

Cultural Anthropology

Cultural Anthropology

ANT 2410 – Fall 2017



Instructors

Dr. Chuan-Kang Shih
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Office hours: Tues./Thurs. 3:30-5pm

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Office hours: Tues. 2-4:30pm

Teaching Assistants

Christina Callicott
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Tues. 2:30-5:30 (TUR 346)

Netty Carey
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Mon. 9-12 (TUR 346)

Jamie Fuller
jmefuller@ufl.edu,
Wed. 1-2:30; Fri. 2-3:30 (TUR 346)

Lectures

Tuesdays 5-6 (11:45-1:40)
Thursdays 6 (12:50-1:40)
CSE A101

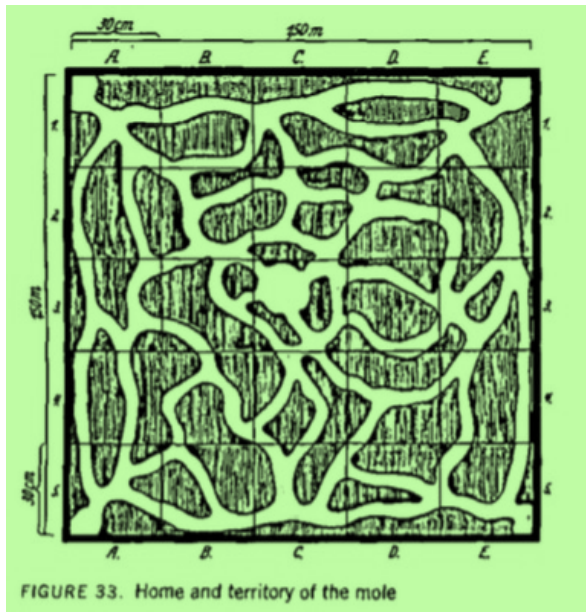
Discussion Sections

0292 – T7 (1:55-2:45) LIT 0233
132B – T8 (3:00-3:50) TUR 1105
132H – T9 (4:05-4:55) LIT 0219
1337 – W3 (9:35-10:25) AND 0032
135F – W4 (10:40-11:30) MAT 0011

135G – W5 (11:45-12:35) MCCB G108
24A9 – R7 (1:55-2:45) TUR 2354
24BB – R4 (10:40-11:30) RNK 0106
24B0 – R5 (11:45-12:35) MCCB 1108

Course Description: Cultural anthropologists study the distinctive ways people create, negotiate and make sense of their own social worlds vis-à-vis the worlds of others. Through research in locales both far away and near to home, anthropologists examine relations and events that influence and determine social belonging and exclusion, whether based in gender, kinship, religion, language, political economy or historical constructions of race, ethnicity and citizenship. The scope of cultural anthropology is thus broad. Participant observation and comparative analysis are the research methods that have traditionally separated it from other social science disciplines. And yet its practitioners pursue a variety of approaches as they explore diverse human phenomena (including a wide range of social issues, which affect the survival and well-being of all human societies as they have become globally interdependent).

This class provides an introduction to the discipline through a consideration of topics and everyday themes that are not only of vital relevance today but hold an enduring place in the intellectual tradition of anthropology. The purpose of this class is to increase students' familiarity and comfort with concepts of cultural analysis—such as habitus, reciprocity, personhood, and the sacred—and to show how these same notions 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. It 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. Intended for the purpose of liberal arts education, no assumption is made that students taking this course will go on to major in anthropology.



Student Learning Outcomes

- Identify, recognize and recall influential concepts and concerns of cultural anthropology
- Demonstrate a comprehension and appreciation of the diversity of cultural phenomena
- Describe the interconnectedness of the contemporary world and how it is being transformed through globalization, development, and migration
- Practice skills of textual interpretation
- Express a basic understanding of anthropological modes of research & representation
- Develop sensitivity to the ethical implications of ethnographic fieldwork

Required Textbook

Robert Welsch & Luis Vivanco, *Asking Questions About Cultural Anthropology: A Concise Introduction*, Oxford University Press, 2015. ISBN: 9780199926909

All additional required and recommended readings will be posted to the Canvas course page.

