

ANTH 102 UNDERSTANDING OTHER CULTURES (Section 851)

Fall 2008 M/W 5:30-8:00pm pm Medford 217

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Office Hours: Mon/Weds 4-5pm or by appointment

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COURSE GOAL: The goal of this course is to introduce students to the complexity and cultural diversity of human life in a way that is comprehensible and concrete. There are so many different ways to live a human life in the world today. Through lectures, discussions, films, and readings, this course will explore and compare selected contemporary cultures. An integral part of the course will be an introduction to the concepts, material, theoretical data, and research methods of cultural anthropology. Through discussions, written assignments, and tests, it is expected that students will expand their skills in the areas of cultural literacy, critical thinking and written and oral communication.

READINGS: Required text **Cultural Anthropology** by Nanda and Warms 9th Edition. Additional readings will be assigned. You are expected to read the assigned readings BEFORE class discussion for that day.

VIDEOS: Question sheets on the content and concepts of each video will be posted on the Blackboard page. These are to be printed and brought to class on the day of the video, filled out during the film and handed in at the close of class that day. Your total video score will be multiplied by 0.50 for a possible total of 25 points.

GRADING: Grades will be based as follows out of a possible score of 300 points. All test scores, worksheet scores, and video questions will be counted. NO extra credit will be offered: aim to complete the assigned tasks on time to make the best possible grade.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Course requirements will include grades from three tests and a fieldwork paper. The grade breakdown will be as follows.

Three Tests (25 percent per test for a total of 75 percent)	300 points
Fieldwork Paper (25 percent)	100 points
Total	400 points

REMEMBER: To receive a passing grade in this course students must satisfy the course academic requirements and complete all work as assigned.

GRADING SCALE:

The grading scale in this class is based on a point system that roughly corresponds to percentages.

368 - 400 points	= A	(92-100 percent)
356 - 367 points	= B+	(89-91 percent)
328 - 355 points	= B	(82-88 percent)
316 - 327 points	= C+	(79-81 percent)
288 - 315 points	= C	(72-78 percent)
276 - 287 points	= D+	(69-71 percent)
248 - 275 points	= D	(62-68 percent)

247 pts. and below = F (below 62 percent)

NOTE: Any bonus points earned as a result of class participation will be figured into your course point total before your letter grade is calculated. This allows for a possible point total of more than 400 points.

TESTS:

Three hundred points (75%) of your final grade will come from your tests. Four tests will be given. Every student will be permitted to drop the lowest of his or her first three test grades. All tests will be composed of objective questions (true/false and multiple choice), short essay/identifications (45-70 words), and essay questions (225-300 words). Included on tests will be material from the text, other readings, lectures, class discussions, slides, and films. Essay questions and identifications will be graded both on content and clarity. If you miss a test for any reason, it will count as your dropped test grade. Your final test will be held on the assigned exam day at the scheduled exam time. No one will be permitted to drop the last test grade!! Finally, no test will be cumulative. Each test will cover the material covered in class since the preceding test. All tests will count equally.

NOTE: If a student should miss two tests (which is a very bad idea), the student will be allowed to make up the last test missed the week he/she returns to class. However, the format of the test may change, and students will lose ten points off their makeup test grade since they will have had additional time to study which was not available to those students who took the test at the assigned time.

Remember: 1) No tests will be cumulative (not even the final test).

Students will be allowed to drop the lowest of their first three test grades, but no student will be allowed to drop the last test grade.

Any student who misses two tests will be allowed to make up the last test missed but will be penalized 10 points on the makeup test.

FIELDWORK PAPER:

This assignment is required of all students in ANTH 102. Its purpose is to provide students with the opportunity to experiment with fieldwork methods employed by anthropologists. It will compose 25 percent of your grade. A description of the assignment is provided below, and you will also receive a handout in class to further assist you in understanding it. You have two choices for a fieldwork paper:

CHOICE ONE: Participant/Observation Paper:

This paper calls for the student to observe, and, where possible, participate in a selected activity and prepare a written report describing it. For example, you might elect to observe a high school basketball game, a court trial, a day care center, a second grade class, a pop concert at Blockbuster Pavilion, or a meeting of the South Carolina State Legislature. (You can no longer choose to observe a church or synagogue service, unless I attend with you, since in the past students have abused this opportunity.) Whatever you choose, you must carry out your research during this semester. I do not want a write-up of a previous experience. You are expected to carry out thorough observations during the course of this class so that you can produce an accurate, complete, and objective description of the activity or individual you have chosen to observe. In addition projects must be "observable and readily completed in the time allotted. To the extent possible, you are expected to protect the anonymity your informants. This means you do not use real names without

specific, written permission from the individuals and organizations involved (to be turned in with paper). In some cases you will need permission to carry out your observation. Please see me if you have any difficulties. A detailed handout of this project will be provided in class.

CHOICE TWO: Collecting a Life History Paper:

This paper involves selecting an individual and obtaining a life history of that individual. Sometimes, students choose to produce a history that concentrates on just one portion of someone's life. Perhaps you might choose to do a history of your grandmother's childhood (e.g. Growing Up in Lancaster County). You might also choose to concentrate on someone's work history (e.g. Working in the Mills of South Carolina). Your life history must be a history of a living individual whom you will interview during this class semester (no histories of deceased relatives, etc.). You will formulate this interview into a cohesive essay written in the third person (he, she, they etc.). Hence, this paper should be in your words and not just a repetition of the words of the individual you are interviewing. Many possibilities are open to you. See me for ideas. I will provide you with a class handout further describing this project. You will be expected to protect the anonymity of your informant and should not use real names without written permission from the individuals involved (to be turned in with your paper).

