1000) if you email me a link to or bring in a copy of a recent news article that deals with an anthropological topic or is relevant to what we are discussing in class. Be prepared to describe the article to the class. (You are only allowed to take advantage of this extra credit opportunity five times over the course of the class, and only once in any given class period.) Other extra credit opportunities may be announced as the semester progresses.

Important Dates

- Sept. 5 (W) – Mini-Ethnography Brainstorm
- Sept. 17 (M) – Mini-Ethnography Proposal
- Sept. 24 (M) – Exam 1
- Oct. 8 (M) – Mini-Ethnography Background Research
- Oct. 22 (M) – Mini-Ethnography Data Report
- Oct. 29 (M) – Exam 2
- Nov. 5 (M) – Mini-Ethnography Rough Draft for Peer Review
- Nov. 9 (F) – Peer Review
- Nov. 16 (F) – Mini-Ethnography Final Draft
- Dec. 11 (T) – Section 1 Final Exam (8:00-10:00 AM)
- Dec. 11 (T) – Section 2 Final Exam (10:10 AM-12:15 PM)
- Dec. 12 (W) – Section 5 Final Exam (10:15 AM-12:15 PM)

Classroom Policies

Paper Drafts

I am happy to meet with you individually to discuss your papers at any stage in the writing process, and will also respond to specific questions that are emailed to me at any time. If you would like for me to read a complete paper draft, please turn it in to me by Wednesday, October 31 (5 days before the rough draft is due for Peer Review). This ensures that I will have enough time to read through it and provide useful comments.

Late Papers

Hard copies of all written assignments are due on the date noted on the class syllabus. Electronic copies are *only* accepted if you have an excused absence. Papers that are turned in late will lose half a letter grade. Paper that are extremely late (more than 1 week) will lose one – two full letter grades.

Make-Up Exam Policy

Exams will be given in class on the date noted on the syllabus. Make-up exams will only be given in extraordinary circumstances and if I have approved your absence *before* the scheduled exam.

Academic Integrity and Plagiarism

Academic integrity is taken very seriously at Eastern Illinois University. Plagiarism, cheating, or other forms of academic dishonesty will result in severe penalties and disciplinary measures, which could include failure of the assignment or exam or of the course. If you have any questions about what constitutes plagiarism or cheating, please let me know.

Discussion

Please respect your fellow students, your instructor, and the classroom. Some of the topics discussed in this class may lead to spirited debates, and I encourage the expression of *courteous* academic disagreement. I do ask, however, that you refrain from interrupting, talking over, or disparaging other students and that you try to keep your discussion on-topic. If you have any questions or comments that you do not feel comfortable expressing in class, please feel free to speak to me after class or send me an email.

Cell-phones

Please turn off your cell phones and other electronic devices during class time. Failure to do so may result in the lowering of your participation grade for the day. Do not text or answer calls. (If you have a job or other situation that requires you to be “on-call” during class time, please let me know at the beginning of the semester.)

Laptops

Laptops are only permitted for legitimate, course-related functions (e.g. taking notes). Any other use during class time may result in the lowering of your participation grade for the day.

Other Important Information

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 and 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 egress of other students or the work of fire officials. Move a safe distance away from the building.

Syllabus Disclaimer

The instructor reserves the right to alter this syllabus as necessary over the course of the semester.

Course Schedule

UNIT 1: INTRODUCING ANTHROPOLOGY AND ANTHROPOLOGICAL FIELDWORK

Text = Hungry Lightning, by Pei-Lin Yu

Week 1 – Introducing Anthropology

Aug. 20 – Introductions

Aug. 22 – The Four Fields of Anthropology

READ: *Palomar Tutorials on Four Fields (optional)*

Aug. 24 – Reading Ethnography

READ: *Hungry Lightning, pgs. 3-50*

Week 2 – Anthropological Fieldwork

Aug. 27 – What Do Anthropologists Do?

READ: *Tricking and Tripping: Prostitution in the Era of AIDS, by Claire E. Sterk*

Aug. 29 – Conducting Fieldwork

READ: *Palomar Tutorials on Research (optional)*

Aug. 31 – Getting to Know the Research Community

READ: *Hungry Lightning, pgs. 51-104*

GROUP DISCUSSION #1

Week 3 – Ethnocentrism and Culture Shock

Sept. 3 – LABOR DAY – NO CLASS!!

