

CULTURAL ANTHROPOLOGY

Fall 2014

ANT 2410



Lectures:

Tue 3-4th periods (9:35-11:30am) & Thu 4th period (10:40-11:30am) TUR L005

Discussion Sections:

132B Mon 6th period TUR B310

132H Mon 7th period TUR B310

0292 Mon 8th period TUR B310

1337 Wed 5th period LIT 0239

135F Wed 6th period LEI 0242

135G Wed 7th period TUR B310

Instructor:

Dr. Ieva Jusionyte
ijusionyte@latam.ufl.edu

Grinter Hall 368

Office Hrs: Tue 1-3pm and by appt

Teaching Assistants:

Paul Pluta
paul.pluta@ufl.edu

Turlington Hall B346

Office Hrs: Tue 2-5pm

Iliana Villegas
ilianagv@ufl.edu

Turlington Hall B346

Office Hrs: Wed 2-5pm

Course Description: The aim of this course is to introduce the core concepts and questions that underpin cultural anthropology, a social science discipline, which focuses on trying to understand and explain similarities and differences between societies and cultures around the world. Cultural anthropology examines a diverse range of issues, from how people organize their families to what they believe in, from the study of healing practices in different cultures to the study of systems for maintaining social order and security, to name just a few. Most cultural anthropologists conduct their research through an extended period of fieldwork in a locale where they participate in and observe local social and cultural practices. The places they choose to conduct fieldwork vary widely: it might be an urban neighborhood in Brazil, a trailer park in Mexico, a village in India, a global firm in New York, or a homeless community in San Francisco. The special mandate of cultural anthropology is to find ways of validating the different experiences, histories, and values of people and communities from all parts of the world. Anthropologists show that other possibilities, beyond the ones we are most familiar with, exist for solving problems and for achieving meaningful lives. It is the task of an anthropologist

to discover and interpret these different social worlds by learning from others: some similar, some unlike ourselves.

Throughout the semester we will examine a variety of topics from the field of cultural anthropology, including cultural relativism and human rights; ethnographic fieldwork and participant observation; symbols and ritual; kinship and social organization; political power and economic systems; gender and sexuality; sickness and healing; migration and global change; activist and engaged anthropology. We will particularly consider the often pernicious effects of social difference through class, race, gender and other hierarchies in human societies as they translate into inequality and suffering. We will also engage with moral and ethical dilemmas at the heart of the discipline, asking how to balance our quest to understand the varied human condition with the duties and responsibilities this pursuit entails.

Course Objectives: In this course students will learn to appreciate and understand cultural difference in order to view themselves and their own culture as one particular system among many. As the globe becomes increasingly interconnected, all of us can benefit from a perspective that sees no one way of being in the world as superior to another. By examining our own social practices and comparing them with those of other peoples, we can come to recognize the roles of culture, power, and economics in shaping the taken-for-granted structures and meaning systems within which we live. The course will help students sharpen their critical faculties by developing an understanding of the variety of factors – including history, politics, and inequality – that impact people’s lives. Anthropology is uniquely capable of showing students the complexity inherent in all social life, and the impossibility of reducing explanation of social phenomena to single-factor causes.

Required Books:

Spradley, James, and David W. McCurdy

2012 Conformity and Conflict: Readings in Cultural Anthropology, 14th Edition: Pearson.

Muehlmann, Shaylih

2013 When I Wear My Alligator Boots: Narco-Culture in the U.S. Mexico Borderlands.
Berkeley: University of California Press.

Bourgois, Philippe I., and Jeffrey Schonberg

2009 Righteous Dopefiend. Berkeley: University of California Press.

The books are available for 2-hour loan at Reserve Desk at UF Library West.

All remaining class readings can be downloaded from the Canvas site.

Assignments and Grading:

Student grades will be based on 100 points divided as follows: two exams (20 points each), one short paper (30 points), one observation exercise (15 points), and participation in discussions sections (15 points).

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 Tuesday, September 16 and the written work is due on Thursday, October 2.

Exams (40 points): The exams will consist of a combination of multiple-choice and open-ended questions that require short answers, based on the readings, lectures and films. It will be difficult to do well on the exams without carefully keeping up with both readings and lectures. The lectures often cover material *not* duplicated in the readings, so attending class is very important. Before the exams, students will receive study sheets, which will list the major topics to review in order to perform well.

The first exam will be held during class time on Tuesday, October 21, and the second (non-cumulative) exam on Tuesday, December 9.

Essay (30 points): Essay topics will be handed out in class on Thursday, November 6 and the 3-4-page essay will be due by Tuesday, December 2. Grading criteria and other details will be specified on the assignment sheet.

Participation in discussion section (15 points): Students are required to attend and participate in the discussion section for which they are registered. Participation includes both attendance and thoughtful contribution to group discussions. Only university-approved absences with appropriate documentation will be excused. Students who arrive to class more than 10 minutes late will be counted absent from discussion section.

