

# **ANT 2410**

## **Introduction to Cultural Anthropology**

### **Spring 2012**

Lecture: Tuesdays 8-9<sup>th</sup> periods  
Turlington L007

#### Sections:

3121 Thursdays 8<sup>th</sup> period, TUR 1101  
4098 Thursdays 4<sup>th</sup> period, TUR 2349  
4099 Thursdays 5<sup>th</sup> period, TUR 2349

4108 Thursdays 6<sup>th</sup> period, TUR 2346  
4114 Thursdays 7<sup>th</sup> period, TUR 2336  
4123 Thursdays 9<sup>th</sup> period, TUR 2342

#### **Instructor:**

##### **Dr Peter Collings**

Office: B-135 Turlington Hall  
Phone: 392-2253 x239  
Office Hours: Tues. 6-7<sup>th</sup> periods & by appt.

#### **Teaching Assistants**

##### **Mr. John Hames**

Office: B-346 Turlington  
Phone: TBA  
Office Hours: Thursdays 4<sup>th</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> periods  
& by appt.

##### **Ms. Haiyan Xing**

Office: B125  
Phone: TBA  
Office Hours: Thursdays 9<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> periods  
& by appt.

## **Introduction**

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.

## **Textbooks and Reading Requirements**

There are two textbooks for this course: *Anthropology (13th ed.)*, by Ember, Ember, and Peregrine, and *Conformity and Conflict (14th ed.)*, by Spradley and McMurdy. Both are required. Ember et al. is our basic introduction to cultural anthropology, and so pays attention to anthropological concepts as they apply to the study of culture. Spradley and McMurdy is a reader that provides case studies and examples of the concepts covered in the primary text. Used copies of these texts can be had at significant savings.

All that is required for this course are the textbooks. You are expected to complete reading assignments prior to the class day for which they were assigned; lectures often focus on material in the textbooks and, understanding bifurcate merging kinship systems will be much easier if you have read the material beforehand.

## Exams and Grading

### Exams

There will be three “in-class” exams based on lecture material, the main textbooks, and the reserve readings. These exams will consist of a combination of multiple choice and true/false questions. Exams will be administered via the Sakai portal. On exam days, the exam will be open during 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> periods only. You are expected to take exams on the days that they are scheduled.

Exams are timed (75 minutes for a 60-question exam), which invariably leads to all kinds of requests, complaints, and other assorted problems. In short, the exam times are not negotiable, 75 minutes is the maximum time one will have to complete the exam.

Sakai is reasonably stable, and in my experience running exams online is better for both you and me. That said, there are occasional problems. Many of these problems are easily ironed out – a quick email or phone call to us to document the problem is often sufficient, and the mess can be cleaned up following the exam.

That said – if you are taking the exam on your own laptop through an ISP other than the university, then you’d better make sure ahead of time that the internet connection is stable and reliable, and that your computer is working properly. We advise taking the exam in one of the labs on campus. Having a virus, a crashing hard drive, forgetting to take the assessment, or being stuck in traffic will generate no sympathy.

The third exam is not cumulative and is scheduled for the final day of class. I will post study guides before each exam.

### Quizzes

In addition to the exams, we will also administer 6 quizzes. These 10-question quizzes will also be on Sakai. Their purpose is to assess your comprehension of the material that we are currently covering in class and to encourage you to keep up with the reading assignments. Quizzes are scheduled for every other week, content for each quiz will be TBA.

It is important to note here that the quizzes are not merely a form of academic torture: the questions on the quizzes are excellent indicators of the kinds of questions you will see on the exams.

**\*\*Make-ups on exams and quizzes will not be granted except under extreme circumstances\*\***

### Grades

Final grades are based on points accumulated during the semester. Points will be awarded as follows:

Exams (3 total):	60 pts. (180 total)
Quizzes (6 total)	10 pts each (60 total)
Section Grades:	90 pts
Section Attendance	30 pts
<b>Total:</b>	<b>360 pts</b>

Final grades will be assigned based on points accumulated as compared to the class average. This means that I will not assign grades until the end of the semester, when I apply a curve to the entire class. For reference purposes, I expect grades to be awarded based on the following scores:

A = 338+, A- = 324-377, 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.

