Introduction to Cultural Anthropology  
ANT 2410  
sections 3121, 4098, 4099, 4108, 4114 & 4123

**Lecture**: Tuesdays 8-9 (3pm-4:55pm)  
CSE A101

**Discussion**: Thursdays  
4098 - R 4 (10:40am-11:30am) AND 0019  
4099 - R 5 (11:45am-12:35pm) LIT 0203  
4108 - R 6 (12:50pm-1:40pm) TUR 2350  
4114 - R 7 (1:55pm-2:45pm) TUR 2333  
3121 - R 8 (3pm-3:50pm) PUGH 120  
4123 - R 9 (4:05-4:55pm) TUR 2306

**Instructor**: Richard Kernaghan  
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or by appointment

**TAs**:  
Jessica Jean Casler, TUR B346  
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Gypsy Price, TUR B346  
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Office hours: W 10am-12pm

**Description**:  
Cultural anthropologists study the distinctive ways people create, negotiate and make sense of their social worlds. Through research in places both far away and near to home, anthropologists examine the factors that influence and determine social belonging and exclusion, whether based in gender, kinship, religion, political economy or historical constructions of race, ethnicity and citizenship. The scope of cultural anthropology is thus broad, and its practitioners pursue a variety of approaches as they explore diverse human phenomena. This class will provide an introduction to the discipline through a consideration of several everyday themes that hold an important place in the intellectual tradition of anthropology and are of vital relevance today.

**Course Objectives**:  
The purpose of this course is to increase students’ familiarity and comfort with anthropological notions—such as reciprocity, personhood or the sacred—and to show how these same
concepts can increase critical awareness and understanding of our own lives as unfolding across multiple communities. In so doing, the course aims to enhance sensitivity to social differences, while also underscoring the moral and ethical dimensions entailed by ethnographic research. This course will furthermore be an opportunity for each of us to hone our interpretative skills so that we become ever more perceptive as readers, accomplished as writers and generous as participants in group discussions.

**Required Texts:**


All remaining class readings can be downloaded from the Sakai course page.

**Required Tools:** one TurningPoint ‘Clicker’

**Summary of course structure and requirements:**
On Tuesdays the entire class will meet in CSE A101 for a lecture followed by a brief period for questions and comments. On Thursdays the class will split up into section groups with the Teaching Assistants for in-depth discussion of readings, course concepts and projects.

Please arrive to all sessions on time with the assigned materials in hand, having carefully reviewed them prior to class, and prepared to share your impressions, questions and interpretations. Kindly turn off cell phones for the duration. Laptops may be used to take notes during the Tuesday lecture but not in the Thursday discussion section. Don’t forget to bring your Clicker.

During the semester you will be asked to complete a series of brief ethnographic experiments and to compose two response papers on specified readings. There will also be a mid-term exam, a 10-page research paper (in lieu of a final), and one or more quizzes.

**Evaluations –** Final course grades will be determined in light of five criteria:

- **Attendance & Participation (20%)**
  Participation will be evaluated based on the degree to which the student plays an active, informed role in class discussions and in so doing contributes to the overall success of the
course. Students are also encouraged to meet with the Instructor or the TAs in office hours to talk about course content as well as ideas and plans for the final project.

- **Ethnographic experiments & quizzes (15%)**
- **Two short writing assignments, 650-700 words each (15%)**
  Short writing assignments are synthetic response papers that address a question derived from the readings. They are intended as an opportunity to develop and demonstrate an adequate grasp of the material.
- **Midterm exam (20%)**
  The midterm will cover specific readings as well as major concepts that have emerged in class discussions during the first half of the semester.
- **Research paper, 2700 - 3000 words (30%)**
  The *research paper* is an in-depth exploration of one of the four major class themes (Name, Secret, Gift or Death) through the lens of *a personal experience of your own or of someone who you know well*. Though the notion of “research” for this project is expansive, you should strongly consider incorporating a fieldwork component, such as participant observation or unstructured interviews. While the specific details of the research can be worked out in consultation with the Instructor or TAs, we encourage you to be creative in your approach and in selecting the form your final paper will take.

  A concise and compelling 250-word abstract that clearly outlines the objectives of the project is due in early March. The term paper itself must be handed in no later than the last day of class.

**Papers for this class must be submitted twice:** first through Sakai, using the Turnitin review service; and then, in printed/hard copy form to the TA *by the beginning of class* the day they are due.

Written assignments will be judged on content (the extent to which they succeed in explicating course material and themes) but also in terms of style (coherence, persuasiveness and creativity). With the exception of quizzes and exams, all assignments must be typed and double-spaced with one-inch margins and pages numbered.

**Attendance:** Arriving punctually and remaining until the end of each class is expected. If for any reason you must miss class, inform your TA ahead of time (or as soon as possible) and present appropriate documentation. It is the student’s responsibility to contact a classmate to obtain notes on the materials covered while away. Absences for reasons of religious holiday, illness, and official university business are excused; however, proper notification must still be provided. **Please note:** *Multiple unexcused* absences will severely undermine academic performance. After the third unexcused absence the final grade will be dropped a full letter. Students with six
or more unexcused absences will receive a failing grade for the course. On the other hand, students with perfect or near perfect attendance will receive bonus credit.

