ANT 2410

Introduction to Cultural Anthropology

Course URL: http://www.clas.ufl.edu/users/ckshih
Textbook URL: http://www.mhhe.com/kottakcal1

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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
Haviland, William A. et al.
Peters-Golden, Holly
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. 03: 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