

Introduction to Cultural Anthropology

ANT 2410

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Course Overview and Objectives

This course provides students with a foundational knowledge of issues and concerns in cultural anthropology. Anthropology is comprised of four subfields (cultural, biological, linguistic, and archaeological) and cultural anthropology focuses on the study of contemporary peoples and societies. The objective of this class is to provide students with a broad understanding of cultural anthropology through its concepts, theories, applications, and methods. These topics will be put into context through readings, lectures, and videos addressing anthropological perspectives on race, kinship, symbols, religion, politics, globalization, and more.

Student Learning Outcomes

1. Identify, recognize and recall influential concepts & concerns of cultural anthropology
2. Demonstrate skills of textual interpretation
3. Practice anthropological modes of research & representation
4. Develop sensitivity to the ethical implications of ethnography
5. Engage with major themes of cultural anthropology through writing assignments

Required Texts

Bourgois, Philippe I., and Jeff Schonberg. 2009. *Righteous Dopefiend*. University of California Press. (Abbreviated RD in reading list)

Karim, Lamia. 2011. *Microfinance and Its Discontents: Women in Debt in Bangladesh* (Abbreviated MD in reading list)

Robert L. Welsch and Luis A. Vivanco. 2015. *Asking Questions About Cultural Anthropology: A Concise Introduction* (Abbreviated AQ in reading list)

Additional readings or video links will be available through [Canvas](#).

Course Structure and Requirements

Participation

Participation will be evaluated based on your role as an active, prepared participant in class. Measures of participation include being engaged in class through comments, questions, attendance, and the completion of pop quizzes or in class activities.

Discussion Posts

There will be weekly discussions of the readings, lectures, and materials on Canvas under the 'Discussions' tab. Students are expected to write a reflection post (400 words or more) and reply to at least one student's reflection post (100 words or more) to complete this assignment. Students must select 7 weeks in which they will participate on the discussion board to receive full credit.

Midterm exam

A midterm will be administered to test your familiarity with readings and concepts covered in the first half of the semester. The midterm will be taken in class. It will be formatted to include multiple choice, true/false, and/or short answer questions. Students are expected to engage with the readings and materials used in the course to answer questions effectively. Makeup exams will not be warranted except under extreme circumstances.

Final exam

The final exam will be completed in two parts. Students will complete a written take home exam consisting of multiple questions relating to themes we have covered throughout the semester. The second part of the exam will be an in class exam similar to the midterm which will be formatted to include multiple choice, true/false, and/or short answer questions. Students are expected to engage with the readings and materials used in the course to answer questions effectively. Makeup exams will not be warranted except under extreme circumstances.

Assignment	% Of Total Grade
Midterm	25
Final Exam	35
Discussion Posts	25
Participation	15

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

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 <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx#calculating>.

Attendance and Make-up Policy

Class attendance and participation is expected. Unexcused absence will result in a reduction in the final grade. Excused absences are consistent with university policies in the [undergraduate catalog](#) and require appropriate documentation.

Late assignments will not be accepted. In the case of incapacitating illness or other university-approved absence such as documented family emergency, you must contact the instructor with written documentation from an appropriate authority at least 24 hours before the test in order to obtain approval for a reschedule.

Students are expected to arrive to class on time and behave in a manner that is respectful to the instructor and to fellow students. Please avoid the use of cell phones and do not use tablets or computers for non-academic uses during class. Opinions held by other students should be respected in discussion.

Academic Honesty

UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states, “We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: “On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.” The [Honor Code](#) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor or TAs in this class.

Special 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/) 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.