Lecture attendance: Students are strongly advised to come to every class. Attendance will not be taken but any material from lectures, class discussions, films and other classroom activities may appear on the exams. The lecture slides do not contain all pertinent material. This means students must take good notes during lecture to succeed in the class. Extra credit will be awarded to students who consistently demonstrate their familiarity with the assigned readings and volunteer original thoughts or questions during the lecture.

Grading Scale:

A = 93 and above; A- = 90-92.99; B+ = 86-89.99; B = 83-85.99; B- = 80-82.99; C+ = 76-79.99; C = 73-75.99; C- = 70-72.99; D+ = 67-69.99; D = 63-66.99; D- = 60-62.99; F = below 59.99.

Passing Grade	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	D-
Grade Points	4.0	3.67	3.33	3.0	2.67	2.33	2.0	1.67	1.33	1.0	.67

Please consult UF grading policies at <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>

Course Rules:

Course Website: There is a Canvas website (<https://ufl.instructure.com/>) that accompanies this course, from which you can download course materials (syllabus, readings, lecture slides) 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, such as illness or a family emergency. Assignments are due at the beginning of the class and will be marked down 5 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 comment and ask questions.
- Show respect to other students, your TAs and the instructor and treat everyone with dignity.

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/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/>.

Accommodations for Disabilities: Students who need classroom accommodation or other reasonable modifications to complete assignments successfully and satisfy course criteria are encouraged to meet with the instructor as early in the course as possible. You will be asked to supply a letter from the Disability Resource Center to assist in planning accommodations. Contact the Disability Resource Center at <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc>.

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.

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/>.

Please note: The Instructor may make minor adjustments to class readings or assignments during the course of the semester. Any modifications will be announced ahead of time.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Anthropology and Anthropologists

What is anthropology? What do anthropologists do?

Tuesday, August 26

Course Introduction

The Concept of Culture

How do anthropologists define culture? How has anthropological thinking about cultural diversity changed over time? Does culture explain everything?

Thursday, August 28

Spradley, "Ethnography and Culture" (from *Conformity and Conflict*, further: CC)
Geertz, "The Impact of the Concept of Culture on the Concept of Man" (Canvas)

Cultural Relativism

Why do cultural differences matter? How can we begin to understand beliefs and behaviors that are unlike our own? Is it possible to see the world through the eyes of others? Can we avoid ethnocentric bias? How can cultural relativity improve our understanding of controversial cultural practices? What can learning about different cultures teach us about ourselves?

Tuesday, September 2

Bohannon, "Shakespeare in the Bush" (CC)
Conklin, "Mortuary Cannibalism in an Amazonian Society" (Canvas)

In-class documentary: First Contact (Connolly and Anderson, 1983)

Thursday, September 4

Abu-Lughod, "Do Muslim Women Really Need Saving?" (CC)

Ethnographic Fieldwork

Where does anthropological knowledge come from? How do anthropologists study with people and learn from them? Why do they do fieldwork? What is the fieldwork experience like? How has it changed?

Tuesday, September 9

Malinowski, "Introduction: Argonauts of the Western Pacific" (Canvas)
Rodgers, "Joining the Gang and Becoming a 'Broder'" (Canvas)

In-class documentary: Off the Verandah (Singer 1985)

Symbolism and Memorialization

How do we make meaning? How do people come to believe what they do? How does symbolic action reinforce a particular view of the world?

Thursday, September 11

Rothenbuhler, "Ground Zero, the Firemen, and the Symbolics of Touch on 9-11 and After" (Canvas)
Low, "The Memorialization of September 11" (Canvas)

Language

Why do anthropologists study language? How does language affect the meanings people assign to experiences? What is language ideology? How are language and truth connected?

Tuesday, September 16

Basso, "'To Give Up On Words': Silence in Western Apache Culture" (Canvas)
Boxer, "Manipulating Meaning: The Military Name Game" (CC)
Tannen, "Conversation Style: Talking on the Job" (CC)

In-class documentary: American Tongues (Kolker and Alvarez 1987)

Assignment for the Observation Exercise Handed Out

Identity: Kinship, Race, Gender

How do people determine who they are? How does the concept of personhood vary from society to society? What is kinship? How are families formed and ideal family types maintained? What can anthropologists teach

us about gender? What is race? How do anthropologists study worldviews? What is the relationship between culture and social inequalities?

Thursday, September 18

Lamb, "The Making and Unmaking of Persons: Notes on Aging and Gender in North India" (Canvas)

Goldstein, "Polyandry: When Brothers Take a Wife" (CC)

Tuesday, September 23

American Anthropological Association, "Race: Are We So Different?"

