

**ANT 2410: Cultural Anthropology**  
**Section 2447**  
Spring 2015  
MWF, Period 7 (1:55-2:45 p.m.)  
Turlington (TUR) L011



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## Course Description

This course introduces students to key issues and concerns in cultural anthropology. Whereas anthropology as a four-field enterprise (cultural, biological, linguistic, and archaeological) can be defined as the study of human diversity across time and space, the subfield of cultural anthropology is generally focused on the analysis of contemporary societies.

Cultural anthropologists typically conduct long-term fieldwork in a particular society or culture. In most cases, they do so not only to document the social worlds they encounter—though this is vitally important—but also to address “big questions” about cultural difference and the human experience. Such questions inevitably have a comparative dimension and, as we will see, much of the anthropological endeavor involves placing one experience alongside another.

While cultural anthropology has often focused on “traditional” or small-scale societies (in part, a reflection of the intellectual landscape out of which it emerged), the discipline has been enriched by scholarship that brings anthropological insights and methods to bear on a range of topics, including globalization, digital subcultures, tourism, and science and technology.

## Course Objectives

The course is designed to serve as a basic introduction to the field: its history, its methods, and some “classic” and contemporary issues that have generated debate among anthropologists. What do we mean by “culture”? How do cultural difference matter, but not necessarily in the ways we think they do? How can cultural anthropology help us better understand and engage with a changing world?

By examining these kinds of questions through readings and class discussion, students will enhance sensitivity to cultural diversity and difference; they will learn with particular examples about the importance of being respectful about others’ traditions and beliefs; and finally they will develop critical thinking skills that will serve them in their academic careers and beyond.

## Required Books

Schultz, Emily A., and Robert H. Lavenda. *Cultural Anthropology: A Perspective on the Human Condition* (9th edition).

Spradley, James, and David W. McCurdy. *Conformity and Conflict: Readings in Cultural Anthropology* (14th edition).

You are expected to read assigned chapters and/or readings posted on Sakai prior to class meetings. Lecture notes will not be posted online.

A note on used textbooks: You are welcome to use earlier editions of these textbooks. Quiz and test questions will be based on the most recent editions, however. You use older versions at your own risk. Earlier editions may not have all the assigned readings; you are still responsible to obtain the missing texts.

## Exams and Grading

**Exams (20 points each):** There will be three multiple-choice exams based on lectures and readings. The first two exams will be taken during scheduled class meetings and the last one will be taken during the final exam period.

**Observation exercise (15 points):** This will be a short and engaging exercise, in which students will be asked to observe particular kinds of cultural practices in the environment surrounding them, and to write a 2-page description and analysis of the phenomenon, drawing on course concepts. The assignment will be distributed in class on Monday, January 26th and it will be due by Monday, February 16th.

**Essay (15 points):** Essay topics will be handed out in class on Wednesday, March 25 and the 3-page essay will be due by Friday, April 17th. Grading criteria and other details will be specified on the assignment sheet.

**Quizzes (10 points):** There will be seven quizzes. These will not be announced in advance. Each quiz will be worth two points and have two questions. You will receive one point for writing your name. Your two lowest quiz scores will be dropped.

For calculating final grades, the distribution of points will be the following:

Exam 1: 20%  
Exam 2: 20%  
Exam 3: 20%  
Observation Exercise: 15%  
Short Essay: 15%  
Quizzes: 10% (five highest scores)

Letter grades will be determined using the following scale:

A: 93-100	B: 83-86.99	C: 73-76.99	D: 63-66.99
A-: 90-92.99	B-: 80-82.99	C-: 70-72.99	D-: 60-62.99
B+: 87-89.99	C+: 77-79.99	D+: 67-69.99	E: 0-59.99

No extra credit will be offered.

### **Course Rules:**

Course Website: There is a Sakai website that accompanies this course, from which you can download course materials (syllabus, readings) and receive announcements. If you have trouble accessing the site, please consult your TA.

Late Work and Extensions: Assignments will be handed out well in advance of their due date. If you know you will not be able to turn in the assignment on time, please notify the instructor as early as possible. Extensions are not granted lightly and cannot be made up for any reason unless in the most exceptional circumstances. Assignments are due at the beginning of the class and will be marked down 3 points for each day they are late.

Grade Appeals: Grades will not be discussed via e-mail. If you have a question or a complaint about your grade, please contact the instructor or your TA within 48 hours of posting to arrange a meeting time. After that, all grades are final.