Additional UF Resources

The Writing Studio, 302 Tigert Hall (864-1138) <http://writing.ufl.edu/writing-studio/for-students/>

Career Resource Center, Reitz Union (392-1601) <http://www.crc.ufl.edu/>

Student Health Care Center (392-1161) <http://shcc.ufl.edu/>, and

University Counseling & Wellness Center, 3190 Radio Road (392-1575)
<http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/>

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 Topic, Reading and Assignment Schedule

Week 1: Introduction: Anthropology and Culture

January 4-6, 2017

- AQ Chapter 1 and 2 (1-40)
- Horace Miner: Body Ritual Among The NACIREMA (PDF)

Week 2: Ethnography

January 9-13, 2017

- AQ Chapter 4 (61-80)
- RD Introduction (1-25)

Week 3: Race

January 18-20, 2017

No Class—January 16

- RD Chapter 1 and 3 (25-47 and 79-117)
- Hartigan: Ch.1 Recognizing Race; Ch.2 Race, Culture, and Ethnography (PDF)
- PBS: Race The Power of an Illusion (activity)
- AAA: Understanding Race (activity)

Week 4: Gender, Sex, and Sexuality

January 23-27, 2017

- AQ Chapter 9 (165-184)
- RD Chapter 2 and 7 (47-79 and 209-241)
- Gay y Blasco: Thinking with Gender (PDF)

Week 5: Kinship, Marriage, and Family

January 30-February 3, 2017

- AQ Chapter 10 (184-202)
 - RD Chapter 4 and 6 (117-147 and 183-209)
- ***Note RD Chapter 5 has been excluded but feel free to read it if you are enjoying the book

Week 6: Biocultural Perspectives

February 6-10, 2017

- AQ Chapter 12 (221-242)
- RD Chapter 8 and 9 (241-297)

Week 7: Applications

February 13-17, 2017

- Podolefsky: Applying Anthropological Knowledge (PDF)
- Ellick and Watkins: Ch. 3 I Want to Be an Anthropologist (PDF)
- RD Conclusion (297-321)

Midterm Exam—February 15

Week 8: The Arts: Objects, Images, and Commodities

February 20-24, 2017

- AQ Chapter 13 (242-259)
- Lindquist: The wolf, the Saami and the urban shaman: predator symbolism in Sweden (PDF)
- Erickson and Murphy: Ch.25 Symbols in Ndembu Ritual, Turner (322-341)

Week 9: Language

February 27-March 3, 2017

- AQ Chapter 3 (41-61)
- Maffi: Linking Language and Environment: A Coevolutionary Perspective (PDF)
- Blum: Naming Practices and the Power of Words in China (PDF)

No Classes Spring Break—March 6-10

Week 10: Economics

March 13-17, 2017

- AQ Chapter 7 (124-143)
- MD Introduction and Chapter 1 (xiii-35)

Week 11: Globalization

March 20-24, 2017

- AQ Chapter 5 (80-101)
- MD Chapter 4 (95-133)

Week 12: Religion

March 27-31, 2017

- AQ Chapter 11 (202-221)
- MD Chapter 5 (133-163)
- Mahmood: The Subject of Freedom (PDF)

Week 13: Politics

April 3-7, 2017

- AQ Chapter 8 (143-165)
- MD Chapter 6 and Conclusion (163-206)

Week 14: Environment

April 10-14, 2017

- AQ Chapter 6 (101-124)
- Gupta: Peasants and Global Environmentalism (PDF)
- Brosius: Endangered Forest, Endangered People: Environmentalist Representations of Indigenous Knowledge (PDF)
- Kohler: Half-man, half-elephant: shapeshifting among the Baka of Congo (PDF)

Week 15: Ethics and Methods

April 17-19, 2017

No Class—April 21

- AAA: Statement on Ethics (PDF)
- Should Anthropologists work alongside soldiers? (PDF)
- Kingsolver: Thinking and Acting Ethically in Anthropology (PDF)
- Bernard: Research Methods in Anthropology (Excerpts) (PDF)

Week 16: Exam Week

April 24-28, 2017

Take-Home Final Exam—Monday April 24

Due at Midnight

Submit on Canvas

In-Class Final Exam—Thursday April 27

Exam takes place from 12:30pm-2:30pm

Final Exam Time: 27C