

ANT 2410 (Sections 0292, 132B, 132H, 1337, 135F, 135G)

## **Introduction to Cultural Anthropology**

Instructor: Dr. Chuan-kang Shih

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Office Hours: Tuesdays 3:00-5:00 p.m. and Thursdays 3:00-4:00 p.m.

Teaching Assistants: TBA

### **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) attending lectures and sections on schedule; 3) active participation in class and section discussion; 4) finish section assignments on schedule; and 5) three written examinations. You must finish the readings assigned for each lecture 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 and section 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 your final score plus the bonus points and/or penalty points that accrue due to your performance throughout the semester.

Full mark of the final score is 100. Points of the final score will come from the following four components:

- 1) First examination (25%);
- 2) Second examination (25%);
- 3) Third examination (25%);
- 4) Section assignments (25%).

Those who keep a record of full attendance (namely, never miss any session including sections) will receive a bonus of 5 points. Those who speak in whole-class lecture sessions will receive a bonus of 2 points. Those who miss 20% of the sessions including sections without legitimate reasons will receive a penalty of 5 points. Those who miss 50% of the sessions including sections without legitimate reasons will automatically receive E (failure) as course grade.

After adding the bonus points and deducting the penalty points, the final score will be converted to your course grade on the following scale:

≥95	A	90-94	A-	85-89	B+	80-84	B
75-79	B-	70-74	C+	65-69	C	60-64	C-
55-59	D+	50-54	D	45-49	D-	≤44	E

### **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. 29: First examination

Tue., Nov. 03: Second examination

Tue., Dec. 08: Third examination

### **Course Schedule**

Tue., Aug. 25: Course introduction

Reading: This syllabus.  
Kottak, chap. 1, p. 2

Thu., Aug. 27: Anthropology: A unique approach to the study of humans

Reading: Peters-Golden, chap. 1, p. 1

Tue., Sep. 01: What is culture?

Reading: Kottak, chap. 2, p. 24

Thu., Sep. 03: Issues around doing anthropology

Reading: Peters-Golden, chap. 2, p. 20

Tue., Sep. 08: Method in cultural anthropology

Reading: Kottak, chap. 3, p. 48  
 Thu., Sep. 10: Culture change  
 Reading: Peters-Golden, chap. 3, p. 40  
 Tue., Sep. 15: Applying anthropology  
 Reading: Kottak, chap. 4, p. 78  
 Thu., Sep. 17: Ethnicity  
 Reading: Peters-Golden, chap. 4, p. 249  
 Tue., Sep. 22: Language  
 Reading: Kottak, chap. 5, p. 100  
 Thu., Sep. 24: Language and culture  
 Reading: Peters-Golden, chap. 5, p. 81  
 Tue., Sep. 29: Race  
 Reading: Kottak, chap. 6, p. 124  
**First examination**  
 Thu., Oct. 01: Political economics  
 Reading: Peters-Golden, chap. 6, p. 102  
 Tue., Oct. 06: Making a living  
 Reading: Kottak, chap. 7, p. 154  
 Thu., Oct. 08: Sociopolitical organization  
 Reading: Peters-Golden, chap. 7, p. 122  
 Tue., Oct. 13: Nation-state  
 Reading: Kottak, chap. 8, p. 182  
 Thu., Oct. 15: Sex and gender  
 Reading: Peters-Golden, chap. 8, p. 142  
 Tue., Oct. 20: Gender differentiation  
 Reading: Kottak, chap. 9, p. 210  
 Thu., Oct. 22: Kinship  
 Reading: Peters-Golden, chap. 9 p. 158  
 Tue., Oct. 27: Marriage  
 Reading: Kottak, chap. 10, p. 260  
 Thu., Oct. 29: Family  
 Reading: Peters-Golden, chap. 10, p. 177  
 Tue., Nov. 03: Kinship, marriage and family  
 Reading: Kottak, chap. 11, p. 238  
**Second examination**  
 Thu., Nov. 05: Religion  
 Reading: Peters-Golden, chap. 11, p. 194  
 Tue., Nov. 10: Religion and culture  
 Reading: Kottak, chap. 12, p. 284  
 Thu., Nov. 12: Industrial revolution  
 Reading: Peters-Golden, chap. 12, p. 215  
 Tue., Nov. 17: Arts  
 Reading: Kottak, chap. 13, p. 310  
 Thu., Nov. 19: Ecology

Reading: Peters-Golden, chap. 13, p. 233  
Tue., Nov. 24: World system  
Reading: Kottak, chap. 14, p. 340

Thu., Nov. 26: Thanksgiving, no class.

Tue., Dec. 01: Global issues today  
Reading: Kottak, chap. 15, p. 366  
Thu., Dec. 03: The emerging global culture  
Reading: Peters-Golden, chap. 15, p. 269  
Tue. Dec. 08: **Third examination**  
End of class.