Films: If you miss a class where a film is shown, you can view most of the films at UF Library West, where they have been placed on course reserves. Some films are also available online via UF library page. Please consult with the instructor or your TA if you know you will be missing a showing. There will be questions on all films on each exam.

Written work: Observation exercise and essay should be double-spaced, with Times New Roman 12- point font and one-inch margins. You should use the American Anthropological Association citation style: <http://www.aaanet.org/publications/guidelines.cfm>.

### Classroom Expectations:

- Come to class on time: important announcements will be made at the beginning of the lecture.
- Please turn off your cell phones (or turn them to silent mode).
- You may use your laptop computer or tablet to take notes (but no multitasking!).
- Be prepared to answer and/or ask questions.
- Show respect to other students, your TAs and the instructor and treat everyone with dignity.

### **Attendance Policy and Make-Up Exams and Quizzes**

I will not take attendance. That stated, poor attendance will affect your final grade (most directly via quiz scores, but you will also miss information that will appear on exams).

Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams and quizzes for this course are consistent with university policies that can be found at:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>

### **Academic Honesty**

All work submitted by a student for a grade must be completed by that student and free from unauthorized assistance or deliberate misrepresentations. The penalty for plagiarism or cheating is a grade of zero points on the assignment in question; in such cases an incident form will also be sent to the Office of the Dean of Students. If you have questions about what constitutes academic misconduct, please consult the UF Honor Code as well as the UF Policies on Academic Honesty, Student Rights and Responsibilities. These are available online at: <https://www.dso.ufl.edu/scer/process/student-conduct-honor-code/>.

### **Accommodations for Students with Disabilities**

Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with the Disability Resource Center (352-392-8565, [www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/](http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/)) by providing appropriate documentation. Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter, which must be presented to the instructor when requesting accommodation. Students with disabilities should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester.

### **Health and Counseling:**

Health and counseling services are available for students in the event personal problems threaten to hinder academic performance. You can contact UF Counseling and Wellness Center: <http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc>; 392- 1575; and the University Police Department: 392-1111 or 9-1-1 for emergencies.

Other supporting students resources are: Career Resource Center [www.crc.ufl.edu/](http://www.crc.ufl.edu/), Reading & Writing Center <http://www.registrar.ufl.edu/catalogarchive/03-04-catalog/student-information/reading.html>

## Course Evaluations

Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing online evaluations at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu>. Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester, but students will be given specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results/>.

## Course Schedule

### ***Unit 1: What is Anthropology?***

1/7     Presentation

1/9:    Chapter 1 (SL)

### ***Unit 2: The Culture Concept***

1/12:   Miner, Horace. “Body Ritual among the Nacirema” (SM)

         Spradley, James. “Ethnography and Culture” (SM)

1/14:   Chapter 2 (SL)

         Lee, Richard. “Eating Christmas in the Kalahari” (SM)

1/16:   Benedict, Ruth. “Anthropology and the Abnormal” (Sakai)

         Brown, Michael. “Cultural Relativism 2.0.” (Sakai)

### ***Unit 3: Method***

1/19    ***Holiday (No Class)***

1/21:   Chapter 3 (SL)

         American Anthropological Association (AAA). “Statement on Ethics” (available online: <http://www.aaanet.org/profdev/ethics/upload/Statement-on-Ethics-Principles-of-Professional-Responsibility.pdf>)

1/23:   Gmelch, George. “Nice Girls Don’t Talk to Rastas” (SM)

         Hurston, Zora Neale. *Mules and Men* (excerpts on Sakai)

### ***Unit 4: History of Anthropology***

1/26:   Chapter 4 (SL) (Part 1) (p.73-87)

         # Assignment for the Observation Exercise Handed Out #

1/28:   Chapter 4 (SL) (Part 2) (p. 87-95)

Rosaldo, Renato. "The Erosion of Classic Norms" (Sakai)

1/30: Film: *A Man Called "Bee": Studying the Yanomamo*

***Unit 5: Culture and Communication***

2/2 Chapter 5 (SL)

Bohannon, Laura. "Shakespeare in the Bush" (SM)

2/4: Deutscher, Guy. "Whorf Revisited: You are What You Speak" (SM)

Tannen, Deborah. "Conversation Style: Talking on the Job" (SM)

2/6: *EXAM 1*

***Unit 6: Ritual and Religion***

2/9: Chapter 7 (SL)

Gmelch, George. "Baseball Magic" (SM)

2/11: Peters-Golden, Holly. "Azande: Witchcraft and Oracles in Africa" (Sakai)

Wolf, Margery. "The Woman Who Didn't Become a Shaman" (Sakai)

