

ANTH 1: Introduction to Culture

Winter 2015

MWF 10-10:50

Center Hall 109

Instructor

Alex Stewart, Ph.D.

alexanthro@gmail.com

Office Hours: Wed. and Fri. 11-12

Table outside Center 109 or SSB 276

Teaching Assistant

Matthew Sitek

msitek@ucsd.edu

Office Hours: Tues. and Thurs. 10:30-11:30 am

SSRB 343

Graduate Student Reader

Mikael Fauvelle

Course Overview

This course introduces the broad field of cultural anthropology by examining cultural differences and human universals as well as the methods and theories used to understand and explain them. To this end, we discuss rituals, means of social organization, gender differentiation, interactions with the spiritual world, power relations, conceptions of race and ethnicity, globalization, and cultural change. Reading an ethnography about villagers from Papua New Guinea finding agency in preserving their rainforest and a structural analysis of Puerto Rican crack dealers in Harlem provides a glimpse of the topical and theoretical breadth of this discipline. Most importantly, an ethnographic project requires students to address an anthropological issue by participating in some sort of unfamiliar cultural ritual or activity, interviewing a fellow participant, and writing a paper integrating original research data with class material. Required participation in an online discussion forum and rough draft workshops will provide a collaborative environment in which students have the opportunity to learn from each other's diverse experiences and research.

Required Texts

Barker, John.

2008. *Ancestral Lines: The Maisin of Papua New Guinea and the Fate of the Rainforest*. Buffalo, NY: Broadview Press.

Bourgois, Phillipe.

2002. *In Search Of Respect : Selling Crack In El Barrio*, 2nd Ed. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press

Eriksen, Thomas Hylland.

2010. *Small Places Large Issues: An Introduction to Social and Cultural Anthropology*, 3rd Ed. London: Pluto Press.

*****Additional readings will be posted on Piazza*****

Course Requirements:

Discussion Questions 10%

Once a week, you must post a paragraph to Piazza that includes at least two discussion questions about one or more of the readings assigned for that week OR post a paragraph in response to the questions one of your classmates posts. These questions must be posted before midnight (12 a.m.) on the day for which the readings are assigned. They must be based on the readings for that week, but it is even better if they integrate previous readings, films, or broad themes of the course. You should ask debatable (not factual) questions that could have a variety of plausible answers. The goal of these posts is to help you think critically about the readings and inspire further discussion in class. Each student will read these questions before class meets in addition to doing the assigned readings.

Midterm Exam: 15%

Final Exam: 25%

Ethnographic Project (50% total)

Proposal 10%

The method of participant observation is a defining aspect of anthropology, so this course requires you to conduct a miniature ethnography. This project requires you to (1) participate in a ritual or activity that is foreign to you, but meaningful to a cultural group to which you do not belong, (2) interview at least one participant in this ritual or activity, and (3) write a paper about how this experience relates to one theme of the course. In this 2-3 page preliminary assignment, you will identify the theme that interests you and explain how the activity in which you plan to participate and the person you plan to interview will help advance your understanding of it. At this point, you might not know the specific individual you plan to interview, but you can explain their position in the activity in which you plan to participate. Please be creative and pick a subject you find interesting, but please do not choose anything dangerous or illegal (even though that is what one of the authors we are reading did).

Rough Draft Workshop 5%

In week eight, you must bring three copies of a rough draft to class. You will turn in one of them and give the other two to two of your classmates in a group of three. Over the weekend, you will read and comment on the drafts of your peers. Failure to turn in a draft on time or absence on the day of the workshop will result in a zero for this assignment.

Ethnographic Project Final Paper 35%

This 7-10 page paper will answer a debatable question about how your ethnographic research relates to an anthropological issue. In addition to your own data, you must cite at least three texts or films from this course. The topic, participant observation experience, and interview subject must be approved in advance by the instructor or teaching assistant. If there are problems with your proposal, you should alter your research plan and clear it with the instructor or teaching assistant before carrying out your research. It is a good idea to personally discuss this project with one or both of them in office hours.

