

Introduction to Cultural Anthropology
ANT 2410 Section 4107
Summer B 2011

Class Times: M-F, 12:30pm – 1:45pm

Class Location: TUR L011

Instructor: Timothy E. Podkul

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Office: Turlington Hall (Room TBD)

Office Hours: Tues & Thurs, 2pm – 4:30pm

Course Description:

This course is designed to introduce students to anthropological studies by focusing on the sub-field of cultural anthropology. Broadly defined, cultural anthropology is the study of different cultures existing in contemporary human society. In this course we will seek to understand the principles of cultural anthropology by exploring this sub-discipline's history and present application through its own texts, while exploring the different theoretical approaches that anthropologists have taken in their studies of various cultures and societies. The course will introduce students to some of the key areas of inquiry of cultural anthropology. This course will also provide students with an overview of ethnographic methods used by cultural anthropologists in both general and applied anthropological contexts. Students will also learn how to compare and contrast different cultures and the contexts in which they are situated in a non-judgmental and analytical way.

Course Learning Objectives:

At the conclusion of this course, students will:

- Be familiar with the basic concepts and data of cultural anthropology as one of the disciplines of social science.
- Understand the relevance of cultural anthropology in today's world and in your own life.
- Be exposed to critical perspectives on the problems confronting our species, such as racial, gender and class inequality in the modern world, threats of war and eco-catastrophe.
- Be aware of the contributions of anthropology to public discourse and public policy.
- Understand the connections between their lives and other places and processes on a global level.
- Be able to engage in basic anthropological research processes by completing a participant observation research project.
- Think critically about the increasingly diverse and globalized society in which we live.
- Develop an appreciation and respect for the variety of cultural practices, perspectives, and ways of life of others.

TEXTS:

- 1) *Cultural Anthropology: Appreciating Cultural Diversity* – Conrad P. Kottak, 2010.
ISBN: 0073531045

- 2) *In Search of Respect: Selling Crack in El Barrio* - Philippe Bourgois, 2002.
ISBN: 0521017114

***Note: Additional Readings will be posted by the instructor and available on the class e-Learning site in Sakai (<https://lss.at.ufl.edu/>)*

Course Requirements and Grading:

Grading Summary:

	Due Date	Points	Percent of Grade
Attendance and Active Class Participation	Daily	20	10%
Participant Observation Topic Abstract	July 5	10	5%
In-Class Midterm Examination	July 15	40	20%
Completed Field Notes	July 22	30	15%
Final Paper on Participant Observation Fieldwork	July 29	40	20%
In-Class Final Examination	August 5	60	30%
Total		200	100%

<i>Grading Scale:</i>	A 94% - 100%	B+ 87% - 89%	C+ 77% - 79%	D+ 67% - 69%
	A- 90% - 93%	B 84% - 86%	C 74% - 76%	D 64% - 66%
		B- 80% - 83%	C- 70% - 73%	D- 60% - 63%
				E 59% and below (failure)

Grades and Grading:

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. Please see the following for more information: <http://www.registrar.ufl.edu/catalog/policies/regulationgrades.html>

FAQs about Minus Grades:

<http://www.isis.ufl.edu/minusgrades.html>

Assignment Descriptions:

- 1) **Attendance and Active Participation (10%):** Your active participation in class is imperative to facilitating your learning and the learning of your classmates. Complete all assigned readings before coming to class. Reading assignments are listed on the dates they are due. Absences accompanied by supporting paperwork or with prior consent from instructor with 24 hour advance notification will be excused. Unexcused absences will result in a reduction in attendance and participation points.

- 2) **Midterm Exam (20%):** The midterm exam will be administered in class on **July 15**. All of the questions on the exam will be multiple choice and will cover material from assigned readings, lectures, films, speakers and class discussions. You are encouraged to consult with the Instructor about any questions you have regarding the exam in advance (more than 24 hours before the exam). Because this course moves quickly and we will be meeting every day, there will be no make-up exam time. Failure to attend class on that day without previous written consent (minimum of 24 hours in advance) or University-approved written excuse will result in a 0% for the exam grade that is non-negotiable.