2/13: Excerpts from Chapter 6 (SL)

Dubisch, Jill. "Run for the Wall: An American Pilgrimage" (SM)

Turner, Victor. "Liminality and Communitas" (Sakai)

***Unit 7: Medical Anthropology/Environmental Anthropology***

2/16: Chapter 13 (SL)

Diamond, Jared. "Domestication and the Evolution of Disease" (SM)

**# Observation Exercise Due #**

2/18: Lee, Richard. "The Hunters: Scarce Resources in the Kalahari" (SM)

Reed, Richard K. "Forest Development the Indian Way" (SM)

2/20: Video: The Medium is the Masseuse: A Balinese Massage with Jero Tapakan

***Unit 8: Economic Anthropology***

2/23: Chapter 9 (SL)

Cronk, Lee. "Reciprocity and the Power of Giving" (SM)

2/25: Bourgois, Philippe. "Poverty at Work: Office Employment and the Crack Alternative" (SM)

Ho, Karen. "Anthropology Goes to Wall Street" (Sakai)

2/27: Taussig, Michael The Devil and Commodity Fetishism (Sakai)

***SPRING BREAK: February 28 to March 7th***

***Unit 9: Politics and Power***

3/9: Chapter 8 (SL)

Harris, Marvin. "Life without Chiefs" (SM)

3/11: Lutz, Catherine. "Making War at Home: Militarization and the Current Crisis" (Sakai)

Shandy, Dianna. "New Americans: The Road to Refugee Resettlement" (SM)

3/13: Das, V. & Poole, D. Anthropology at the Margin of the State (Excerpts) (Sakai)

***Unit 10: Kinship***

3/16: Chapters 11 and 12 (SL)

3/18: Goldstein, Melvyn. "Polyandry: When Brothers Share a Wife" (SM)

Scheper-Hughes, Nancy. "Mother's Love: Death Without Weeping" (SM)

Wolf, Margery. "Uterine Families and the Women's Community" (SM)

3/20: EXAM 2

***Unit 11: Sex and Gender***

3/23: Excerpts from Chapter 12 (SL)

Abu-Lughod, Lila. "Do Muslim Women Really Need Saving?" (SM)

3/25: Fausto-Sterling, Anne. "The Five Sexes: Why Male and Female Are Not Enough" (Sakai)

Herd, Gilbert. "Semen Transactions in Sambia Culture" (Sakai)

# Essay Assignment Handed Out #

3/27: Martin, E. "The Egg and the Sperm" (Sakai)

Bletzer & Koss "Narrative constructions of sexual violence as told by female rape survivors" (Sakai)

***Unit 12: Race, Ethnicity, and Nationalism***

3/30: Excerpts from Chapter 12 (SL)

American Anthropological Association (AAA). "Race: Are We So Different?" (Browse website: <http://www.understandingrace.org/home.html>)

Chin, Elizabeth. "Ethnically Correct Dolls: Toying with the Race Industry" (Sakai)

4/1: Robbins, Richard H. "The Nation-State in the Culture of Capitalism" (Sakai)

Fish, Jefferson. "Mixed Blood" (SM)

4/3: Film: *Herskovits at the Heart of Blackness*

### ***Unit 13: Performance, Play, and Sport***

4/6: Excerpts from Chapter 6 (SL)

Gmelch, George. "Rules and Respect, Pranks and Performance: The Culture of Professional Baseball" (Sakai)

4/6: Jordan-Young, Rebecca, and Katrina Karkazis, "Some of Their Parts: Gender Verification and 'Elite Sports'" (Sakai)

Viatori, Maxwell. "Soccer Nationalism: Ecuador and the World Cup" (Sakai)

4/10: Film: *Trobriand Cricket: An Ingenious Response to Colonialism*

### ***Unit 14: Globalization***

4/13: Chapter 14 (SL)

Bestor, Theodore. "How Sushi Went Global" (SM)

Watson, James L., ed. *Golden Arches East: McDonald's in East Asia* (excerpts on Sakai)

4/15: Ehrenreich, Barbara, and Arlie Russel Hochschild. "Global Women in the New Economy" (SM)

George, Susan. "A Short History of Neo-liberalism" (Sakai)

4/17: Film: *Chain of Love*

**# Essay Due #**

### ***Unit 15: Using Anthropology***

4/20: McCurdy, David. "Using Anthropology" (SM)

Ohohundro, John. "Career Advice for Undergraduates" (SM)

4/22: Review and preparation for the final exam

### ***Final Exam Week***

**EXAM 3** (date/time TBA)



