

Introduction to Cultural Anthropology
ANTH-2
El Camino College
Section 2054, Spring 2012

Class Time: Wednesday, 6:00pm – 9:10pm
Classroom: ARTB 334
Instructor: Dr. Gregory Simon
Office: ARTB 320
Office Hours: Wednesday, 5:00pm – 5:30pm, or by appointment
Email: gsimon@elcamino.edu (email is the best way to contact me)

About the Course:

This course will provide students with an introduction to anthropological theory as well as a cross cultural understanding of human behavior. Emphasis will be placed on subsistence strategies, marriage, kinship, sociopolitical, economic and religious systems along with the effects of cultural change.

TEXTS

The following books are available at the bookstore and also on reserve at the library.

Required:

- *Conformity and Conflict (13th Edition)*, edited by James Spradley and David W. McCurdy
NOTE: Other editions of this book will *not* have all of the articles assigned for this course.

Recommended:

- *Mirror for Humanity (7th Edition)* by Conrad Phillip Kottak.

In addition, there will be three required articles that I will make available to you later in the semester:

- “The Hegemony of Discontent,” by Daniel Linger. *American Ethnologist*, Vol. 20, No. 1 (Feb., 1993). Pp. 3-24. Available through JSTOR database.
- “Deep Play: Notes on the Balinese Cockfight,” by Clifford Geertz. *Daedalus*, Fall 2005, Vol. 134, No. 4, Pages 56-86. Available through Literature Resource Center database.
- “In Search of Masculinity: Violence, Respect and Sexuality among Puerto Rican Crack Dealers in East Harlem,” by Philippe Bourgois. *British Journal of Criminology*, Vol. 36, No. 3 (1996). Pp. 412-427. This article will be distributed to you.

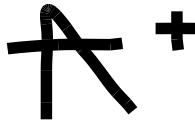
Later in the semester I will offer some instruction regarding how to access the databases for those of you who have never done so. The articles you access through the databases are free for you, although you will probably want to print them out.



Course Work & Grading:

Final Grade Scale: Your final grade will be determined by the number of points you earn in the class based on all your exams, reading quizzes, papers, and any extra-credit that may be offered during the semester. Your final grade will be determined as follows:

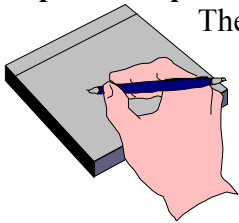
- A = 900-1000 points
- B = 800-899 points
- C = 700-799 points
- D = 600-699 points
- F = <600 points



Exams: 550 points (55% of your final grade)

There will be **three exam days**. The first exam, covering only the first third of the course, will be worth 100 points. The second exam, covering only the middle third of the course, will be worth 150 points. The third exam, given on the last week of class and covering the entire course, but with a heavy emphasis on the last third of the semester, will be worth 300 points. Some of the questions on the exams will be true/false or multiple-choice questions, but there will be an emphasis on questions that require written responses. Study guides will be made available for all of the exams.

Papers: 300 points (30% of your final grade)



There will be two writing assignments due in this course, the first one worth 100 points, the second worth 200 points. The first will ask you to analyze some of your own behaviors and activities using the categories of “universals,” “culture,” and “individual personality.” The second, “ethnographic” paper will require you to gain experience as a cultural anthropologist by observing and perhaps participating in an activity or event that is unfamiliar to you and then writing a paper that describes and analyzes it. More details on these assignments will be offered later in the semester. Papers may be turned in as hard copies or to my email address. Papers turned in over email will be returned (with comments inserted) over email. When turning in work over email, always **paste the text of your work into the email as well**, just in case I have trouble opening your attachment.

