

INTRODUCTION TO CULTURAL ANTHROPOLOGY ANT 2410 FALL 2015

Meeting Times: Monday, Wednesday and Friday 1:55-2:45 (Period 7)
Turlington, Room L005

Instructor:

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Office Hours: Monday 3:00 to 4:00pm, Wednesday 11:30 to 1:30pm

Teaching Assistant:

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Office Hours: Wednesday 10:00am to 1:00pm

Required Text #1: Purchase one of the following (Relevant chapters are the same in each book):

Cultural Anthropology 14th edition 2014
By Carol Ember, Melvin Ember and Peter Peregrine
Prentice Hall. ISBN: 9780205957194

Required Text #2: *Conformity and Conflict* 14th ed.
By J. Spradley and D. McCurdy, eds. Pearson.

(Excerpts from this book will be posted to Sakai; you do not need to purchase it).

Course Description

This course is an introduction to Cultural Anthropology, a subdiscipline of Anthropology that focuses on the study human cultural systems. Although Cultural Anthropology is a social science and therefore similar to the other social sciences (psychology, sociology, political science, and economics, among others), cultural anthropology is significantly different from the other social sciences both in terms of the scope of what cultural anthropology studies and in terms of how cultural anthropologists go about doing it. During this semester, we will explore the unique approach cultural anthropologists use to study their subject while also examining how and why societies around the world differ in such important and fascinating ways. Additionally, we will focus on how globalization and world systems threaten and undermine cultural systems (including our own), why globalization is a significant problem for humanity, and how anthropological approaches can help solve contemporary global problems.

Course Evaluation and Grading

During this course, you will be graded on three (3) non-cumulative exams, a written assignment, attendance/class participation and 3 quizzes.

Exams:

There will be three non-cumulative exams covering material from your textbook, articles, lectures and films. These exams will consist of multiple choice and, possibly, true/false questions. Exams will be administered via the Sakai portal. On exam days, the exam will be open during the 7th period only. You are expected to take exams on the days that they are scheduled.

Each is weighted equally and is non-cumulative. The exams will have 50 multiple choice questions and will be given during the semester at the times listed on the syllabus. **There will be no make-up exams.** Make-up exams will be allowed only in emergencies with documented excuses for absence on the day of the exam. Make up exams may be different from original exams and consist of essays and short answers.

Written Assignment (Participant Observation Exercise) due November 13:

You and a partner will select a public space where you are part of the local scene, and interact for 45-60 minutes just as if you were a normal member of the public. In this case, however, observe the scene without drawing attention to yourself, and consciously evaluate the interaction(s) that you observe. Each of you will turn in a 4 to 5 page paper based on your experiences. A number of you may decide to conduct the participant observation activity off campus. You are welcome to do so but please exercise good judgment and proper safety precautions. To this end, I *require* that you and your partner conduct the observation component *together*.

Papers will include discussion of how you and your partner worked together, but all papers must be written independently. Each paper must cite at least two examples from the chapters in *Conformity and Conflict* that show how your own experiences or methods relate to those of professional anthropologists. The assignment is to be typed, double-spaced, and 11- or 12-point font size, with 1 inch margins. (Note that this is different than MS Word's default of 1.25 inches, so change this in the document).

Attendance/ Class Participation:

Attendance will be taken each day in class. Students who miss a class are responsible for all assignments and material covered in class and they miss 2 points (out of 360) for each unexcused absence. In-class lectures and discussion are an important part of your final grade. To do well in this course you must attend class, listen carefully, and take useful notes (this includes any slide presentations, photos or videos). You can expect some questions on the exam that are based on class discussions. **To get full credit for class participation, you must contribute to discussions throughout the semester. E-mail the instructor and the TA reminding them of what you said during class. We will keep track of this using a spreadsheet.**

Participation Bonus: Students who participate during class discussions at least once throughout the semester will receive an extra 3.5 points (out of 360, not percentage

points) to their grade. Comments must be meaningful and relate to the content of class discussion. To ensure we count your participation, you can send an e-mail to the professor after class stating your name and reminding us of what you said. **The 3.5 points will be counted as a separate bonus category from the rest of your course grade.**

Excused vs. Unexcused Absences. To have an absence waved, you must notify me within 24 hours of its occurrence via e-mail or in person. Valid reasons include illness, medical or family emergencies (I will ask for doctor's notes), religious holidays and travel and/or conferences associated with special academic or athletic commitments you have within the university (I will need documentation for this, as well). Absences related to employment commitments will not be excused, so please explain your class schedules to your work supervisors.

Conduct:

Please contribute to an atmosphere that is respectful of the other students and the learning atmosphere. Come to class on time and keep chatter and whispering with others to a minimum. Kindly refrain from playing on your computer. **Repeated failure to come to class on time may result in points taken away from your participation grade.**

Quizzes:

There will be 3 short quizzes administered through Sakai. Each quiz will be announced several days in advance. They will consist of 10 questions pertaining to the readings, lectures and any documentaries we watch. Students will have all of the appointed quiz days to log in and complete it. I expect to set 25 minutes as the maximum time students will have to finish the quizzes.

Grade Breakdown:

Three Exams:	50 pts each for a total of	150 pts
Written Assignment:		75 pts
Attendance/ Class Participation		90 pts
Quizzes	15 pts each for a total of	45 pts
Total points possible:		360 pts

Grades are calculated as follows:

A	338+
A-	324-337
B+	313-323
B	299-312
B-	288-298
C+	277-287

C	263-276
C-	252-262
D	216-251
E	<215

I may lower this bar, but I will never raise it.

