ANTH 103 (Introduction to Cultural Anthropology)
Fall 2004
MWF 8:00-8:50
Professor Donna Perry
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Office Hours: M 2:00-5:00, R 2:00-5:00
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COURSE DESCRIPTION
Anthropology is the study of humankind, and includes four sub-fields: archeology, physical anthropology, linguistic anthropology, and cultural anthropology. This class introduces students to cultural anthropology. Cultural anthropologists examine the lifestyles and belief systems of diverse peoples around the world, looking at both the material basis of human existence and at the symbolic systems through which people give meaning to social life. A wide range of issues come under the anthropological lens, including economy, marriage, gender, family, politics, religion, ritual, and social inequality. The cultural anthropologist’s central quest is the study of “culture,” that body of values, assumptions, and practices that we acquire as members of society and that shapes who we are, what we do, and how we see the world. Although “culture” is often associated with “tradition,” anthropologists believe that no non-Western culture is timeless, exotic, or isolated, and now take great interest in the globalization and social change that people experience everywhere.

This class is structured as a first course in cultural anthropology for those without previous exposure to the discipline. We will review the core concepts and theoretical approaches of cultural anthropology, the history of the discipline, and the methods whereby anthropologists learn about cultural difference. Books, articles, and films enable student to examine culture groups whose lifestyles differ radically from their own. These in-depth case studies give them an “insider’s view” to non-Western social practices and broaden their understanding of human diversity. While our focus is mainly on so-called “indigenous” societies, students will be asked to do their own ethnographic analysis of life in the United States. Thus the class not only “makes the strange familiar, but the familiar strange.”

GOALS
1) To familiarize students with the sub-discipline of cultural anthropology, the many aspects of culture that anthropologists study, and the research methods they employ.

2) To promote critical thinking about the cultural roots of social thought and action, and the ways that culture shapes who people are.

3) To dissuade students from a quick and negative judgment of “exotic” social practices and to encourage among them an analytical approach whereby they endeavor to understand the local logics of such social practices.

4) To nurture in students an appreciation of human diversity, creativity, and adaptability.

READINGS

A. Books
Students will read one textbook (by Lassiter) and three ethnographies (book-length anthropological case studies). All books are listed below in the order in which you will read them. Each is available at the college bookstore and each is required. In order to be prepared for in-class discussion, students should complete all readings by Tuesday of the week they are assigned (see the schedule below). Students will write short papers (3-5 pages) on the three ethnographies and will be asked questions on all books for the midterm and final exams.

To assist you in reading the ethnographies I will post reading guides on Blackboard. These will consist of a series of questions that help you to know what to focus on. Your answers to the questions will not be collected—these are purely guides. The study guides will cover mainly the “nuts and bolts,” or details and definitions presented in the books. They will not cover the larger theoretical issues, which we will discuss in class and which you will tackle in your mini-papers.


4) *The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down: A Hmong Child, Her American Doctors, and the Collision of Two Cultures*, by Anne Fadiman (Farrar Straus & Giroux, 1998)

B. Articles
The articles for this class are available on Blackboard under the button “Course Documents.” I will give an in-class demonstration on how to access the articles. Students are required to print up all articles and read them in the order they appear on the syllabus below. In order to be well prepared for in-class discussion, students should complete all assigned readings by Tuesday night of the week they are assigned. For ten of the class’s 15 weeks, you will choose one article comment on; these comments will be posted to the class’s electronic discussion board. You will also be asked questions on the articles on the midterm and final exams. To see a complete list of articles and their full references (along with page length), go to the end of this syllabus. For instructions on making posts to the class’s electronic discussion board see the handout I provide.

FILMS
To give students a visual entrée into other cultures I will show a number of ethnographic films. Students will watch a total of 7 films, four outside of class. On the day a film is shown I will provide students with a film guide that summarizes the film and asks relevant questions. Students will fill these guides out as soon as they can after class and hand them in the next time class meets for credit. Films guides are a good resource when studying for the mid-term and final exams, as questions on films will be included on these exams.