Supplementary Resources

American Anthropological Association	http://www.americananthro.org/
The Society for Cultural Anthropology	https://culanth.org/
American Ethnological Society	https://americanethnologist.org/
Savage Minds	https://savageminds.org/
Somatosphere	http://somatosphere.net/
Human Relations Area Files (HRAF)	http://hraf.yale.edu/
Sensory Ethnography Lab	http://sel.fas.harvard.edu/

Summary of course structure and requirements On Tuesdays (periods 5-6) and Thursdays (period 6), the entire class will meet in CSE A101 for lectures and films, student commentary and questions. In addition to the scheduled lectures, the class will split up into section groups for in-depth discussion of readings and films, course concepts and projects. The discussion sections are led by Christina, Netty, and Jamie—our brilliant and extremely knowledgeable graduate Teaching Assistants.

During the semester, you will be asked to complete two ethnographic activities, write brief commentaries on the Canvas Discussion Board, design a research project, and keep a research-related “field journal.” There will also be two in-class exams, a final project poster assignment, and a number of pop quizzes.

Class etiquette Please arrive to all sessions punctually with that week’s assigned materials in hand. It is important that you have carefully reviewed all required readings *prior to class*, so you will be in a position to share your informed questions, impressions and interpretations.

Kindly turn cell phones to silent for the duration of all class meetings.

Laptops/tablets MAY NOT be used to take notes during lectures or discussion sections.

As a basic courtesy to your other students, instructors and TAs, please refrain from leaving in the middle of class – that means during lecture, discussion or screening of films - unless you have a compelling reason. If you know ahead of time you will need to depart early, you should notify your TA and then sit next to the door so that you may minimize disruption.

During the Tuesday lecture, there will be a 10-minute break mid-session to stretch legs, get a drink at the water fountain or use the restroom.

Attendance If you must miss lecture or discussion section, you should inform your TA ahead of time (or as soon as possible) and present appropriate documentation. In such cases you are responsible for contacting a classmate to obtain notes on materials and topics covered while away.

Absences for reasons of religious holiday, illness, and official university business are excused; however, proper notification should still be provided.

Please note: Since participation as well as assimilation of vital class materials depend upon attendance, multiple absences (4 & above) will necessarily undermine academic performance. Students who have a high number of absences risk failing the course.

For official UF Policy on attendance and absences please consult
<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>

Evaluations Final course grades will be determined in light of four criteria:

1. Participation (25%): Participation will be evaluated based on various measures of the degree to which you have played an active, informed role in class. These include attendance, pop quizzes as well as commentary and questions (spontaneously volunteered in class or assigned via the Canvas course page). You are encouraged to go to office hours to meet with Dr. Shih, Dr. Kernaghan and with your assigned TA to talk about course content or to discuss your ideas and plans for the term project.

2. Two ethnographic experiments (15%): These are brief exercises in the observation of some contemporary setting of social life, including explorations of personal memory. For each exercise, you will be asked to craft a 300-word report of your findings and reflections.

3. In-class exams (30%): Two exams will test your familiarity with specific readings as well as major concepts that emerge in class discussions over the course of the semester.

4. Term research project: journal, abstract, final poster and poster presentation (30%): We encourage you to be creative not only in the selection of your topic but in determining your approach and designing your poster. The specific topic and details of your research should be explored and ultimately decided upon in consultation with the course instructors and your TA. A concise and compelling 250-word abstract outlining your project and its objectives will be due on Nov. 1. You will also be expected to keep a research diary of your on-going progress, reflections and findings. The poster and accompanying journal must be handed in by Nov. 28. The last two days of class will be dedicated to poster presentations.