Policies

Late Work

Assignments submitted after the due date will be docked 1/3 letter grade for each day they are late (including weekends). Late discussion questions and in-class assignments will not be accepted unless a student gives prior notice and has a verified excuse.

Communication

You can contact us via email for basic questions about the course, and we will do our best to respond within 48 hours. You also can post questions on Piazza for an even faster response. However, for complex questions about course material or paper topics, please come talk with us in person during office hours.

Classroom Environment

Please silence your cellphone and put it away during class. I can see you texting in your lap and it is rude and distracting. You may use a laptop to refer to class readings or take notes, but please do not use it for Facebook or other activities during class time.

Academic Integrity

Plagiarism and cheating are very serious offenses; all quotations and paraphrasing must be properly cited and everything not cited must be your own, original work. Violators will be referred to the authorities, disciplined and failed. See <http://students.ucsd.edu/academics/academic-integrity/policy.html>.

Academic Support Services

If you require accommodations due to a disability, you must provide a current Authorization for Accommodation (AFA) letter issued by the Office for Students with Disabilities (OSD). Please present AFAs as soon as possible to allow time for appropriate planning for the provision of reasonable accommodations.

Course Schedule (subject to change)

Week 1 - Introducing Anthropology

Monday, Jan. 5: What is Culture?

Overview of the course and definitions of culture

Wednesday, Jan. 7: What is Anthropology?

*****ENROLL ON PIAZZA*****

Erickson "Introduction" and "The History of Anthropology" 1-23

Bourgois "Introduction" 1-18

Friday, Jan. 9: Ethnocentrism and Anthropology's Troubled History

Hall, Stuart. 1996. "The West and the Rest: Discourse and Power." In *Modernity: An Introduction to Modern Societies*, edited by Stuart Hall, David Held, Don Hubert, and Kenneth Thompson. Hoboken, NJ: Wiley-Blackwell. 185-227.

Film (in class) *Anthropology on Trial*

Week 2 - Social Structure, Individuals, and Anthropologists

Mon., Jan. 12: Doing Fieldwork

Erikson, "Fieldwork and its Interpretation" 24-39

Barker, "Fieldwork Among the Maisin" 1-22

Wed., Jan. 14: Individuals and Society

Eriksen, "Person and Society" 73-92

Bourgois "Violating Apartheid in the United States" 19-47

Fri., Jan. 16: Ethnographic Context (Structure and History)

Barker, "Fieldwork Among the Maisin" 23-38

Bourgois, "El Barrio: A Street History" 48-76

Film (in class): *Ongka's Big Moka*

Week 3 - Economic Structures

Mon., Jan 19: NO CLASS (Martin Luther King, Jr. Day)

Work on project proposal!

Wed., Jan. 21: Subsistence and Exchange

Barker "Making a Living" 39-70

Eriksen "Exchange" 176-192

Fri., Jan. 23: Production

Bourgois ch. 3 "Crackhouse Management" 77-113

Eriksen "Production and Technology" 193-208

Week 4 - Cultural Production and Maintenance

Mon., Jan. 26: Socialization

*****PROJECT PROPOSAL DUE*****

Eriksen The Social Person 40-57, "Local Organization" 58-72
Barker "The Social Design" 71-110,

Wed., Jan. 28 - Power and Hierarchy

Eriksen: Social Hierarchies 142-156,
Barker: Community 139-167

Fri., Jan. 30: Materialism

Marx, Karl and Friedrich Engels. "Feuerbach: Opposition of the Materialist and Idealist Outlook" *In Anthropological Theory: An Introductory History*. R. Jon McGee and Richard L. Warms, eds. 53-66
Bourgeois "Goin Legit" (part one) 114-136
Eriksen Politics and power 157-175

Week 5 - Power, Race, and Deviance

Mon., Feb. 2: Immigration and Assimilation

Bourgeois "Goin Legit" (part two) 137-173
Portes, Alejandro and Min Zhou. 2000. "Should Immigrants Assimilate."
Multiculturalism in the United States, Current Issues, Contemporary Voices,
Peter Kivisto and Georgeanne Rundblad, eds. Thousand Oaks, CA: Pine
Forge Press. 317 -328.