If you are unable to come to class on the day a film is scheduled day due to illness or emergency, you may contact me no later than the day that the film was shown (and preferably earlier) to arrange an individual viewing of the film. I will provide students who have a valid excuse with film guide, which they can hand in for credit. The films we will view, in the order in which we view them, are:

Film 1 (wk. 3): “!Nai: The Story of a !Kung Woman”
Film 2 (wk. 5): “Guardians of the Flutes”
Film 3 (wk. 6): “A World without Fathers or Husbands”
Film 4 (wk. 11): “Caste at Birth”
Film 5 (wk. 12): “Trinkets & Beads”
Film 6 (wk. 13): “Between Two Worlds: A Hmong Shaman in America”
Film 7 (wk. 14): “A World of Differences: Understanding Cross-Cultural Miscommunication” & “Body Art”

These films must be viewed outside of class in the Media Theater in Mussulman Library. See the schedule below for exact dates and times.

ATTENDANCE POLICY
To receive a good grade in this class, you must be present at and attentive during all lectures, discussion, and films. I will take attendance and consider this when calculating your participation grade. Lectures and discussions will not only highlight relevant issues from the readings, but introduce new concepts. Because we are not using a lengthy textbook, I will often provide key definitions, outlines, and theories during class time. You are advised to take careful notes of both the written and verbal material that I present when we meet. I will not post lecture notes on the Internet or give them to students who have missed class. Neither will I provide students with hand-outs from a class that they missed unless they contacted me the day of the missed class with a valid excuse. A person who has missed class can obtain paper topics on Blackboard under “Assignments.”
GRADING

A. Posts to electronic discussion group (8 posts at 2 points each) 16%
♦ Dates: Posts are to be made in weeks 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 10, 11, 12, 14, & 15, although you may opt out of two posts (see below). Posts are generally due on Tuesday by midnight. The exceptions are during weeks when papers are due (weeks 4, 6, 10 & 15). In such cases the post is due Thursday by midnight.
*Note that during weeks when there are no articles assigned (weeks 5, 8, 9 & 13) you will not do posts.
♦ A post is a 1-2 paragraph commentary on one article (not the book!) assigned during the week. It is posted to the class’s threaded discussion group on Blackboard. See the handout for a full explanation of posts.
♦ Late policy: Late posts will only be accepted within 48 hours of the due date. Late posts only receive half credit. A post that is more than 48 hours late will not be graded.
♦ Opt-out privilege: You may opt out of 2 posts without incurring a penalty, *but you may not opt out of more than 2 posts in a row*

B. Mid-term Exam 16%
♦ Date: Monday, October 18
♦ Policy on make-ups: If you miss the mid-term exam you forfeit your mid-term exam grade unless you have a truly serious illness, injury, or emergency and have contacted me before the exam.

C. Final Exam 16%
♦ Date: Tuesday, December 14th from 6:30-9:30 PM
♦ The final will not be comprehensive, but will cover material since the mid-term
♦ Policy on make-ups: If you miss the final exam you forfeit your final exam grade unless you have a truly serious illness, injury, or emergency and have contacted me before the exam.

D. Mini-papers (3 papers at 11 points each) 33%
♦ Dates: Papers will be due on Sept. 20, Oct. 6, Nov. 1, & Dec. 6
♦ Mini-papers are intended to help you think through important themes in the assigned books. The exception is mini-paper #1, which will consist of an original anthropological analysis (see hand-out). The topic for each mini-paper will be handed out one week before it is due, and can be accessed on Blackboard at any time prior to this. Students are welcome and encouraged to write other topics that interest them.
♦ Formatting: Mini-papers should be 3-4 pages long. They must be typewritten with double-spacing, 12-pt font, and 1” margins
♦ Late policy: You will lose five points on your mini-paper for every class meeting that you have failed to hand it in (or 15 points for every week it is late)
♦ Opt-out privilege: You may opt out of 1 mini-paper during the semester.

E. Film guides (6 film guides at 1.5 points each) 9%
♦ Dates: weeks 3, 6, 7, 11, 12, 14 & 15
♦ Film guides will be handed out on the day a film is shown in class
♦ You should take about fifteen minutes to fill in your film guide. While these guides are an exercise in informal writing (your spelling, organization, and neatness will not count against you), note that you will be marked down for vague and excessively short answers
♦ Completed film guides will be due the next class meeting
♦ Policy on make-ups: Only a person with a valid excuse who has informed me before or on the day of the missed class may make up a missed film and receive credit for filling in a film guide.
♦ Opt-out privilege: You may opt out of 1 film guide during the semester.