Sept. 5 – Addressing Ethnocentrism

READ: *Shakespeare in the Bush, by Laura Bohannan*

DUE: Mini-Ethnography Brainstorm

Sept. 7 – Exploring Different Perspectives

READ: *Hungry Lightning, pgs. 105-130*

GROUP DISCUSSION #2

Week 4 – Cultural Relativity

Sept. 10 – Defining Culture

READ: *Palomar Tutorials on Culture (optional)*

Sept. 12 – Cultural Relativism and Ethical Relativism

READ: *Of Headhunters and Soldiers: Separating Cultural and Ethical Relativism, by Renato Rosaldo*

Sept. 14 – Cultural Relativity in the Field
READ: *Hungry Lightning*, pgs. 131-178
GROUP DISCUSSION #3

Week 5 – Anthropological Ethics

Sept. 17 – Ethics in Anthropology
DUE: Mini-Ethnography Proposal

Sept. 19 – Challenging Situations in the Field

Sept. 21 – Leaving the Field
READ: *Hungry Lightning*, pgs. 179-218
GROUP DISCUSSION #4
TEST REVIEW

EXAM 1 – Sept. 24 (Monday)

UNIT 2: CLASSIC ETHNOGRAPHIC RESEARCH

Text = Grand Valley Dani, by Karl Heider

Week 6 – Language and Culture

Sept. 26 – Communication and Meaning
READ: *Palomar Tutorials on Language (optional)*

Sept. 28 – Introduction to the Dani
READ: *Grand Valley Dani*, pgs. 1-35
GROUP DISCUSSION #5

Week 7 – Economic Anthropology

Oct. 1 – Subsistence Strategies and Modes of Exchange
READ: *Palomar Tutorials on Economic Anth (optional)*

Oct. 3 – Traditional Dani Economic Organization
READ: *Grand Valley Dani*, pgs. 35-66
GROUP DISCUSSION #6

Oct. 5 – FALL BREAK – NO CLASS!!

Week 8 – Kinship, Gender and Marriage

Oct. 8 – Family and Kinship
READ: *Palomar Tutorials on Family (optional)*
DUE: Mini-Ethnography Background Research

Oct. 10 – Marriage and Gender
READ: *When Brothers Share a Wife*, by Melvyn Goldstein

Oct. 12 – Dani Kinship and Social Relations
READ: *Grand Valley Dani*, pgs. 67-120
GROUP DISCUSSION #7

Week 9 – Religion, Ritual, and Magic

Oct. 15 – Religion and Ritual
READ: *Palomar Tutorials on Religion (optional)*

Oct. 17 – Magic and Symbolism
READ: *Baseball Magic*, by George Gmelch

Oct. 19 – Dani Religion and Ritual
READ: *Grand Valley Dani*, pgs. 121-152
GROUP DISCUSSION #8

Week 10 – Social Organization: Change and Continuity

Oct. 22 – Social Organization
READ: *Palomar Tutorials on Band/Tribe/Chiefdom/State (optional)*
DUE: Mini-Ethnography Data Report

Oct. 24 – Studying Social Change

Oct. 26 – Social Change Among the Dani
READ: *Grand Valley Dani*, pgs. 153-177
GROUP DISCUSSION #9
TEST REVIEW

EXAM 2 – Oct. 29 (Monday)

UNIT 3: GLOBALIZATION AND TRANSNATIONALISM

Text = Money Has No Smell, by Paul Stoller

Week 11 – Introducing Political Anthropology

Oct. 31 – Introducing Political Anthropology
READ: *Palomar Tutorials on Poly Anth (optional)*
DUE: Mini-Ethnography Rough Draft (optional)

Nov. 2 – Power and Authority in New York
READ: *Money Has No Smell*, pgs. vii-27
GROUP DISCUSSION #10

Week 12 – Colonialism and Post-Colonialism

Nov. 5 – World Systems and Globalization
DUE: Mini-Ethnography Rough Draft (for Peer Review)

Nov. 7 – Colonialism and Post-Colonialism

Nov. 9 – Africanization of New York

READ: *Money Has No Smell*, pgs. 28-63

DUE: Mini-Ethnography Peer Review

GROUP DISCUSSION #11

Week 13 – Race, Ethnicity, and Identity

Nov. 12 – History of “Race”

Nov. 14 – Race and Racism

READ: American Anthropological Association’s RACE Project

Nov. 16 – Race and Identity Formation

READ: *Money Has No Smell*, pgs. 64-87

DUE: Mini-Ethnography Final Draft

GROUP DISCUSSION #12

THANKSGIVING BREAK – Nov. 19-23

Week 14 – Social Control and Law

Nov. 26 – Anthropology and Legal Systems

Nov. 28 – Hegemony and Weapons of the Weak

READ: *‘Say Cheese!’: The Disney Order that is Not So Mickey Mouse*, by Clifford D. Shearing and Phillip C. Stenning

Nov. 30 – Borders and Immigration

READ: *Money Has No Smell*, pgs. 88-143

GROUP DISCUSSION #13

Week 15 – Transnationalism and Global Capitalism

Dec. 3 – Globalization and Global Capitalism

READ: *Broccoli and Globalization*, by Edward Fischer

Dec. 5 – Globalization and Structural Violence

READ: *Death Without Weeping*, by Nancy Scheper-Hughes

Dec. 7 – Transnationalism and Change

READ: *Money Has No Smell*, pgs. 144-182

GROUP DISCUSSION #14

TEST REVIEW

FINAL EXAM (Section 1) – Dec. 11 (Tues) – 8:00-10:00

FINAL EXAM (Section 2) – Dec. 11 (Tues) – 10:15-12:15

FINAL EXAM (Section 5) – Dec. 12 (Wed) – 10:15-12:15