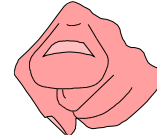
Reading Quizzes: 150 points (15% of your final grade)

There will be a number of short reading quizzes assessing whether you have thoroughly read the **required** readings, and whether you are attending class – if you have completed the readings, they should be relatively easy. Please note that required **readings must be completed before class on the day that they are due**, as indicated on the course outline below. If you are not in class for a quiz, or if you take a quiz and then do not stay for the day’s class, you will receive no credit for that quiz. **Quizzes cannot be made up.** At the end of the semester, your lowest quiz score will be dropped, and the remainder of your scores will be averaged to calculate your overall quiz percentage. You will receive that percentage of 150 points. (For example, if you average 60% on your quizzes, you will receive 90 out of 150 possible quiz points.)

EXTRA CREDIT: There will likely be an opportunity for extra credit available at during the semester. Any extra credit will be announced later in the semester.

Things for You to Know and Do:

CHECK YOUR ECC EMAIL! I will sometimes send out announcements, schedule changes, reading materials, study guides, and so on over email. These will be sent to your ECC email account, so please check that account frequently.



Is attendance required?

Yes. Please make an effort to **attend every class meeting, arriving on time and staying** until the end of the class period. This will be reflected in your grade through reading quizzes. If you are absent, you must find out what you have missed, including the contents of the lectures and any handouts or announcements made in class regarding assignments, exams, due dates, changes in the course schedule, etc. Please exchange contact information with other students in this class so that you can contact them to find out what you missed. It would also be a good idea to contact me. If you know you are going to miss class, please let me know in advance if possible.

The textbook chapters (by Kottak) are “recommended” readings. Why should I read them?

Reading these chapters will surely help you to learn the course material more thoroughly, and will probably help you to get a higher grade in the class. While the required readings provide in-depth, complex examples and case studies for discussion, the recommended textbook chapters describe key concepts and provide short, simple examples to help you understand them. In class lectures, I will also cover the key concepts and provide examples. For most students, it is much easier to learn and remember the key concepts if they read about them *and* hear about them in lecture. Please keep in mind that if you do not use the textbook, you will have to rely very heavily on your notes from class lectures to study the key concepts. (I have also assigned some helpful, but brief, introductory sections in your required book of readings.) It's best to also have the textbook as a study resource. So, if you are interested in either learning the most possible or getting the highest grade you can, you should read the recommended readings.

If everyone should read the recommended readings, why aren't they required?

They are not required because some students do not realistically have enough time (due to work, child care, etc.) to do all of the work necessary to maximize their learning and their grades. Considering that I cover the key concepts in lecture, the best strategy for using limited time is to get those concepts from lecture. The required readings, meanwhile, provide more complex, in-depth, and interesting discussions that will not be completely duplicated in lectures.

Can I use a different edition of the recommended textbook?

Yes. Earlier editions of the textbook will also provide good, general information and examples for you. Just be sure you read the right chapter: make sure the chapter you are reading matches the topic for the week. Sometimes the chapter topics are in a different order in different editions. As for the required textbook, please use the edition indicated on the front of this syllabus.

How many reading quizzes will there be, and how often will they come?

There is no preset number of reading quizzes planned for the course. There may sometimes be quizzes on consecutive weeks. Some weeks there will be no quiz.

Will we be quizzed or tested on any material found only in the recommended readings?

No.

When do I need to have required readings completed?

You are required to thoroughly read all of the required readings **before class by the date they are due, as indicated on the course outline** below. If you already know that you are not willing or able to do the required reading for this course, you should drop this class as soon as possible.

Is it possible to make up missed exams and papers?

Make-up exams and forgiveness for late papers will be offered only in cases where students can document significant illness or other extreme and unforeseeable circumstances beyond their control. Late papers will receive 90% credit if they are turned in no more than one week late, and 80% credit if they are turned in no more than two weeks from the due date. Papers turned in more than two weeks late will receive 60% credit.

Is it possible to make up missed reading quizzes?

No.

What happens if I plagiarize or cheat? And what is plagiarism, anyway?

