INTRODUCTION TO SOCIOCULTURAL ANTHROPOLOGY

Texts:


Also selected articles available on WebCT. Students can access WebCT with their Odin account. If you do not have an Odin account, you can sign up to get one at https://www.account.pdx.edu. Use your Odin username and password to login to WebCT at https://psuonline.pdx.edu. Please contact the instructor if you encounter difficulties in accessing this resource.

Course Description:

This course is a general introduction to sociocultural anthropology, the comparative study of culture and social organization. The concepts, approaches, and methods utilized in this kind of study will be new to most students and are explained through the examination of several monographs and a number of shorter articles.

The readings have been selected to cover a wide range of issues studied by sociocultural anthropologists. Although the lectures relate to reading assignments, they will include new materials and will have a continuity all of their own, so it is essential that you attend every class and take careful class notes. If you need to miss a class, be sure to borrow notes from another classmate. Do not read the ethnographies like textbooks; you will be responsible for their basic points and concepts, not all of their details. You will, however, need to be able to use examples from these books in discussing issues on exams. Any student who is not clear about points made in the lecture or readings is encouraged to ask questions either in class or during office hours.

Students will be evaluated on the basis of one quiz (20%), a midterm exam (40%) and a final exam (40%). Exams will consist of a number of short answer questions and an essay question. Study
Sheets will be distributed a week before each exam to help you prepare, but you must have kept up with your readings to benefit from this. You must complete all assignments to pass the course, and must notify the instructor ahead of time of any emergency that prevents you from taking an exam at the scheduled time. 

**Students registered with DSS should notify the instructor.**

I. Introduction. The Field of Anthropology. Description and Explanation

Sept. 24  Course Introduction

26  Lecture: The Field of Anthropology  
    Read: Barrett, Chapt. 1

28: Film: The Feast. In Class Exercise

Oct. 1  Lecture: The Inevitability of Theory  
    Read: Bohannan, "Shakespeare in the Bush" in **CC**  
    Miner, "Body Ritual Among the Nacirema" **WebCT**

II. Culture, Social Structure, and Anthropological Fieldwork

Oct. 3  Lecture: The Concept of Culture  
    Read: Barrett, Chapter 3  
    Fish, “Mixed Blood” in **CC**

5  Lecture: Social Structure  
    Read: "Identity, Roles, and Groups" in **CC** (pp. 219-222)  
    Weatherford, “Blood on the Steppes” **WebCT**

8  Lecture: Adaptation and Change  
    Read: Barrett, Chapters 4 & 5

10 Lecture: Ethnographic Fieldwork  
    Read: Barrett, Chapter 2  
    Turnbull, *The Forest People*, Chapter 1  
    Lee, "Eating Christmas in the Kalahari" in **CC**

III. Hunters and Gatherers

12 **QUIZ**  
    Lecture: Cultural Ecology of Hunters and Gatherers  
    Read: Lee, "The Hunters: Scarce Resources in the Kalahari" in **CC**  
    *The Forest People, Chapters 2-3*

15  Lecture: Social Organization of Hunters and Gatherers  
    Read: *The Forest People, Chapters 4-7*
17 Film: Nai! The Story of a Kung Woman
Read: The Forest People, Chapters 8-11

IV. Kinship and the Family

Oct. 19 Lecture: Kinship Systems: Descent and Residence
Read: "Kinship and Family" in CC (pp. 179-181)
   McCurdy, “Family and Kinship in Village India” in CC
   Geertz, “Life Without Fathers or Husbands” in CC

22 Lecture: The Chinese Patrilineal System
Read: Wolf, "Uterine Families and the Woman's Community" in CC

24 Lecture: Matrilineal and Bilateral Systems
Read: The Forest People, Chapters 12-15

26 Review Session for Midterm Exam

Midterm Exam Monday Oct. 29

V. Sex Roles and Gender

Oct. 31 Lecture: Gender Roles I
Read: Friedl, "Society and Sex Roles" in CC
   Tannen, "Conversation Style" in CC

Nov. 2 Film: A Veiled Revolution
Read: "Ferne & Fernea, "Symbolizing Roles: Behind the Veil" in CC

5 Lecture: Gender Roles II
Read: Reddy and Nanda, “Hijras: An ‘Alternative’ Six/Gender in India” WebCT
   Gilmore, “The Manhood Puzzle” WebCT

VI. The Anthropology of Religion

Nov. 7 Lecture: Sociological and Psychological Explanations
Read: Gmelch, "Baseball Magic" in CC
   Freed & Freed, “Taraka’s Ghost” in CC

9 Lecture: Symbolic Analysis I
Read: Barrett, chapt. 6

14 Lecture: Symbolic Analysis II
Read: Leavitt, “Cargo Beliefs and Religious Experience” In CC
VII. Questions of Culture Change

Nov. 16  Lecture: Reprise: Adaptation and Culture Change  
Read: Barrett, Chapter 8  
Diamond, “Adaptive Failure: Easter’s End” in CC

19  Lecture: The Future of Tribal Groups  
Read: Reed, “Forest Development the Indian Way” in CC  
Turner, “The Kayapo Resistance” in CC

21  Lecture: Applied Anthropology  
Read: Patten, “Medical Anthropology” in CC  
McCurdy, “Using Anthropology” in CC  
Omohundro, “Career Advice for Anthropology Undergraduates” in CC

IX. Language and Culture

Nov. 26  Lecture: Linguistic Anthropology  
Read: Thomson, “The Sapir-Whorf Hypothesis”  
Begin reading Portraits of “the Whiteman”

28  Lecture: Joking Relationships  
Continue reading Portraits of “the Whiteman”

30  Lecture: Portraits of the Whiteman  
Finish reading Portraits of “the Whiteman”


Please note that students who have more than two final exams scheduled for the same day may request to take this exam at an alternate time.