For official UF Policy on attendance and absences please consult:
http://www.registrar.ufl.edu/catalog/policies/regulationattendance.html

Assignment Deadlines and Exam date:
1) ethnographic exercises & film quiz: Jan. 13, Jan. 20, Feb. 10, Mar. 17, Mar. 24, Apr. 7
2) reading response papers: Jan. 27, Feb. 24
3) mid-term in class exam: Feb. 15
4) research paper abstract: Mar. 3
5) research paper: Apr. 19
6) pop quizzes: surprise!

Late work & make-up exams: All assignments must be submitted by the beginning of class on the due date. Short assignments handed in late but still within one week of the original due date will be docked a letter grade. After one week, they will no longer be accepted. No extensions will be granted for the research paper. Make-up exams will be allowed only for excused absences. There will be no second chances to take missed quizzes.

Academic Honesty: All work submitted by a student for a grade must be completed by that student and free from unauthorized assistance or deliberate misrepresentations. The penalty for plagiarism or cheating is a grade of zero points on the assignment in question; in such cases an incident form will also be sent to the Office of the Dean of Students. If you have questions about what constitutes academic misconduct, please consult the UF Honor Code as well as the UF Policies on Academic Honesty, Student Rights and Responsibilities. These are available online at

ADA Statement: “Students with disabilities, who need reasonable modifications to complete assignments successfully and otherwise satisfy course criteria, are encouraged to meet with the instructor as early in the course as possible to identify and plan specific accommodations. Students will be asked to supply a letter from the Disability Resource Center to assist in planning accommodations.”

Grading: The following scale will be used for grades on all assignments and exams: 94-100=A; 90-93=A-; 87-89=B+; 83-86=B; 79-82=B-; 76-78=C+; 72-75=C; 69-71=C-; 66-68=D+; 62-65=D; 59-61=D-; 58 and below=E (failing).

Regarding university grading policies, be advised that a grade of C- is not valid for major, minor, Gen Ed, Gordon Rule, or for college basic distribution credit. For questions about minus grades, please see http://www.isis.ufl.edu/minusgrades.html.
You may consult current UF policy on how grade point averages are calculated at http://www.registrar.ufl.edu/catalog/policies/regulationgrades.html.

**Health and Counseling:** The University offers the following health and counseling services for students in the event personal problems hinder academic performance:

- University Counseling Center (301 Peabody Hall, 392-1575),
- Student Mental Health (Student Health Care Center, 392-1171), and
- Sexual Assault Recovery Services (Student Health Care Center, 392-1161)

**Please note:** The Instructor may make minor adjustments to class readings or assignment requirements during the course of the semester. Any and all modifications will be announced ahead of time.

### Course Schedule

#### week 1

**introductions**

1/6

Augé & Colleyn, pp. 1-20

#### I. Culture and Ethnography

#### week 2

**strangers and estrangements**

1/11

Simmel, “The Stranger”

Fortes, “Strangers”

Augé & Colleyn, pp. 21-44

1/13

Leiris, “The Sacred of Everyday Life”

Erbaugh, “Saying Hello to Strangers”

Giridharadas, “Getting in (and out of line)”


week 3  historical circumstances of encounter

1/18  Hurston, *Tell My Horse*, Part I & II  
Augé & Colleyn, pp. 44-80

1/20  Hurston, *Tell My Horse*, Part III  
exercise two due

II. NAME

week 4  personhood

Rymes, “Names”
Romero, “A Culture of Naming That Even a Law May Not Tame”
Wines, “In a Land of Homemade Names, Tiffany Doesn’t Cut It”

1/27  Watson, “The Named and The Nameless”  
paper one due
Augé & Colleyn, pp. 81-96

week 5  social classification

2/1  Clastres, Ch. 3-4

2/3  Bensen, “Injurious Names”
III. SECRET

week 6 magnifying life / gendering knowledge

2/8 Simmel, “Secrecy”
Van Tilburg, “Interviews of the Unspoken”

2/10 Canetti, “Secrecy” exercise three due
Augé & Colleyn, pp. 97-108

week 7 Exam and final project preparations

2/15 In-class Mid-term

2/17 term project planning session
Augé & Colleyn, pp. 109-132

week 8 public secrecy

2/22 Taussig, “In That Other Time: Isla Grande” (excerpts)

2/24 Penglase, “States of Insecurity” paper two due

IV. GIFT

week 9 reciprocity

3/1 Levi-Strauss, “The Principle of Reciprocity”
Clastres, Ch. 5

3/3  Clastres, Ch. 6  project abstract due

Spring Break
3/8 & 3/10  NO CLASS

week 10  sacrifice, transformation, destruction
3/15  Clastres, Ch. 7-9

3/17  Clastres, Ch. 8-9  exercise four due

week 11  debt
3/22  Film: Heddy Honigmann’s “Oblivion”

3/24  Film discussion & Quiz

V. DEATH

week 12  making sense of death
3/29  Boas, “The Origin of Death”

Hertz, “Collective Representation of Death” (excerpts)

Kroeber, “Disposal of the Dead”

Seremetakis, “The Ethics of Antiphony”

week 13  |  dead to the social
4/5      |  Biehl, Vita: Intro

4/7      |  Biehl, Part I  exercise five due

week 14  |  separation
4/12     |  Biehl, Part II

4/14     |  Biehl, Part IV

week 15  |  language and subjectivity
4/19     |  Biehl, Part VI  research paper due