- 3) **Participant Observation Assignment (40 % total):** Students are required to perform fieldwork in an unfamiliar group setting and write a synopsis of this experience. The purpose of this assignment is to expose students to the challenges of doing ethnographic fieldwork, while also giving them the opportunity to try the participant observation method and learn how to take field notes. Once the field notes have been recorded, students are then responsible for creating a 4-5 page summary of the location or group they witnessed based upon multiple weeks of observation. **A late submission will result in a 5 point deduction for each day it is late**, unless documentation of a University-approved excuse is provided to the instructor.
 - a. **Participant Observation Topic Abstract (5%):** A written summary of the topic and group being observed is due in class on **July 6**. Students must observe the group they choose for participant observation at least once before turning in this portion of the assignment. Included in the abstract should be the following: an explanation of why this group and topic is interesting, what questions the student is seeking to understand through their observations, a statement about the number of visits that will be needed to complete this research, and the methods of recording observations (notes, audio recording, etc). If you are struggling to find an appropriate topic or group, make an appointment with the Instructor to discuss your challenges at least two (2) days before the deadline.
 - b. **Completed Field and/or Interview Notes (15%):** Students will turn in a copy of their completed field and/or interview notes. Photographs, video, handwritten notes and sketched-out drawings are all part of the fieldwork data collection process, so don't forget to include them! Please include a one page addendum explaining the challenges you faced during your fieldwork, and how you overcame them. This will be due in class on **July 22**.

- c. **Final Participant Observation Summary Paper (20%):** Students will synthesize their observations and provide an account of the organization, group, movement or location they studied in a summary paper. Summaries should be no longer than 4-5 pages in length and include a balance between description and analysis. Papers must be typed, double spaced in Times New Roman 12-point font and proofread for grammatical and spelling errors. All references should be cited using formatting from the American Anthropological Association Publication Guide: (www.aaanet.org/publications/syle_guide.pdf). Papers are due in class on **July 29**.

Plagiarism will not be tolerated. Any case of plagiarism will be handled by Student Judicial Affairs and will result in zero credit for the assignment. It is wise to familiarize yourself with plagiarism so as to not inadvertently be guilty of it. More information can be found at: <http://web.uflib.ufl.edu/msl/subjects/Physics/StudentPlagiarism.html>

- 4) **Final Exam (30%):** The final exam will be a cumulative examination addressing all of the concepts covered throughout the course. This exam will focus on specific ideas covered during the second half of class, while also requiring you to draw connections between more general concepts covered in the first half and those covered in the second half of the course. We will dedicate one day to reviewing the material in class prior to the exam; however, this will *not* be sufficient time to study for the exam. The final exam will be held during class hours on the last scheduled day of class, **August 5**. Failure to attend class on that day without previous written consent (minimum of 24 hours in advance) or University-approved written excuse will result in a 0% for the exam grade that is non-negotiable.

Lecture and Reading Schedule:

Week 1: Introduction to Anthropology, Cultural Anthropology and the Concept of "Culture"		
June 27 (M):	Introduction, Review of Syllabus	
June 28 (T):	An Overview of Anthropology	Kottak - Chapter 1
June 29 (W):	Cultural Anthropology in Practice	Malinowski, B. (1922). Introduction, Pp. 1-25, in <i>Argonauts of the Western Pacific</i> . Prospect Heights, IL: Waveland Press. (Sakai)
June 30 (R):	Defining "Culture" Culture and Evolution Universality, Generality and Particularity	Kottak - Chapter 2 (Pp. 24-34)
July 1 (F):	Defining Culture	Kottak - Chapter 2 (Pp. 35-45)

Week 2: The Ethnographic Method, and Ethics of Anthropology		
July 4 (M):	NO CLASS – Independence Day	
July 5 (T):	Ethics and Ethnographic Methods in Anthropology	Kottak - Chapter 3
July 6 (W):	Ethics and Anthropology	Bourgois – Introduction (Pp. 1-18) Salomone, F. (2006). 'Yanomami: The Fierce Controversy and What We Can Learn From It.' <i>The Americas</i> , 62(4):660-662. (Sakai) DUE: Fieldwork Topic and Descriptions of Fieldwork Site
July 7(R):	Learning to take notes and do interviews in the field	Geertz, C. (1973). Deep Play: Notes on the Balinese Cockfight, Pp 415-453. In <i>The Interpretation of Cultures</i> , New York, NY: Basic Books. (Sakai)
July 8 (F):	VIDEO: 'A Man Called Bee'	Bourgois – Chapter 1 (Pp. 19-47)

Week3: Language as Culture, Human Adaptation, and the Economic Anthropology		
July 11 (M):	Language and communication Non-verbal communication Structure of the human language	Kottak - Chapter 4
July 12 (T):	Socio-linguistics Gender and Speech Race and Speech	Bourgois - Chapter 2 (Pp 48-76)
July 13 (W):	Human Adaptation over Time Foraging, Cultivation and Pastoralism	Kottak - Chapter 5
July 14(R):	Economic Anthropology in the Urban and Rural Context	Bourgois - Chapter 3 (Pp. 77-113)
July 15 (F):	IN-CLASS MIDTERM	

Week 4: Political Systems, Family, Kinship and Marriage		
July 18 (M):	The "Big Man" and other Political Figures Bands and Tribes Chiefdoms States	Kottak - Chapter 6