Assignment Deadlines

- 1) ethnographic exercises: Sept. 7, Oct. 10
- 2) in-class exams: Sept. 21, Oct. 26.
- 3) term project abstract: Nov. 1
- 4) term project poster & ethnographic journal: Nov. 28

With the exception of quizzes and in-class exams, assignments must be submitted *by the beginning of class* the day they are due. The ethnographic exercise and project abstract should be typed and double-spaced with one-inch margins.

Late work & make-up exams 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. Make-ups for the in-class exams will be allowed only for excused absences. There will be no second chances to take missed quizzes, and **no extensions will be granted for the term project.**

Grading Scale 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; 80-82=B-; 77-79=C+; 73-76=C; 70-72=C-; 67-69=D+; 63-66=D; 60-62=D-; below 60=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 <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx#calculating>.

Online Course Evaluation Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing online evaluations at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu>. Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semesters, but students will be given specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results>.

University of Florida Policies

Accommodations for students with disabilities The University of Florida is committed to providing academic accommodations for students with disabilities. Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with the Disability Resource Center (352-392-8565, www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/) by providing appropriate documentation. Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter that must be emailed to the instructor when requesting accommodation. The University encourages students with disabilities to follow these procedures as early as possible within the semester.

University Policy on Academic Conduct UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge, which states, "We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code." On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is implied: "On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment." The Honor Code (<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/>) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Furthermore, your instructors and TA are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor or TA in this class.

This course will be using systems that check for plagiarism from websites and fellow students. Your instructors can Google too! If there is an infraction, you will receive a warning as well as a zero (0) for the assignment and be reported to the Dean of Students Office. After receiving a warning, if cheating persists, you will receive a zero (0) for the subsequent assignment, be reported to the Dean of Students Office again, and incur any further penalties that are administered by the Dean of Students Office.

Once you have been reported for cheating or plagiarism you cannot drop the class. Plagiarism includes copying from websites or other students or previous work that you have submitted. Self-plagiarism is real and will not be tolerated: you cannot duplicate your work from other courses. Any direct quotes should be properly cited with author, date and page number(s). If you have questions about this, please use the Course Questions discussion board or email your instructors directly. You are strongly discouraged from sharing your notes for this class on any online website. You are not permitted to distribute screen shots of any course content.

Basic guidelines for not plagiarizing

- Do not copy and paste from any website
- Write your own words
- Do not collaborate with fellow students on any assignment unless otherwise noted
- Use in-text citations when using direct quotes, when paraphrasing, or when citing original research (<https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/2/>)

Getting Help

U Matter, We Care serves as the umbrella program for UF's caring culture and provides students in distress with support and coordination of a wide variety of appropriate resources. Contact umatter@ufl.edu seven days a week for assistance if you are in distress. Call 352-392-1575 for a crisis counselor in the nighttime and weekends.

Additional UF Resources

- The Writing Studio, 302 Tigert Hall (864-1138) <http://writing.ufl.edu/writing-studio/for-students/>
- Career Resource Center, Reitz Union (392-1601) <http://www.crc.ufl.edu/>
- Student Health Care Center (392-1161) <http://shcc.ufl.edu/>, and
- Counseling & Wellness Center, 3190 Radio Road (392-1575) <http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/>

The Instructor may make minor adjustments to readings during the semester. Any and all modifications will be announced ahead of time.