E. Participation 10%
In addition to attendance, your contributions to class-discussions, debates, and group-work will be assessed in determining your final grade. I encourage all students to explore ideas by taking part in verbal exchanges within the classroom, and will provide ample opportunities to do so. I will lead discussions and organize group activities. But in addition to these, I hope that students will feel free to spontaneously contribute their thoughts and to ask
questions: You may reflect on debates and ideas that arise on our class’s electronic discussion board; you may ask questions about the book guides I have handed out; or you may request clarification of ideas and concepts from lectures or readings. If you find that the class size inhibits you from participating, please discuss the matter with me. You will be asked to assess your participation at mid-term and at this time I will give you feedback on how I view your performance.

HONOR CODE
In order to participate as a registered student in this class, you must agree to adhere to the standards of academic integrity espoused by Gettysburg College. In particular, you must write and sign the Gettysburg Honor’s Pledge at the end of all mini-papers, exams, and film guides (posts are given exception to this rule).

The Gettysburg Honor’s Pledge affirms that you have not cheated on an exam or plagiarized an essay other take-home assignment. It is considered plagiarism when you:

- Submit the words, sentences, ideas, conclusions, and/or examples from a source (a book an article, the Internet, another student’s paper) without citing the source.
- Submit another person’s work in place of your own
- “Recycle” a paper that was written for another class and for which you have already received credit
- Knowingly aided another student in plagiarizing an assignment as defined above.

Violations of this Honor code will be penalized according to the college’s policies. For more information on the Gettysburg Honor Code go to: [http://www.gettysburg.edu/academics/acad/honor_code/index.html](http://www.gettysburg.edu/academics/acad/honor_code/index.html).

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES
Students with disabilities should notify me as soon as possible so that I can make all reasonable efforts to accommodate your needs.

SCHEDULE

**Week 1: August 30 & September 1, 3**

**Topics:**
- Evolution and the Critique of Race
- Culture—a core concept
- The holistic approach in anthropology

**Readings:**
- Lassiter book: intro and chapters 1 & 2
- Miner e-reserve
- Schlegel book: Prologue & chapter 1

**Week 2: September 6, 8, 10**

**Topics:**
- Ethnography/Fieldwork/Participant-Observation
- Cultural relativism

**Readings:**
- Lassiter book: chapter 3
- Kurin e-reserve
- Lee e-reserve
- Raybeck e-reserve
- Schlegel book: chapter 2

**Presentation:**
- A slide show on my fieldwork in Senegal (West Africa)

**Assignment(s):**
- Post due Tuesday, midnight
- Film guide due Friday
Week 3: September 13, 15, 17
Topics: Subsistence: hunting & gathering
Subsistence: horticulturalism
Readings: Barnes & Boddy e-reserve (required for class exercise but not for posting)
Reed (a) e-reserve
Lassiter, chapter 4
Schlegel book: chapters 3 & 4
Film: “!Nai: The Story of a !Kung Woman” - Media Theater, W & R 7:00 PM
Assignment(s): Post due Tuesday, midnight
Film guide due Friday

Week 4: September 20, 22, 24
Topics: Subsistence: pastoralism
Subsistence: agriculture
Readings: McCabe & Ellis e-reserve
Diamond e-reserve
Schepер-Hughes e-reserve
Schlegel book: chapters 5-8
Assignment(s): Paper #1 due Monday (see hand-out for topic)
Post due Thursday, midnight

Week 5: September 27, 29 & October 1
Topics: Focus on Wisdom from a Rainforest
Readings: Lassiter book: Chapter 5
Schlegel book: chapters 9-18 & epilogue (finish)
Assignment(s): Film guide due Friday

Week 6: October 6, 8
Topics: Gender
Readings: Lassiter book: Chapter 6
Davison e-reserve
Meekers & Franklin e-reserve
Film: “Guardians of the Flutes” - Media Theater, W & R 7:00 PM
Assignment(s): Paper #2 due Wednesday (on Schlegel book)
Post due Thursday, midnight
Film guide due Friday

Week 7: October 11, 13, 15
Topics: Marriage & family, continued
Readings: Oboler e-reserve
Yuan & Mitchell e-reserve
Goldstein e-reserve
Weiner book, introduction & chapter 1
Film: “A World without Fathers or Husbands” (Wednesday)

Assignment(s): Post due Tuesday, midnight
Film guide due Friday

**Week 8: October 18, 20, 22**
**Topics:** Kinship & descent systems
**Readings:** Weiner book: Intro & chapters 2-4
**Assignment(s):** MIDTERM EXAM on Monday

**Week 9: October 25, 27, 29**
**Topics:** Focus on *The Trobrianders of Papua New Guinea*
**Readings:** Weiner book: chapters 5-10 (finish)
**Assignment(s):** none