Directions for Typing Fieldwork Paper:

This paper must be typewritten and double-spaced. It is expected to run at least 900 to 1200 words in length. If you are having difficulty obtaining enough information or if you have any other problems with your paper, please contact me for assistance. I will be happy to help you. In fact, I will probably have lots of ideas.

NOTE: Hard paper copies of your paper will be collected in class on the date due. Late papers will lose five points per day for any papers not turned in class on the assigned day.

CLASS ATTENDANCE AND TARDINESS POLICY:

Regular class attendance is mandatory and roll will be taken. The attendance policy followed is based directly on the policy listed in the current USC Student Handbook. This policy states: "Absence from more than 10 percent of the scheduled class sessions whether excused on unexcused is excessive and the instructor may choose to exact a grade penalty for such absences." For our course, which meets on Mondays and Wednesdays for one hour and fifteen minutes, a student may miss a maximum of three classes. Furthermore, any student who misses more than three class sessions for any reason will have five points subtracted from his/her total point score for each subsequent class missed. In addition, arriving late to class and leaving early are serious inconveniences for students and teacher. Although everyone may be late now and then, anyone who is perpetually tardy will be warned, and future tardiness will count as a class absence. Anyone planning to leave early is expected to inform the teacher at the beginning of class. Leaving more than twenty minutes early will be regarded as an absence. Furthermore, leaving early on a regular basis (without consultation with the instructor) or leaving without informing the instructor in advance is not acceptable and may count as an absence.

CLASS PARTICIPATION AND BONUS POINTS:

Class participation is encouraged!! Students are encouraged to ask questions or make comments during class lectures and discussions. When we are going over the assigned readings in the book, *Classic Readings in Cultural Anthropology*, I will call on students, providing them with opportunities to answer questions from readings and earn bonus points to be added to their numeric grade total. Many, but not all, of these questions will be handed out in class before the assignment is due or even sooner. A student who provides a correct and thoughtful answer to a question will earn a bonus point to be added to his/her point total at the end of the semester. Although you can earn an "A" in this course without any bonus points, this opportunity does allow students to increase their overall point total. There is no penalty for failing to answer a bonus question, but only a correct answer earns a point.

Note: The maximum number of bonus points that may be earned per class day is 2, and the maximum number that may be earned for the course is 14.

POLICY ON CHEATING:

The policy on cheating will follow the policy listed in the current USC Student Handbook. If you have any questions regarding cheating or plagiarism, you should check the Handbook or speak with the instructor.

CLASSROOM COURTESY: No cellphones!! No Texting!!

Class is not a time for private conversations. Good manners and courtesy for fellow classmates and instructor are expected of all students. The policy for classroom behavior follows that found in the Student Handbook: "Disturbances in classes, labs, during field trips, lectures, presentations, and other academic activities may result in one or more of the following sanctions: verbal reprimand, written warning, permanent dismissal from class, suspension from the University for a period of time, or permanent suspension from the University. If a student is dismissed from a class after the last day to withdraw from classes, the student will receive an F grade in the class. A student may appeal verbal reprimand, written warning or permanent dismissal from the class to the Academic Dean. A student may appeal suspension from the University to the Vice Provost for Regional Campuses."

In addition, if the class noise level becomes unacceptable, the teacher retains the right to reassign student seats as necessary.

SNOW DAYS

You are expected to keep up with your reading assignments during any cancellation of this class. If a test is scheduled for a day when class has been canceled, the test will be automatically rescheduled for the next class day (i.e. If class is canceled on the Tuesday for which a test has been scheduled, the test will be given on the next class day – Thursday) If a test is scheduled for the day following a canceled class, the test will not be given on the day we return to class but will be rescheduled after our return (i.e. If we have an emergency class cancellation on Tuesday and a test scheduled for Thursday, the scheduled test will be delayed and rescheduled after we return to class).

If we should have severe weather alerts or other university emergencies, you will find links on the USCL web site to TV and radio stations that will provide information on the status of university classes.

FINAL NOTE:

I want you to do well in this course. If you have any concerns, do not hesitate to come and see me. I will do whatever I can to help you make this a productive course and semester. Do not hesitate to call me at school or home if you have any questions or need help.

- Mar 17 -- Introduction to Cultural Anthropology. A Brief Historical Guide to Anthropological Theory. **Read:** Appendix (pp 470-477).
- Mar 19-- Anthropology and Human Diversity **Read** (pp Pre and 3-25). Human Evolution. **Read:** (pp 27-57).
- Mar 24 Doing Cultural Anthropology
Read: (pp 58-83). **FILM:** First Contact
- Mar 26 No class
- Mar 31 The Idea of Culture **Read:** (pp 84—113) Language **Read:** (pp114-143)
- Apr 2-- EXAM 1**
- Apr 7-- Making a Living **Read:** (pp144-173) Economics **Read:** (pp 174-203)
- Apr 9-- **FILM:** A Man Called Bee. Marriage, Family, and Domestic Groups
Read: (pp 204-233)
- Apr 14 -- **EXAM 2** Kinship **Read:** (pp 234-257)
- Apr 16-- Gender **Read:** (pp 258-283) Political Organization
Read: (pp 284-313) **EXAM 2**
- Apr 21** Stratification: Class and Caste **Read:** (pp 314-341). Stratification: Race and Ethnicity. **Read:** (pp 342- 371).
- Apr 23 Religion **Read:** (pp 372-407). Creative Expression: Anthropology and the Arts **Read:** (pp 408-435).
- April 28 **EXAM 3** Culture Change and the Modern World
Read: (pp 436-469)
- Apr 30- Paper is due at class. Paper Presentations. Film
- May 1-- Final Comments **Final Exam Review**

Final Comprehensive Examination
Monday, May 5,