Please note that the University implemented minus grades beginning in Summer, 2009. Under the new system, a grade of C- will not qualify for major, minor, Gen Ed, Gordon Rule, or College Basic Distribution credit.

**There is no extra credit offered for this course.**

### ***Posting Grades***

Grades will be posted via Sakai: you can simply check your grades under the “gradebook” tab, and see your scores on assignments. You’ll have access to questions and answers for assignments as well, once the grades and the assignment are released.

## **Ground Rules**

### ***Sakai***

We will be using Sakai to manage the course. This means that all important materials can be viewed online using Sakai, including a copy of the syllabus, exam study guides, copies of quizzes, and grades.

While Sakai is a useful tool for managing this course, it is important to remember that this is not an online course. Lecture notes will not be posted. Indeed, you’ll find that my Keynote slides make very little sense unless you’re actually listening to the class discussion. If you have never used Sakai before, all you require is your Gatorlink and password to log on and begin. The link to Sakai is [here](#)

### ***Lecture, Readings, & Attendance Policy***

Lecture: Students are expected to complete the assigned readings before class. Although attendance in lecture is not compulsory, lectures and class discussion will incorporate information not available in the assigned textbooks. Indeed, class lectures generally provide material in addition to the material found in the textbook. Obviously, given the size of the class and the format of instruction, taking attendance for purposes of assigning a grade would be an inefficient use of our time. This is a university, and you are all grown-ups.

But there are consequences to your actions. Class attendance is highly correlated with performance on exams, and thus the final grade in the course. I’m not inclined to do any favors for students who are borderline if they have shown a half-hearted commitment to being in class. University policy is that students are expected to attend all class meetings.

**Lecture notes and Keynote slides will not be posted online.**

### ***Sections, Readings, and Attendance***

Students are expected to attend sectional meetings on Thursdays. These are smaller breakout sections of this course that allow for a discussion of the broader themes that emerge from Tuesday lectures. Sectional discussion sections will focus primarily in the Spradley & McCurdy reader, which provides cases studies and examples of the concepts laid out in lecture and the Ember et al. text.

As preparation for each section meeting, students are expected to complete a discussion preparation guide for two

of that class day's readings. The guide is posted on Sakai. Discussion guides must be completed prior to the class, and are worth 6 points each. The guides are designed to allow us to get the most out of our recitation sections. Late discussion guides will be accepted up to one week late, for half credit.

We will take attendance at sectional meetings. Students get two absences for free. Subsequent misses cost 5 points. If you are experiencing significant health problems or other problems that prevent you from attending, you should see us as soon as possible. Job interviews, leaving town early for Spring Break, and other sundries are not excusable. You must attend the section for which you are enrolled.

An additional component of your section grade consists of in-class activities and assignments.

Teaching Assistants (TAs) are responsible for discussion sections. They are available to answer questions and to assist with the required assignments during their office hours. They grade all section requirements. You must know your TA's correct first name and your section number and print them on the top of all papers or writing assignments you submit. If you have a question about grading, first talk with your TA. TAs' names, office hours, and discussion sections are posted on the course website.

### ***Classroom Behavior***

Being in class is an indication that you are here to learn something about anthropology. I expect that cell phones will be turned off during the lecture, that you will pay attention in class, and that you will remain seated during class. Passing notes, chatting with your neighbors, reading the newspaper, doing your math homework, playing World of Warcraft, surfing Facebook, getting up to get a drink of water, running to the potty, or leaving early are distracting to and disrespectful to everyone in the class. If you do need to leave early, please sit in a location where your movement will cause the least disruption. If you need to chat with your neighbor, please wait until after class.