Bad things will happen, starting with getting no credit for your work and possibly failing the course. Plagiarism is using someone else's words or ideas as if they are your own. When you do work for this (or any) class, explain things *in your own words*. **Never copy the words of someone else** and submit them as part of your own work, unless you are quoting the other person (using quotation marks) *and* making it clear that those words come from that person. This means that when you do work for this class, never explain your understanding of something by simply repeating the words you find in your textbook, in one of the articles you read for class, in another book or article, or on a web site. Further, even if you use your own words, you must **always acknowledge when you are offering someone else's idea** rather than describing your own idea.

Will class consist of lecture or discussion?

Both. Much of the time, I will lecture. You should **take notes**. It is **not enough to copy down whatever appears on the slides** I show in class! Instead, try to **explain main ideas and examples to yourself in words that make sense to you** so that you will be able to look at your notes later and remember what it all means. The process of explaining ideas to yourself in your notes helps you to learn the material in the first place. If you can't explain it to yourself, you know that you have not yet understood the material. We will also have time for class discussions. I especially hope that we will have good discussions of the required articles where you will have a chance to talk about your own reactions to the writing and the ideas, what makes sense, what is not clear, and so on. This is another reason it is important to keep up on readings – class discussions will be really boring, and fairly useless for you if you have no idea what is being discussed! You are **encouraged to discuss your ideas**. Of course, treat your fellow students (and instructor) respectfully during these discussions.

What should I do if I have a disability?

ADA STATEMENT: El Camino College is committed to providing educational accommodations for students with disabilities upon the timely request by the student to the instructor. A student with a disability, who would like to request an academic accommodation, is responsible for identifying herself/himself to the instructor and to the Special Resources Center. To make arrangements for academic accommodations, contact the Special Resources Center.

Is the professor available to help outside of class?

Yes! If you have a question or concern, or just want to talk in more depth about something, **please come to my office hours**. You are welcome to make an appointment with me in advance. If you have other obligations during my office hours, I will try to arrange a better time to meet with you. Email is the best way to contact me outside of class, and you are welcome to email questions to me as well.

Is there anything else I should keep in mind about attending class?

- Please eliminate unnecessary distractions: make sure that your **cellphones and other electronic devices are silent** during class time – and, if you take notes on a **laptop**, please refrain from using the laptop to do things unrelated to the course during class time.
- Always **bring this syllabus, books and other current readings** to class.
- **Let me hear from you!** Please ask questions when you do not understand something discussed in the readings or lectures, and please participate in class discussions.

Course Outline Objectives:

1. Identify the fields of anthropology and major subfields of cultural anthropology and explain which aspect of the human condition each field addresses.
2. Identify and explain each of the major concepts that make up the anthropological perspective.
3. List and assess the different methodologies utilized by cultural anthropologists in the field.
4. Analyze the changes exhibited in the ethnographic description of non-Western social groups from the 19th century to the present.
5. Analyze each aspect of culture (learned, shared, symbolic, patterned, adaptive, ever-changing) and discuss the major theoretical schools associated with each perspective.
6. Assess the importance of language in human communication and outline and explain each of the approaches used to the study of human languages.
7. Compare and contrast the various subsistence strategies (modes of production) utilized by human societies as they interact with the environment.
8. Compare and contrast the systems of exchange typical of foragers, pastoralists, horticulturalists, and agriculturalists.
9. Assess the importance of surplus in the development of social stratification.
10. Describe and analyze the major kinship systems and types of marriages present in human societies, and reflected by crosscultural studies.
11. Evaluate the importance of gender studies in anthropology and identify the socioeconomic factors that influence the status of women in societies around the world.
12. Describe and analyze the various levels of sociopolitical organization achieved by human societies.
13. Assess the criteria for social stratification and the potential for social mobility.
14. Compare and contrast the characteristics and functions of religious beliefs and practices by making reference to the level of political organization (band, tribe, chiefdom, state) achieved by a society.
15. Evaluate the factors that account for the emergence of Movements of Revitalization in modern as well as in traditional societies.
16. Assess the effects of European expansion and colonization, industrialism, and globalization on developing nations in general and on indigenous groups in particular.