Course Schedule

week 1 **Studying humanity**

8/22 Introductions

Welsch & Vivanco, Chapter 1

film: *Nanook of the North* (Flaherty)

8/24 Pitt-Rivers, "The Law of Hospitality"

week 2 **Culture as experience | Culture as concept**

8/29 Welsch & Vivanco, Chapter 2

Williams, "Culture"

American Anthropological Association Statement on Race (1998)

film: *First Contact* (Connolly & Anderson)

8/31 Bowen, *Return to Laughter*, Chapters 1 & 2

Raffles, *Insectopedia*: "Beauty," "Death"

week 3 **Language & culture**

9/5 Welsch & Vivanco, Chapter 3

Hurston, "Florida's Migrant Farm Labor"

Fanon, "The Negro and Language"

film: Zora Neale Hurston fieldwork footage & audio recordings

9/7 Bowen, *Return to Laughter*, Chapter 3 & 4

due: *ethnographic experiment one*

week 4 Ethnography

9/12 Welsch & Vivanco, Chapter 4

Mauss, "Bodily Techniques"

further reading: Goffman, "Face-Work"

film: *Manakamana* (Spray & Velez)

9/14 Raffles, *Insectopedia*: "Chernobyl"

week 5 Predicaments of the global

9/19 Welsch & Vivanco, Chapter 5

Tsing, *Friction*: Chapter 1 (excerpt)

further reading: Tsing, "The Global Situation"

film: *Watermark* (Baichwal & Burtynsky)

9/21 **in-class exam 1**

week 6 Foodways

9/26 Welsch & Vivanco, Chapter 6

Mintz, "Food & Diaspora"

film: *What's for dinner?* (Jian Yi)

9/28 **Explore online:** Eating Bodies Fluid Network Website

week 7 Economies (of working, giving, consuming, justifying...)

10/3 Welsch & Vivanco, Chapter 7

Malinowski, *Argonauts of the Western Pacific*: "Tribal Economics in the Trobriands"

film: selected videos from *Labor in a Single Shot Project* (Ehmann & Farocki)

10/5 Newell, "Estranged Belongings"

due: *ethnographic experiment two*

week 8 Creating a research project

10/10 term project brainstorming session – Part I

film: *Night Cries: A Rural Tragedy* (Moffatt)

presentation – Dr. Richard Freeman, Anthropology Librarian

10/12 term project brainstorming session – Part II

week 9 Power, Policy, Control

10/17 Welsch & Vivanco, Chapter 8

Clastres, *Society Against the State*:
"The Duty to Speak" & "Of Torture in Primitive Societies"

film: *108 Cuchillo de Palo* (Costa) [part 1]

10/19 Foucault, *Society Must Be Defended*: Lecture 4

Explore online: "Race – Are We So Different?" AAA project website

week 10 Gender and Sexuality

10/24 Welsch & Vivanco, Chapter 9

Allen, "Brides without Husbands"

further reading: Rubin, "The Traffic in Women"

film: *108 Cuchillo de Palo* (Costa) [part 2]

10/26 **in-class exam 2**

week 11 Family (ancestors, kin, progeny)

10/31 Welsch & Vivanco, Chapter 10

film: *Bittersweet Joke* (Paik Yeon Ah)

11/2 Geertz & Geertz, “Teknonymy in Bali”

due: *term project abstract*

week 12 Cosmologies, practices, beliefs

11/7 Welsch & Vivanco, Chapter 11

Evans-Pritchard, “Witchcraft”

film: *Witchcraft Among the Azande* (Singer)

11/9 Taussig, “Transgression”

week 13 Between Health and Illness

11/14 Welsch & Vivanco, Chapter 12

film: *The Engineer* (Charles & Passarelli)

11/16 Scheper-Hughes, “The Global Traffic in Human Organs”

week 14 Aesthetics I: cultures of sensation and image

11/21 Welsch & Vivanco, Chapter 13

Condry, *The Soul of Anime*: “Love Revolution”

film: *Forever* (Honigmann) [part 1]

11/23 No Class – Thanksgiving Holiday

week 15 Aesthetics II: base materiality and the sacred

11/28 Leiris, “The Sacred in Everyday Life”

Leiris, “Alberto Giacometti”

film: *Forever* (Honigmann) [part 2]

due: *final project posters & ethnographic journal*

11/30 poster presentations

week 16 final remarks

12/5 poster presentations