

ANT 2410 (Section 0292)

Introduction to Cultural Anthropology

Course URL: <http://www.clas.ufl.edu/users/ckshih>

Instructor: Dr. Chuan-kang Shih

Office: B125 Turlington Hall

Phone: 392-2253, ext. 253 (office)

Email: ckshih@ufl.edu

Office Hours: Tuesdays 4:00-5:00 p.m., Thursdays 9:30-10:30 a.m.

Teaching Assistant: Joe Feldman

Office: B346 Turlington Hall

Phone: 392-2253, ext. 224

Email: jpfeldman@ufl.edu

Office Hours: Mondays and Wednesdays 10:00-11:30 a.m.

Course Description

Cultural anthropology is the study of various ways of living and thinking in human communities by means of fieldwork and comparative analyses. Thanks to its unique approaches, cultural anthropology offers a broad perspective on a wide range of important social issues. These issues are important because their consequences are determinative to the survival and well-being of all human societies which are increasingly interdependent.

In this introductory course, after briefly introducing what anthropology as a discipline is about and how anthropologists work, we will examine topics such as culture, ethnicity, language, economic systems, political systems, families and kinship, marriage, gender, religion, ecology, arts, world system and globalization, etc.

This course should help you understand and appreciate cultural variation over time and space, enhance your awareness and sensitivity of cultural diversity and change in your living environment, and develop your interpretive skills for cultural phenomena. This course is intended for the purpose of liberal arts education. No assumption is made that students taking this course will go on to major in anthropology.

Texts

Course reader:

COL5 (Univ of Florida) ANT2410: PPK Selected materials from Cultural Anthropology: Appreciating Cultural Diversity and Culture Sketches. McGraw-Hill 2011. ISBN 0077592026.

Terms

Requirements for this course include: 1) reading assignments for each session; 2) regular attendance on schedule; 3) active participation in group and class discussion; and 4) three written examinations. You must finish the readings assigned for each session BEFORE the class meets.

Without legitimate reasons for excuse, you are expected to attend each and every class on schedule. Everyone is strongly encouraged to raise questions and offer comments during class discussions. Throughout the semester, three examinations in forms of multiple choice and true-false questions will be held with an interval of five weeks. The examinations will be non-cumulative.

Your course grade will be calculated on the following basis:

- 1) First examination (30%);
- 2) Second examination (30%);
- 3) Third examination (30%);
- 4) Attendance (10%).

Disability Accommodations

Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the Instructor when requesting accommodation.

Frequently Used Library Links

Library Homepage <http://www.uflib.ufl.edu/> (for all library services and collections)
Course Reserves <https://ares.uflib.ufl.edu/> (for hard copy and/or electronic reserves)
Ask-A-Librarian <http://www.uflib.ufl.edu/ask/> (direct email or online chat for assistance)
IR @ UF <http://ufdcweb1.uflib.ufl.edu/ufdc/?g=ufirg> (to access the UF digital Institutional Repository)
Library Tools and Mobile Apps <http://www.uflib.ufl.edu/tools/> (smart phone apps, RSS feeds, and much more)
Subject Guides/Specialists <http://apps.uflib.ufl.edu/staffdir/SubjectSpecialist.aspx> (by discipline and/or course)

Important Dates

Tue., Sep. 27: First examination

Tue., Nov. 01: Second examination

Tue., Dec. 06: Third examination

Course Schedule

Tue., Aug. 23: Course introduction
 Reading: This syllabus.
 Kottak, chap. 1, p. 2
Thu., Aug. 25: Anthropology: A unique approach to the study of humans
 Reading: Peters-Golden, chap. 1, p. 1
Tue., Aug. 30: What is culture?
 Reading: Kottak, chap. 2, p. 24
Thu., Sep. 01: Issues around doing anthropology
 Reading: Peters-Golden, chap. 2, p. 20
Tue., Sep. 06: Method in cultural anthropology

Reading: Kottak, chap. 3, p. 48
 Thu., Sep. 08: Culture change
 Reading: Peters-Golden, chap. 3, p. 40
 Tue., Sep. 13: Applying anthropology
 Reading: Kottak, chap. 4, p. 78
 Thu., Sep. 15: Ethnicity
 Reading: Peters-Golden, chap. 4, p. 249
 Tue., Sep. 20: Language
 Reading: Kottak, chap. 5, p. 100
 Thu., Sep. 22: Language and culture
 Reading: Peters-Golden, chap. 5, p. 81
 Tue., Sep. 27: Race
 Reading: Kottak, chap. 6, p. 124
First examination
 Thu., Sep. 29: Political economics
 Reading: Peters-Golden, chap. 6, p. 102
 Tue., Oct. 04: Making a living
 Reading: Kottak, chap. 7, p. 154
 Thu., Oct. 06: Sociopolitical organization
 Reading: Peters-Golden, chap. 7, p. 122
 Tue., Oct. 11: Nation-state
 Reading: Kottak, chap. 8, p. 182
 Thu., Oct. 13: Sex and gender
 Reading: Peters-Golden, chap. 8, p. 142
 Tue., Oct. 18: Gender differentiation
 Reading: Kottak, chap. 9, p. 210
 Thu., Oct. 20: Kinship
 Reading: Peters-Golden, chap. 9 p. 158
 Tue., Oct. 25: Marriage
 Reading: Kottak, chap. 10, p. 260
 Thu., Oct. 27: Family
 Reading: Peters-Golden, chap. 10, p. 177
 Tue., Nov. 01: Kinship, marriage and family
 Reading: Kottak, chap. 11, p. 238
Second examination
 Thu., Nov. 03: Religion
 Reading: Peters-Golden, chap. 11, p. 194
 Tue., Nov. 08: Religion and culture
 Reading: Kottak, chap. 12, p. 284
 Thu., Nov. 10: Industrial revolution
 Reading: Peters-Golden, chap. 12, p. 215
 Tue., Nov. 15: Arts
 Reading: Kottak, chap. 13, p. 310
 Thu., Nov. 17: Ecology

Reading: Peters-Golden, chap. 13, p. 233
Tue., Nov. 22: World system
Reading: Kottak, chap. 14, p. 340

Thu., Nov. 24: Thanksgiving, no class.

Tue., Nov. 29: Global issues today
Reading: Kottak, chap. 15, p. 366
Thu., Dec. 01: The emerging global culture
Reading: Peters-Golden, chap. 15, p. 269
Tue. Dec. 06: **Third examination**
End of class.