Wed., Feb. 4: Race and Ethnicity

Eriksen, "Ethnicity" 261-274,
"The Politics of Identity: Nationalism and Minorities" 275-294
AAA Statement on Race

Fri., Feb. 6: Deviance and Functionalism

Bourgeois School Days: Learning to be a Better Criminal 174-212
Erickson, Kai "On the Sociology of Deviance" (PDF)
Film (in class): *The House We Live In*

Week 6 - Anthropological Approaches to Religion

Mon., Feb. 9: MIDTERM

Wed. Feb. 11: Religiosity

Eriksen, "Religion and Ritual" 209-226,
Barker, "The Spiritual Realm" 111-137

Fri. Feb. 13: Structuralism

Eriksen "Modes of Thought 227-244

Leach, Edmund. 1962. "Genesis as Myth." In *Anthropological Theory: An Introductory History*. R. Jon McGee and Richard L. Warms, eds. 347-355.

Week 7 - Rituals, Symbols, and Functions

Mon. Feb. 16 NO CLASS (President's Day)

Wed. Feb. 18: Ritual and Symbolism

Turner, Victor. 1967. "Symbols in Ndembu Ritual." In *Anthropological Theory: An Introductory History*. R. Jon McGee and Richard L. Warms, eds. 478-495.

Miner, Horace. (1956) "Body Ritual Among the Nacirema." *American Anthropologist*. 58.3:503-507.

Fri. Feb. 20 - Marriage

Eriksen, "Marriage and Alliance," 108-123; "Kinship as Descent," 93-107

Goldstein, Melvyn C. 1987. When Brothers Share a Wife. *Natural History* 96.3:39-48

Film (in class): *Dreamworlds III*

Week 8 - Gender, Feminism, and Culture Change

Mon. Feb. 23: Gender

Bourgois "Redrawing the Gender Line on the Street" 213-258

Abu-Lughod, Lila. 2002. Do Muslim Women Really Need Saving? *American Anthropologist*. 104(3): 783-790.

Eriksen, "Gender and Age" 124-141

Wed. Feb. 25: Feminist Critique of Cultural Relativism

Okin, Susan Moller. 1999. "Is Multiculturalism Bad for Women?" In *Is Multiculturalism Bad for Women*. Edited by Joshua Cohen, Matthew Howard, and Martha C.

Nussbaum. Princeton: Princeton University Press. 9-24

Bourgois, "Families and Children in Pain," 259-286

Fri. Feb 27: Culture Change

*****ROUGH DRAFT DUE*****

Eriksen, "Challenge of Multiple Traditions," 245-260

Bourgois, "Vulnerable Fathers," 287-317

Week 9 - Globalization

Mon., March 2: ROUGH DRAFT WORKSHOP

Wed., March 4: Challenges of Globalization

Bodley, John, 1998. "The Price of Progress." In *The Price of Progress*. Mayfield Publishing. 137-151.

Barker, "Culture Change: Tapa and the Rainforest," 171-206

Eriksen, "The Global, the Local and the Glocal," 294-311

Fri., March 6: Transnational Markets and Religion in China

Yang, Fenggang. 2005. Lost in the Market, Saved at McDonald's: Conversion to Christianity in Urban China. *Journal for the Social Scientific Study of Religion*. 44.4:423-441.

Stewart, Alexander. (pending publication) Individual Agency through Imagining Transnational Community: Converting to Islam in Modern China

Week 10 - Conclusions

Mon., March 9: Applied Anthropology

Bourgois, Conclusion

Barker, Conclusion

Wed. March 11 - Postmodernism

Rosaldo, Renato. 1989. "Grief and a Headhunter's Rage." In *Anthropological Theory: An Introductory History*. R. Jon McGee and Richard L. Warms, eds. 521-534.

D'Andrade, Roy. 1995. "Moral Models in Anthropology. In *Anthropological Theory: An Introductory History*. R. Jon McGee and Richard L. Warms, eds. 551-568.

Fri. March 13: Conclusions: Now What?

*****FINAL PAPER DUE*****

Final Exam: Fri. March 20, 8 am