

ANT 2410

Introduction to Cultural Anthropology

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

Textbook URL: <http://www.mhhe.com/kottakca11>

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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, and globalization of the world system, 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 a variety of 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

Kottak, Conrad Phillip

2006 *Cultural Anthropology*. 11th ed. Boston: McGraw-Hill Inc.

Haviland, William A. et al.

2006 *Talking about People: Readings in Contemporary Cultural Anthropology*. 4th ed. Boston: McGraw-Hill.

Peters-Golden, Holly

2006 *Cultural Sketches: Case Studies in Anthropology*. 4th ed. Boston: McGraw-Hill.

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, you are expected to attend each and every class on schedule. We will have group and class discussions on most Tuesdays. Everyone is required to actively take part in group discussion and is strongly encouraged to speak during class discussion. An examination in form of multiple choice or true-false questions will be held every five weeks. There will be three such examinations throughout the semester. The first examination will test on the content covered from the beginning of the course until the time of the examination. The following two examinations will cover contents from their previous examinations respectively. In other words, there will be no cumulative examinations.

Your course grade will be based on the following basis:

- 1) Reading, discussion, and attendance (25%);
- 2) First examination (25%);
- 3) Second examination (25%);
- 4) Third examination (25%).

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.

Important Dates

Tue., Sep. 26: First examination

Tue., Oct. 31: Second examination

Tue., Dec. 05: Third examination

Course Schedule

Thu., Aug. 24: Introduction to the course; What is anthropology?

Readings: This syllabus.
Kottak, pp. 3-41

Tue., Aug. 29: What is distinctive about anthropology?

Readings: Haviland et al., pp. 1-16
Peters-Golden pp. 17-36

Thu., Aug. 31: Ethics and methods in cultural anthropology

Reading: Kottak, pp. 43-60

Tue., Sep. 05: Issues around doing anthropology

Readings: Haviland et al., pp. 17-26
Peters-Golden, pp. 203-221

Thu., Sep. 07: Culture

Readings: Kottak, pp. 63-79

Tue., Sep. 12: What is the meaning of culture?

- Readings: Haviland et al., pp. 27-49
Peters-Golden, pp. 186-202
- Thu., Sep. 14: Ethnicity and race
Readings: Kottak, pp. 81-105
- Tue., Sep. 19: Collective identities: How do people express status and group membership?
Readings: Haviland et al., pp. 168-200
Peters-Golden, pp. 78-96
- Thu., Sep. 21: Language and communication
Readings: Kottak, pp. 107-133
- Tue., Sep. 26: Communication: What is the relationship between language and culture?
Readings: Haviland et al., pp. 50-71
Peters-Golden, pp. 117-135
- Thu., Sep. 28: Making a living
Readings: Kottak, pp. 135-158
- Tue., Oct. 03: Economics: How do people make a living?
Readings: Haviland et al., pp. 109-124
Peters-Golden, pp. 97-116
- Thu., Oct. 05: Political systems
Readings: Kottak, pp. 161-186
- Tue., Oct. 10: Politics: How do people exercise power over each other?
Readings: Haviland et al., pp. 201-222
Peters-Golden, pp. 57-77
- Thu., Oct. 12: Families, kinship, and Descent
Readings: Kottak, pp. 189-208
- Tue., Oct. 17: Socialization: How do people learn and experience their culture?
Readings: Haviland et al., pp. 72-86
Peters-Golden, pp. 168-202
- Thu., Oct. 19: Marriage
Readings: Kottak, pp. 211-231
- Tue., Oct. 24: Marriage and kinship: What does it mean to be in a family?
Readings: Haviland et al., pp. 143-167
Peters-Golden, pp. 238-254
- Thu., Oct. 26: Gender
Readings: Kottak, pp. 233-259
- Tue., Oct. 31: Gender and sexuality: How do women and men relate to each other?
Readings: Haviland et al., pp. 125-142
Peters-Golden, pp. 152-167
- Thu., Nov. 02: Religion
Readings: Kottak, pp. 261-283
- Tue., Nov. 07: Religion: How do we make sense of peoples' beliefs and ritual practices?
Readings: Haviland et al., pp. 223-244
Peters-Golden, pp. 1-16
- Thu., Nov. 09: The modern world system
Readings: Kottak, pp. 305-324
- Tue., Nov. 14: Change: What does mean to modernize?

Readings: Haviland et al., pp. 245-266
Peters-Golden, pp. 136-151

Thu., Nov. 16: Colonialism and development

Readings: Kottak, pp. 327-347

Tue., Nov. 21: Ecology: How do people relate to nature?

Readings: Haviland et al., pp. 87-108
Peters-Golden, pp. 222-237

Thu., Nov. 23: Thanksgiving, no class.

Tue., Nov. 28: The arts

Readings: Kottak, pp. 285-303

Thu., Dec. 30: Cultural exchange and survival

Readings: Kottak, pp. 349-371

Tue., Dec. 05: Old issues, new contexts: What does the future hold for anthropology?

Readings: Haviland et al., pp. 267-287
Peters-Golden, pp. 255-274