

Anthropology 3 –Introduction to Social and Cultural Anthropology

Spring 2010

Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, 09:15 – 10:20

O'Connor, Room 106

Prof. Gregory Gullette

Office: O'Connor Hall 322

Office Hours: Monday and Wednesday 10:30 – 12:00, and by appointment

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Course Description:

This course is designed to examine and explore the variation we see in ideology, behavior, organization, and culture in different human groups around the world and how cultural anthropologists attempt to make sense of this variation. Throughout the course we will explore the worldviews and belief systems of various cultures in particular contexts, as well as examine some outcomes when cultures, politics, and economies interact within the context of globalization, transnationalism, and development. However, there are two caveats to this course: 1) to understand how anthropologists have approached cultures and cultural studies it is necessary to examine how different anthropological theories have formed the discipline and how these theories have influenced cultural interpretations, and 2) to understand why other people do things differently, you must actively reflect on why *you* do things in the way in which you may often consider to be “normal.” In regards to the latter, the process of comparatively reading about other cultures and interacting with those that may come from different backgrounds through your Arrupe placement are some of the best ways to think about your own personal values and belief systems.

This course meets the Experiential Learning requirement, as well as the Social Science requirement for Core 2009.

Course Goals:

By the end of the course you should be able to 1) define cultural anthropology and the concept of cultural relativism, 2) discuss basic aspects of anthropological theory; 3) understand the range and scope of recent and existing human cultures, particularly non-Western cultures; and 4) discuss some contemporary issues that cultural anthropologists work with. On a more personal note, I also hope that you develop a desire to learn more about the world, continue to study cultures on your own, and do so open-mindedly. This of course is not always easy. It takes time and patience.

This course also meets university and departmental requirements, which include, for example:

- Recognize, analyze, and understand the social reality and injustices in contemporary society, including recognizing the relative privilege or marginalization of their own and other groups
- Interact appropriately, sensitively, and self-critically with people in the communities in which they work and to appreciate the formal and informal knowledge, wisdom, and skills that individuals in these communities possess
- Acquire an understanding of critical issues such as immigration, multiculturalism, poverty, gender, and globalization

For more on the Core, please see: <http://www.scu.edu/provost/ugst/core2009/index.cfm>

Textbooks:

- Nanda, Serena and Richard L. Warms. 2010. *Cultural Anthropology, Tenth Edition*. Belmont: Thomson Wadsworth Publishing.
- Schlegel, Stuart A. 1998. *Wisdom from a Rainforest: The Spiritual Journey of an Anthropologist*. Athens: The University of Georgia Press.
- Two readings will be placed on ERes in Adobe Acrobat PDF files. These are indicated by an asterisk (*) in the “Lecture Schedule and Readings” section below.

Exams:

There will be three exams during this course. The format for exams will include multiple choice, true and false questions, or short answer. Exams will be given only once and at the date specified in this syllabus. Material that will be on the exam includes lectures and assigned readings. We will be unable to go over in lecture everything included in your text. You, however, are responsible for the readings assigned, even if we do not discuss certain concepts in class. If you have questions about any material see me during office hours or ask questions during class. Make-up exams will only be allowed in exceptional cases and only when the student has a written medical explanation that indicates a request to make-up the exam. Any makeup exam that has been approved must be taken within three days from the original exam date.

Arrupe Placement:

Each student in the class will participate in the Arrupe Placement program (Experiential Learning requirement). Staff from the Arrupe Center will come to the first class to explain the process of securing your placement. During the quarter, you will also keep a journal (or fieldnotes) of your experience. Your time with the Arrupe Center will culminate in an Arrupe Placement Paper. More specific instructions for your paper and fieldnote examples will be distributed within the first or second week of class.

We will occasionally break into groups to reflect on your placement and discuss how it relates to anthropology and some of the material that you have been reading in the course. We will also try to devote about 15 minutes each week to discuss your Arrupe Placement. One entire class is devoted to such discussions (30 April).

Attendance:

Test material will come from readings, lectures, and how we discuss certain anthropological theories and histories. Therefore your grade will suffer if you miss class regularly. Your third absence negatively affects your grade. If you miss six classes you lose one letter grade, with an additional letter grade drop for each day thereafter. If you miss nine or more classes, you automatically fail the course.

Class Activities:

Throughout the quarter, we will occasionally have in-class or out-of-class activities. These cannot be made up if missed, regardless of circumstance. The activities are not graded, however, they are counted. In the case that a student is borderline in her/his grade (a few points, e.g., 3-4), consistent attendance and thoughtful completion of activities will be taken into account.

Late Work:

Any work submitted late, if accepted, loses one letter grade per day.