(<http://www.understandingrace.org/home.html>)

Fish, "Mixed Blood" (CC)

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

In-class documentary: Paris is Burning (Livingston 1990)

Thursday, September 25

Shandy and Moe, "The Opt-Out Phenomenon: Women, Work, and Identity in America" (CC)

Roscoe, "'Strange Country This': An Introduction to North American Gender Diversity" (Canvas)

Economic Systems

What are the connections between culture and livelihood? How does culture construct human needs? Why do anthropologists study modes of production, distribution and consumption? How can anthropology explain economic inequality?

Tuesday, September 30

Lee, "The Hunters: Scarce Resources in the Kalahari" (CC)

Lee, "Eating Christmas in the Kalahari" (CC)

Cronk, "Reciprocity and the Power of Giving" (CC)

Thursday, October 2

Lutz, "The U.S. Car Colossus and the Production of Inequality" (Canvas)

Walley, "Deindustrializing Chicago: A Daughter's Story" (Canvas)

Observation Exercise Due

Case Study I: Narco-Culture in U.S.-Mexico Borderlands

Tuesday, October 7

Muehlmann, "When I Wear My Alligator Boots" (introduction, chapters 1-2)

In-class documentary: Narco Cultura (Schwarz 2013)

Thursday, October 9

Muehlmann, "When I Wear My Alligator Boots" (chapters 3-5)

Tuesday, October 14

Muehlmann, "When I Wear My Alligator Boots" (chapter 6, conclusion)

Power, Law and Order

Why do anthropologists study law? How do anthropologists study politics? How are culture and power connected? What can anthropology tell us about social inequality? How do societies rank people into social hierarchies? How do we come to accept social hierarchies as natural? How are inequalities among groups of

people maintained over time? What is structural violence?

Thursday, October 16

Harris, "Life Without Chiefs" (CC)

Sutherland, "Cross-Cultural Law: The Case of the Gypsy Offender" (CC)

Tuesday, October 21

In-Class Exam 1

Thursday, October 23

Fassin, "Enforcing Order: An Ethnography of Urban Policing" (Canvas)

Case Study II: Structural Violence, Homelessness and Drug Addiction

Tuesday, October 28

Bourgois and Schonberg, "Righteous Dopefiend" (introduction, chapters 1-3)

In-class documentary: Dark Days (Singer 2000)

Thursday, October 30

Bourgois and Schonberg, "Righteous Dopefiend" (chapters 4-6)

Tuesday, November 4

Bourgois and Schonberg, "Righteous Dopefiend" (chapters 7-9, conclusion)

In-class documentary: "The House I Live In" (Jarecki 2012)

Medical and Applied Anthropology

How is anthropology applied in the field of medicine? How do people with different cultures understand health and disease? Why is it important to acknowledge the existence of alternative medical ideologies and practices?

Thursday, November 6

Greenhalgh, "Weighty Subjects: The Biopolitics of the US War on Fat" (Canvas)

Barrett, "Medical Anthropology: Leprosy on the Ganges" (CC)

Essay Assignment Handed Out

Tuesday, November 11

NO CLASS: Veterans Day

Global Forces, Local Responses

What is globalization? What is cultural imperialism? What is cultural hybridity? How do global processes affect us? How do different people respond to globalization?

Thursday, November 13

Bestor, "How Sushi Went Global" (CC)

Ehrenreich and Hochschild, "Global Women in the New Economy" (CC)

Tuesday, November 18

Shandy, "The Road to Refugee Resettlement" (CC)

Stephen, "The Gaze of Surveillance in the Lives of Mexican Immigrant Workers" (Canvas)

In-class documentary: Dinka Diaries (Mebratu, 2005)

Activist and Engaged Anthropology

Why study anthropology? What can anthropologists do to improve human condition? What are the acceptable ways of using anthropological knowledge? Why do professional ethics matter to anthropologists?

Thursday, November 20

Stryker, "Public Interest Ethnography: Women's Prisons and Health Care in California" (CC)
Heyman, Morales and Núñez, "Engaging with the Immigrant Human Rights Movement in a Besieged Border Region" (Canvas)

Tuesday, November 25

Watters, "The Organ Detective: A Career Spent Uncovering a Hidden Global Market in Human Flesh" (Canvas)

In-class documentary: Real People, Real Careers (Smiley, Wilce, Hunter, 2006)

Thursday, November 27

NO CLASS: Thanksgiving Day

Tuesday, December 2

Price, "The Role of Culture in Wars Waged by Robots" (Canvas)
Goldstein, "Security and the Culture Expert: Dilemmas of an Engaged Anthropology" (Canvas)

In-class documentary: Human Terrain: War Becomes Academic (Derian, Udris and Udris, 2010)

Essay Due

Thursday, December 4

NO CLASS: American Anthropological Association meeting in Washington, D.C.

Tuesday, December 9

In-Class Exam 2