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 <http://www.registrar.ufl.edu/catalog/policies/regulationgrades.html>.

OTHER IMPORTANT ISSUES:

Academic Dishonesty:

Plagiarism and cheating will not be tolerated. Students charged with academic dishonesty are subject to the Florida Board of Regent's Code of Conduct and procedures established by UF and outlined in the *Student Handbook*. **No leniency will be granted, and any incidents will be pursued to the fullest extent of the sanctions in the Code of Conduct.** http://www.dso.ufl.edu/stg/Code_of_Conduct.html

Students with Learning Disabilities or Physical Handicaps:

Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office. The Dean of Students Office **Requests for accommodations must be made by the end of the second week of class.**

Statement from the Americans with Disabilities Act: "Students with disabilities, who need reasonable modifications to complete assignments successfully and otherwise satisfy course criteria, are encouraged to meet with the instructor as early in the course as possible to identify and plan specific accommodations. Students will be asked to supply a letter from the Disability Resource Center to assist in planning accommodations."

UF Counseling Services

Resources are available on campus for students having personal problems or lacking clear career and academic goals that interfere with their academic performance. These resources include:

1. University Counseling and Wellness Center, 3190 Radio Road, 392-1575, personal and career counseling

2. Sexual Assault Recovery Services (SARS), Student Health Care Center, 392-1161, sexual counseling
3. Career Resource Center, Reitz Union, 392-1601, career development assistance and counseling.
4. Reading & Writing Center, Broward Hall, 392-0791, writing assistance, study skills, test preparation.

Course Outline

The following course outline is approximate. We may spend more or less time on specific topics as class interest dictates. Some changes are possible.

Week One (August 24, 26 and 28)

Anthropology and the Culture Concept

- Ember, Chapter 1
- Chapters 1, 2 and 31 in *Conformity and Conflict*.
- **Lecture:** What do Anthropology Graduate Students do?

Week Two (August 31, September 2 and 4) The Culture Concept (Cont.)

- Ember, Chapter 2
- Chapters 3 and 4 in *Conformity and Conflict*.

Week Three (September 9 and 11)

Method and Theory: Anthropology and Social Science

NO CLASS ON SEPTEMBER 7 (Labor Day)

- Ember, Chapters 3 and 4
- Chapters 5, 9 and 10 in *Conformity and Conflict*.

Week Four (September 14, 16 and 18) Communication: Language and Culture

- Ember, Chapter 5
- Chapters 6, 7 and 8 in *Conformity and Conflict*.
- **Debate on Language Ideology:** What is correct English?

Week Five (September 21, 23 and 25)

First Exam Open in Sakai 1:30 to 3:00 pm on Monday September 21.

- Reading for Wednesday and Friday: Chapters 11 and 12 in *Conformity*.

Week Six: (September 28, 30 and October 2) Economic Anthropology: How People make a living

- Ember, Chapters 6 and 7.
- Chapters 13 and 14 in *Conformity and Conflict*.

Week Seven: (October 5, 7 and 9) Social Organization I: Marriage, Family, Kinship

- Ember, Chapters 9-10
- Chapters 17 and 18 in *Conformity and Conflict*.
- **Documentary:** *Return to Belaye*

Week Eight: (October 12, 14 and 16) Social Organization II: Kinship, Descent, Association

- Ember, Chapters 11-12.
- Chapters 19 and 20 in *Conformity and Conflict*.

Week Nine: (October 19, 21 and 23) Politics and Social Order I: Evolution of Political Society

- Ember, Chapters 8 and 13.
- Chapters 25-27 in *Conformity and Conflict*.

Week Ten: (October 26, 28 and 30) **Second Exam open on Sakai 1:30-3:30 pm Monday October 26.**

- Wednesday and Friday Reading: Chapters 21 and 22 in *Conformity*.

Week Eleven: (November 2 and 4) Politics and Social Order II: Class, Ethnicity, Race.
NO CLASS ON NOVEMBER 6 (Homecoming)

- Jane Hill (2008) *The Everyday Language of White Racism*. Chapter 1.
- **Documentary:** *Blacking Up*, about White youth fascination with hip-hop, and its similarities to minstrelsy.

Week Twelve: (November 9 and 13) Belief Systems: Myth and Ritual, Comparative Religion
NO CLASS ON NOVEMBER 11 (Veterans Day)

- Ember, Chapter 14.
- Chapters 28-30 in *Conformity and Conflict*.

WRITTEN ASSIGNMENT DUE FRIDAY NOVEMBER 13 AT 11:00 pm. PAPER TO BE SUBMITTED THROUGH SAKAI PORTAL.

Week Thirteen: (November 16, 18 and 20) Applied Anthropology: Solving Contemporary Problems

- Ember, Chapters 16-18, 32, 33.

Week Fourteen: (November 23) Applied Anthropology II
NO CLASS ON NOVEMBER 27 (Thanksgiving Break)

- Chapters 34-36 in *Conformity and Conflict*.

Week Fifteen: (November 30, December 1 and 4) Change and Globalization: Global Issues

- Chapters 15 and 16 in *Conformity*.
- **Documentary:** *The Big Sellout*, providing an international perspective on the effects of privatization policies.

Week Sixteen (December 7 and 9) Change and Globalization (Continued)

- Chapters 38, 39 and 40 in *Conformity*.

FINAL EXAM (Exam #3):

Wednesday, December 16, 2015: 8a.m- 8 p.m., on the Sakai site.