Student Learning Outcomes:

On an objective exam students will demonstrate an understanding of the holistic approach in anthropology by identifying the appropriate definition.

COURSE TIMELINE & DUE DATES

THIS IS JUST A SKELETON—WATCH FOR CHANGES AS WE GO!

WEEK 1: FEBRUARY 15

WHAT IS ANTHROPOLOGY?

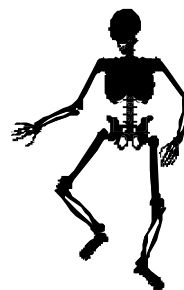
READINGS, ASSIGNMENTS, AND EXAMS:

RECOMMENDED:

- KOTTAK CHPT. 1, “WHAT IS ANTHROPOLOGY?”

REQUIRED:

- NO REQUIRED READING



WEEK 2: FEBRUARY 22

CULTURE

READINGS, ASSIGNMENTS, AND EXAMS:

RECOMMENDED:

- KOTTAK CHPT. 2, “CULTURE”

REQUIRED:

- *Conformity & Conflict*, INTRO TO “CULTURE & ETHNOGRAPHY” (PAGES 2-6)
- “KINDS OF TALK: Juicing CLIENTS IN TATTOO WORLD” BY BOEHLKE

WEEK 3: FEBRUARY 29

ETHNOGRAPHIC RESEARCH

READINGS, ASSIGNMENTS, AND EXAMS:

RECOMMENDED:

- KOTTAK CHPT. 3, “ETHICS AND METHODS”

REQUIRED:

- “EATING CHRISTMAS IN THE KALAHARI” BY LEE
- “FIELDWORK ON PROSTITUTION IN THE ERA OF AIDS” BY STERK
- **“UNIVERSAL, CULTURAL, INDIVIDUAL” PAPER DUE TODAY IN CLASS OR BY FRIDAY OVER EMAIL**

WEEK 4: MARCH 7

RACE / ECONOMIC SYSTEMS

READINGS, ASSIGNMENTS, AND EXAMS:

RECOMMENDED:

- KOTTAK CHPT. 11, “ETHNICITY AND RACE”
- KOTTAK CHPT. 5, “MAKING A LIVING”

REQUIRED:

- “MIXED BLOOD” BY FISH
- *Conformity & Conflict*, INTRO TO “ECOLOGY & SUBSISTENCE” SECTION (PAGES 84-87) AND INTRO TO “ECONOMIC SYSTEMS” (PAGES 136-138)

WEEK 5: MARCH 14

EXAM / ECONOMIC SYSTEMS

READINGS, ASSIGNMENTS, AND EXAMS:

REQUIRED:

- **TAKE EXAM #1: COVERS TOPICS THROUGH “RACE” ONLY.**
- “THE HUNTERS: SCARCE RESOURCES IN THE KALAHARI” BY LEE
- “RECIPROCITY AND THE POWER OF GIVING” BY CRONK

WEEK 6: MARCH 21

POLITICAL SYSTEMS

READINGS, ASSIGNMENTS, AND EXAMS:

RECOMMENDED:

- KOTTAK CHPT. 6, "POLITICAL SYSTEMS"

REQUIRED:

- *Conformity & Conflict*, INTRO TO "IDENTITY, ROLES, AND GROUPS" (PAGES 211-214)
- "LIFE WITHOUT CHIEFS" BY HARRIS
- **RESEARCH PLAN FOR ETHNOGRAPHIC PAPER DUE BY TODAY**

WEEK 7: MARCH 28

POLITICAL SYSTEMS / FAMILIES

READINGS, ASSIGNMENTS, AND EXAMS:

RECOMMENDED:

- KOTTAK CHPT. 7, "FAMILIES, KINSHIP, AND MARRIAGE"

REQUIRED:

- "THE HEGEMONY OF DISCONTENT" BY LINGER (SEE PAGE 1 OF SYLLABUS)
- *Conformity & Conflict*, INTRO TO "KINSHIP & FAMILY" (PAGES 173-175)

WEEK 8: APRIL 4

FAMILIES

READINGS, ASSIGNMENTS, AND EXAMS:

REQUIRED:

- "POLYANDRY: WHEN BROTHERS TAKE A WIFE" BY GOLDSTEIN
- "MOTHER'S LOVE: DEATH WITHOUT WEeping" BY SCHEPER-HUGHES

SPRING BREAK

WEEK 9: APRIL 18

GENDER

READINGS, ASSIGNMENTS, AND EXAMS:

RECOMMENDED:

- KOTTAK CHPT. 8, "GENDER"

REQUIRED:

- THURSDAY: "IN SEARCH OF MASCULINITY" BY BOURGOIS (SEE PAGE 1 OF SYLLABUS)

WEEK 10: APRIL 25

EXAM / LANGUAGE AND SYMBOLS

READINGS, ASSIGNMENTS, AND EXAMS:

RECOMMENDED:

- KOTTAK CHPT. 4, "LANGUAGE AND COMMUNICATION"

REQUIRED:

- **TAKE EXAM #2: COVERS TOPICS THROUGH "GENDER"**
- "SYMBOLIZING ROLES: BEHIND THE VEIL" BY FERNEA AND FERNEA
- *Conformity & Conflict*, INTRO TO "LANGUAGE & COMMUNICATION" (PAGES 52-55)

WEEK 11: MAY 2

LANGUAGE AND SYMBOLS

READINGS, ASSIGNMENTS, AND EXAMS:

REQUIRED:

- “DEEP PLAY: NOTES ON THE BALINESE COCKFIGHT” BY GEERTZ (SEE PAGE 1 OF SYLLABUS)

WEEK 12: MAY 9

RELIGION

READINGS, ASSIGNMENTS, AND EXAMS:

RECOMMENDED:

- KOTTAK CHPT. 9, “RELIGION”

REQUIRED:

- “BASEBALLMAGIC” BY GMELCH
- “TARAKA’S GHOST” BY FREED & FREED
- *Conformity & Conflict*, INTRO TO “RELIGION, MAGIC, AND WORLDVIEW” (PAGES 299-302)

WEEK 13: MAY 16

RELIGION CONT.

READINGS, ASSIGNMENTS, AND EXAMS:

NO RECOMMENDED OR REQUIRED READINGS

WEEK 14: MAY 23

THE WORLDSYSTEM

READINGS, ASSIGNMENTS, AND EXAMS:

RECOMMENDED:

- KOTTAK CHPT. 10, “THE WORLDSYSTEM AND COLONIALISM”

REQUIRED:

- “COCAINE AND THE ECONOMIC DETERIORATION OF BOLIVIA” BY WEATHORFORD
- *Conformity & Conflict*, INTRO TO “GLOBALIZATION” (PAGES 341-343)
- **ETHNOGRAPHIC PAPER DUE TODAY**

WEEK 15: MAY 30

APPLIED ANTHROPOLOGY / CULTURAL CHANGE

READINGS, ASSIGNMENTS, AND EXAMS:

RECOMMENDED:

- KOTTAK CHPT. 12, “APPLYING ANTHROPOLOGY”
- KOTTAK CHPT. 13, “GLOBAL ISSUES TODAY”

REQUIRED:

- “THE ROAD TO REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT” BY SHANDY

WEEK 16: JUNE 6

FINAL EXAM

READINGS, ASSIGNMENTS, AND EXAMS:

REQUIRED:

- **FINAL EXAM – COVERS ENTIRE COURSE**