July 19 (T):	Defining Family Around the World Kinship Descent Marriage Rites	Kottak - Chapter 7
July 20 (W):	Marital Rites Bride Wealth and Dowry Divorce Polygyny	Bourgois - Chapter 4 (Pp. 114-173)
July 21(R):	Gender How does "gender" differ from "sex" Gender-determined roles in different societies Sexual Orientation and Gender	Kottak - Chapter 8
July 22 (F):	VIDEO: <i>'Three of Hearts: A Postmodern Family'</i>	Bourgois - Chapter 5 (Pp. 174-212) DUE: Completed Field and Interview Notes

Week 5: Religion, Colonialism and Anthropology in the Age of Industrialization		
July 25 (M):	Expressions of Religion	Kottak - Chapter 9
July 26 (T):	Religion and Social Change Religious Revolutions in the Developing World Anthropology and Religious Proselytizing	Bourgois - Chapter 6 (Pp. 213-258)
July 27 (W):	Thinking of the World as One System Industrialization and Stratification	Kottak - Chapter 10
July 28 (R):	Communism Post-Socialism Natural Resources and the World System of Today	Bourgois - Chapter 7 (Pp. 259-286)
July 29 (F):	Anthropology in Practice! Mining in South America: An example of applying anthropology VIDEO: <i>Tambo Grande: Mangos, Murder, Mining</i>	Due: Ethnographic Observation Summary Final Report

Week 6: Applying Anthropology in to the Global Issues of Today		
August 1 (M):	Applying Anthropology The Role of the Applied Anthropologist	Kottak - Chapter 12
August 2 (T):	Anthropology Outside of the Classroom: Urban Anthropology Public Anthropology Medical Anthropology	Bourgois - Chapters 8 and 9 (Pp. 287-327)
August 3 (W):	Global Issues Today and the Future of Anthropology Indigenous Peoples and Redefining Culture in an Age of Mobilization and Consumption	Kottak - Chapter 13
August 4(R):	Course Summary, Evaluations and Final Review of <i>Selling Crack in El Barrio</i>	
August 5 (F):	FINAL EXAM	

Course Policies:

Electronic devices policy:

ALL mobile phones and pagers MUST be turned off when you enter the classroom. Disable all audible PDA alarms. Electronic devices distract the class and your instructor; you will be asked to leave class if you fail to comply with this policy.

Classroom Conduct policy:

- All students must comply with the Student Conduct Code which can found at <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/studentguide/studentconductcode.php>. Any behavior that interferes with either the instructor’s ability to conduct the class or the ability of other students to benefit from the instructional program will not be tolerated.
- The number one rule of conduct in is that you must show respect for the Instructor and TA, for your classmates, **and for yourself** at all times. Violations of this policy include, but are not limited to the following:
 - Talking when the instructor is lecturing, or otherwise interrupting lecture;
 - Use of cell phones or PDAs during class (this includes texting);
 - Offensive or discriminatory comments made at any time when any portion of the class is assembled for class or scheduled class-related activities, including before, during and after class time, during review sessions, and during group work;

- Packing up or shuffling belongings while the instructor is still lecturing, or while a video is being shown; and
 - Leaving early during lectures or videos without receiving approval from the instructor prior to class to leave early.
- Failure to comply with this policy will result in being asked to leave the classroom, loss of class participation points, and, if necessary, other disciplinary action.

Disability Accommodations at UF:

Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office, Disability Resource Center. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the Instructor when requesting accommodation. The Disability Resource Center is located in 001 Reid Hall. Please consult <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drp> for more information regarding disability accommodation.

University Policies:

Academic Honesty

As a result of completing the registration form at the University of Florida, every student has signed the following statement: **“I understand that the University of Florida expects its students to be honest in their academic work. I agree to this commitment to academic honesty and understand that my failure to comply with this commitment may result in disciplinary action up to and including expulsion from the University.”**

UF Counseling Services

Resources are available on campus for students having personal problems or lacking clear career and academic direction, or other issues that may interfere with their academic progress. These resources include:

1. University Counseling and Wellness Center, 3190 Radio Road, 392-1575 (personal and career counseling);
2. Student Mental Health, Student Health Care Center, 392-1171 (personal counseling);
3. Center for Sexual Assault /Abuse Recovery and Education (CARE), Student Health Care Center, 392-1161 ext. 4231 (counseling related to sexual assault and abuse);
4. Career Resource Center, Reitz Union, 392-1601 (career development assistance and counseling).

Software Use

All faculty, staff and students of the University are required and expected to obey the laws and legal agreements governing software use. Failure to do so can lead to monetary damages and/or criminal penalties for the individual violator. Because such violations are also against University policies and rules, disciplinary action will be taken as appropriate.