

INTRODUCTION TO CULTURAL ANTHROPOLOGY

SPRING 2009

ANTH 2 (3); T/TH 9-10:15; ALPINE 235

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Office: Mendocino Hall 4028 (phone: 278-6067)

Office Hrs: T/TH 1-2:30 pm. (FYI: On some days, I will be holding my office hours in the Anthropology Museum, Mendocino Hall 1000, 278-5337).

Required Texts:

Angeloni, Elvio (editor)

2008 **Annual Editions in Anthropology** 09/10, 32nd edition. McGrawHill-Dushkin.

Kottak, Conrad

2008 **Cultural Anthropology**, 12th edition. Boston: McGrawHill.

Course Description:* This course explores the human condition from a cross-cultural perspective and introduces the basic concepts, theories, and methodologies of cultural anthropology. The primary textbook, *Cultural Anthropology*, along with the supplementary articles in *Annual Editions*, offer a cross-cultural perspective on culture and society. These readings, along with lecture, films, discussion, and group exercises, will provide you with a springboard for exploring the role of culture in your own life and society, and help you to think critically about such sociohistorical processes as cultural imperialism and globalization.

****Catalog Description: ANTH 002. Introduction to Cultural Anthropology. Introduction to anthropological approaches in the study of people and cultures. Using ethnographic case studies, the course contributes to a critical understanding of continuity and diversity in peoples' lifestyles, social institutions, and cultural practices in different societies around the world. The course also examines the impact of political, economic, and social changes, such as colonization, decolonization, and globalization on people and cultures over the last century. 3 units. (CAN ANTH 004).***

Student Learning Objectives: This course meets the university's GE Requirement for Area D1a: *Foundations in Social and Behavioral Sciences*. As such, it prepares students to demonstrate an understanding of: 1) the key concepts, perspectives, and theories of cultural anthropology, and their relevance to understanding the contemporary world; 2) the various methodologies of cultural anthropology; 3) the nature of human cultural variation; and 4) the contributions to human society of women and various ethnic groups.

Course Requirements and Evaluation:

Attendance—I will record attendance, but you are largely responsible for your own success. Be forewarned that there is a clear correlation between your attendance and your ability to do well on tests. Please do not come to class late (some of you do this consistently). Late arrivals interrupt the teaching and learning process for us all.

Readings—Please complete the reading assignments before the day they are scheduled for discussion. This will give you an edge in understanding lectures, provide you with an opportunity to gain credit for participation, and help you to score your best on individual assignments and group exercises.

Evaluation—Your course grade is based upon the average of 3 exam scores: 2 midterms and a final exam. The 2 mid-term exams feature both objective [~70-80 pts.] and essay [~20-30 pts.] questions; the final is non-comprehensive and features objective questions ONLY.) Please remember that your meaningful participation in class discussions will give me every reason to give you benefit of the doubt on essay questions or to resolve borderline grade point averages by rounding to the higher letter grade.

Grading Scale—A=90-100%; B=80-89%; C=70-79%; D=60-69%; F=59% or below.

Make-up Policy— An excused absence on examination days will require you to take your makeup exam in the Testing Center (no more than one exam per semester may be taken as a makeup). It is your responsibility to request permission to makeup an exam. Please note: the Testing Center has its own hours and fee requirements; be sure to go prepared. The final exam must be taken during its regularly scheduled period (see attached course schedule).

Cell Phones & Pagers—Please turn these off (*unless* you have an emergency—kids home alone or an ill relative, etc. and you bring this to my attention before class begins).

Academic Dishonesty—Cheating on examinations and/or plagiarism will result in permanent dismissal from class. See the university's official policy on this cheating and plagiarism: <http://www.csus.edu/manual/student/UMA00150.htm>

Please Note: The Kottak text comes with an extremely valuable set of Web-based study materials, including samples quizzes and chapter outlines. Take advantage of these at www.mhhe.com/kottak.

Course Schedule *

Week	Dates	Lecture Topics	Readings
1	1/27-29	Introduction to Anthropology	Kottak: 1
2	2/3-5	Applying Anthropology; "Death Without Weeping"	Kottak: 2 <u>Annual Editions 16</u>
3	2/10-12	Cultural Anthropology; Methods "Before the Sixties;" "Tricking & Tripping: Fieldwork on Prostitution in the Era of AIDS"	Kottak: 3 & Appendix 4 (pp. A19-A27). <u>Annual Editions 1</u> <u>Annual Editions 3</u>
4	2/17-19	Defining Culture; "Body Ritual of the Nacirema" "Where Fat is a Mark of Beauty"	Kottak: 3 (cont'd) <u>Annual Editions 29</u> <u>Annual Editions 21</u>
Tuesday	2/24	Exam 1	Bring Pencil & Scantron
5	2/26	Ethnicity & Race "Playing Indian at Halftime"	Kottak: <u>Annual Editions 13</u>
6	3/3-5	Race (Cont'd)	Film
7	3/10-12	Language and Communication	Kottak: 6
8	3/17-19	Making a Living "Understanding Eskimo Science"	Kottak: 7 <u>Annual Editions 10</u>
9	3/24-26	Making a Living (cont'd) Political Systems "Eating Christmas in the Kalahari"	Kottak: 8 <u>Annual Editions 2;</u>
No Class	3/31-4/2	-Spring Break-	No Class
10	4/7-9	Political Systems (cont'd) "Why Can't People Feed Themselves?"	<u>Annual Editions 31</u>
Tuesday	4/14	Exam 2	Bring Pencil & Scantron
11	4/16	Families, Kinship & Descent	Kottak: 9
12	4/21-23	Families, Kinship & Descent (cont'd) Marriage	Kottak: 10
13	4/28-30	Marriage (cont'd); "When Brothers Share a Wife"	<u>Annual Editions 15</u>
14	5/5-7	Gender	Kottak: 11 Film
15	5/12-14	Religion	No Readings—Film & Lecture Only
Tuesday	5/19	<u>Final Exam</u> 9:00-10:00	Bring Pencil & Scantron

* This schedule is subject to change at the instructor's discretion.