### ***How to Succeed in this Course***

Some keys to success in this course include attending class regularly and taking good notes during lecture. Make sure that you read the chapter before class; that way, the lecture will not seem completely foreign, and the tricky terminology from the textbooks will make more sense. Begin studying at least a week before the exam. One night of cramming will not help you do your best. If you are in doubt about anything, *do not hesitate to seek help*. Our office hours are listed here, and you are welcome to drop by and see us if you have questions about specific issues. We can only help you, however, if you see us before an exam.

**Your grade for this course is your responsibility.** If you attend class regularly, read the assigned material carefully, and take advantage of all of the opportunities to earn points by doing well on the quizzes and exams, then you will likely do well. You will only get out of this class what you put into it.

### ***Communication***

As indicated above, we don't bite. Don't be shy about contacting us. However, please use the email function in Elearning to contact either me or the TAs. This is a large class, and it is best if your emails stay within the portal.

### ***Academic Honesty***

Unless it is specifically connected to assigned collaborative work, all work should be individual. Evidence of collusion (working with someone not connected to the class or assignment), plagiarism (use of someone else's published or unpublished words or design without acknowledgment) or multiple submissions (submitting the same work for different courses) will lead to the Department's and the University's procedures for dealing with academic dishonesty. All students are expected to honor their commitment to the [University's Honor Code](#) and the

student conduct code. If you are unsure whether your activities are legitimate regarding paper writing and exam taking, please do not hesitate to ask me.

### ***Accommodation for Students with Disabilities***

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. **Please make any requests by the second week of class.**

### ***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. Exams will occur as scheduled and are not subject to change. I will post study guides before each exam, and we will schedule a study session before each exam. The third exam is taken during the final exam period but will cover only the last unit of the course.

<b>Week and Dates</b>	<b>Topic and Reading Assignment</b>
Week One (Jan 10)	<i>Introduction.</i> Anthropology & The Culture Concept Readings: Ember Ch. 1, Spradley Ch. 1, 2, 31
Week Two (Jan 17)	The Culture Concept (continued) Readings: Ember 1, 2; Spradley 3, 4
Week Three (Jan 24)	<i>Method and Theory.</i> Anthropology and Social Science Readings: Ember 3; Spradley 5, 9, 10
Week Four (Jan 31)	<i>Communication:</i> Language and Culture Readings: Ember 15; Spradley 6, 7, 8
<b>February 7</b>	<b>First Exam Open 3-5 pm</b>
Week Six (Feb 14)	<i>Economic Anthropology:</i> How people make a living Readings: Ember 16, 17; Spradley , 11, 12, 13, 14
Week Seven (Feb 21)	<i>Social Organization I:</i> Marriage, Family, Kinship Readings: Ember 20, 21, 22; Spradley 17, 18

Week Eight (Feb 28)

*Social Organization II: Kinship, Descent, Association*  
Readings: Ember 21, 22; Spradley 19, 20

**Spring Break 3/3-3/11**

Week Nine (Mar 13)

*Politics and Social Order I: Evolution of Political Society*  
Readings: Ember 23, 24; Spradley 25, 26, 27

**March 20**

**Second Exam Open 3-5 pm**

Week Ten (Mar 27)

*Politics and Social Order II: Class, Ethnicity, Race*  
Readings: Ember 18, 19; Spradley 21, 22, 23, 24

Week Twelve (April 3)

*Belief Systems: Myth and Ritual, Comparative Religion*  
Readings: Ember 25, 26; Spradley 28, 29, 30

Week Fourteen (Apr 10)

*Applied Anthropology: Solving Contemporary Problems*  
Readings: 14, 28; Spradley 32, 33, 34, 35, 36

Week Fifteen (Apr 17)

*Change and Globalization II: Contemporary Global Issues*  
Readings: 29; Spradley 15, 16, 37, 38, 39, 40

**April 24**

**Final Exam Open 3-5 pm**