Final Course Grade:

Your final grade will be based on all the above requirements and weighted as follows:

Exam One	250 points
Exam Two	225 points
Exam Three	225 points
Arrupe Paper	200 points
Arrupe Fieldnotes/Journal	100 points (due twice in the quarter, each time is 50 points)

The grading scale is:

A = 1000 – 920	A- = 919 – 900	
B+ = 899 – 870	B = 869 – 830	B- = 829 – 800
C+ = 799 – 770	C = 769 – 730	C- = 729 – 700
D+ = 699 – 670	D = 669 – 630	D- = 629 – 600
F = 599 and below		

Some of the Fine Print:**A Culture of Honesty:**

Plagiarism, cheating, using old exams or previous students notes, and dishonesty are serious academic offenses and carry a range of penalties from failure of the course to suspension from the University. By enrolling in this course and in Santa Clara University you have agreed to comply with the university's policies on academic honesty. If you are caught cheating in any way, you automatically fail the course and your name will be forwarded to Student Affairs for possible further action. Please take this seriously. It is increasingly a problem among students. If you are in doubt about something, ask. For the complete policy visit: <http://www.scu.edu/studentlife/resources/academicintegrity/index.cfm>

Students with Disabilities:

If you have a disability that requires a classroom or test taking accommodation please see me as soon as possible, either after class or during a scheduled office hours. Additionally, you must register with Disability Services (408-554-4111). For any accommodation to be made during this course notification must be received by the Office of Disability Services.

Cell Phones, Computers, and Interruptions:

Please respect your fellow students and their right to a distraction-free learning environment. For that reason, during class absolutely no cell phone calls are permitted, this includes texting. Any cell phone that is in your possession must be turned off before class starts. If you use your computer for note taking, use it only for note taking (no IM, RPGs, SL, etc.) and turn your wireless/AirPorts off. If students break this rule several times, then all computers are banned.

Additionally, late arrivals to class, leaving during class, talking in class, or other distractions are unacceptable. If you need to leave early one day, please see me before class begins. If you fail to follow these basic courtesies, points are deducted from your final course grade.

Lecture Schedule and Readings: Any changes to the syllabus will be announced in class only.

Mar. 29: Introduction to the Course

Mar. 31: Anthropology – A Four/Five Fields Perspective

Schlegel: Ch. 1-2

Apr. 2: No Class – Good Friday

Apr. 5: Culture

Nanda and Warms: Ch. 4

Apr. 7: Foundational Anthropological Theory

Apr. 9: Postmodernism and Ethics in Portraying Culture

*Howell, 2004: *Turning Out Good Ethnography, or Talking Out of Turn: Gender, Violence, and Confidentiality in Southeastern Mexico*

Apr. 12: Into the Field – Learning from and Analyzing the “Other”

Nanda and Warms: Ch. 3

Apr. 14: Documentary: *Anthropology on Trial*

Apr. 16: Linguistic Studies

Nanda and Warms: Ch. 4

Apr. 19: Cognition and Language Patterning

Schlegel: Ch. 3-4

Apr. 21: Exam One

Apr. 23: Environmental Anthropology / Cultural Ecology

Note: Fieldnotes Set One due at the beginning of class.

Apr. 26: Spiritual Ecology and Environmental Ethics

Schlegel: Ch. 5-6

Apr. 28: Marriage and the Pot (*Extra Credit Opportunity)

Schlegel: Ch. 7-8

Apr. 30: Arrupe Placements and Doing Anthropology at Your Fieldsite

May 3: Gender, *Machismo*, and the Intimacy of Power

Schlegel: Ch. 9-10

May 5: Religion, Shamans, and the *Pa-bâh*

Schlegel: Ch. 13-15

May 7: Documentary – *The Devil’s Miner*

May 10: Reflections on Schlegel’s *Wisdom from a Rainforest*

Schlegel: Ch. 16-18

May 12: Exam Two

May 14: Political Economy – Bands, Tribes, and Chiefdoms

Nanda and Warms: Ch. 6

May 17: Political Economy – Industrialism and Labor Flexibility

May 19: Race and Identity (*Extra Credit Opportunity)

Nanda and Warms: Ch. 13

May 21: Ethnicity, the Nation-State, and Transnationalism

May 24: Transgressions of the Migrant Body in Oaxaca, Mexico and Bangkok, Thailand

May 26: Development and Applied Anthropology

*Patten, 2001: *Medical Anthropology: Improving Nutrition in Malawi*

May 28: Documentary: *T-Shirt Travels*

May 31: No Class: Memorial Day

June 2: Globalization, “Cultural Instability”, and Inequalities

Nanda and Warms: Ch. 16

June 4: Exam Three

Note: Fieldnotes Set Two due at the beginning of class, along with your signed Arrupe Time Sheet.

Arrupe Paper Due Date:

Arrupe Placement Paper due date is 7 June, by 11:00 am. Late papers must be submitted via email from your SCU student email account in either .doc or .pdf format.