**Week 10: November 1, 3, 5**
**Topics:** Knowledge, Belief, & Disbelief: Religion, magic, & witchcraft
**Readings:** Lassiter book: Chapter 7
Gmelch e-reserve
Freed e-reserve
**Assignment(s):** Paper #3 due Monday (on Weiner book)
Post due Thursday, midnight

**Week 11: November 8, 10, 12**
**Topics:** Social inequality
Exchange systems: reciprocity versus markets
**Readings:** Counts e-reserve
Reed (b) e-reserve
Gokhale e-reserve
**Film:** “Caste at Birth” - Media Theater, T 8:00 & W 9:00 PM
**Assignment(s):** Post due Tuesday, midnight
Film guide due Friday

**Week 12: November 15, 17, 19**
**Topics:** Social Control
Conflict Resolution
**Readings:** Turnbull e-reserve
Gibbs e-reserve
Fadiman book: read up to page 59
**Film:** “Trinkets & Beads” (Friday)
**Assignment(s):** Post due Tuesday, midnight
**Week 13: November 22**

**Topics:** Tradition & Change: heterogeneity versus homogeneity

**Readings:** Fadiman book: read up to page 154

**Assignment(s):** Film guide due Monday

**Week 14: November 29 & December 1, 3**

**Topics:** Focus on *The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down*  
Cross-Cultural Communication

**Readings:**  
Fadiman book: read up to page 209 (this is as far as we will read)  
Bohannan e-reserve  
Thomson e-reserve

**Film:** “Between Two Worlds: The Hmong Shaman in America”

**Assignment(s):**  
Post due Tuesday, midnight  
Film guide due Wednesday (to be completed in class)

**Week 15: December 6, 8, 10**

**Topics:** Linguistic anthropology

**Readings:**  
Schildkrout & Kaeppler e-reserve  
Abu-Lughod e-reserve  
Basso e-reserve  
Crystal e-reserve

**Film:** “A World of Differences” & “Body Art” - Media Theater, M 7:00 & T 8:00 PM

**Assignment(s):**  
**Paper #4 due Monday** (on Fadiman book)  
Post due Thursday, midnight

**LIST OF E-RESERVE ARTICLES & EXCERPTS**

Abu-Lughod, Lila  

Barnes, Virginia Lee, and Janice Patricia Boddy  

Basso, Keith H.  

Bohannan, Laura  

Counts, David  
1990  Too Many Bananas, Not Enough Pineapples, and No Watermelon at All: Three Object Lessons in Living With Reciprocity.  

Crystal, David  

Davison, Jean  

Diamond, Jared  

Freed, Stanley A., and Ruth S. Freed  
Gibbs, James L. Jr.  

Gmelch, George  

Gokhale, Jayashree B.  

Goldstein, Melvyn  

Kaeppler, Adrienne L.  
2001  Tattooed Beauty: A Pacific Case Study. AnthroNotes 22(2)

Kurin, Richard  

Lee, Richard Borshay  

McCabe, J. Terrence, and James E. Ellis  

Meekers, Dominique, and Nadra Franklin  

Miner, Horace M.  

Nanda, Serena  

Oboler, Regina Smith  

Raybeck, Douglas  

Reed, Richard K.  

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Scheper-Hughes, Nancy  

Schildkrot, Enid  
2001  Body Art As Visual Language. AnthroNotes 22(2)

Shostak, Marjorie  

Stafford, Amy  

Thomson, David  

Turnbull, Colin  

Yuan, Lu, and Sam Mitchell  
Here the incredibly popular Harry Potter books, by J.K. Rowling. In Book 1, a mysterious letter, delivered by the friendly giant Hagrid, wrenches Harry from his dreary, Muggle-ridden existence: We are pleased to inform you that you have been accepted at Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry. Of course, Uncle Vernon yells most unpleasantly, I AM NOT PAYING FOR SOME CRACKPOT OLD FOOL TO TEACH HIM MAGIC TRICKS! Giving used books new life is what we do best. From classics to self-help, cookbooks, children's books and more. Find a great selection at unbeatable prices. Shop used books. Read more articles. Most Expensive Sales from July to September. AbeBooks' list of most expensive sales in July, August and September includes dinosaurs, the wife of a Beatle, a play, and a book signed by 124 movie stars. See the list. Independent sellers. Launched in 1996, AbeBooks is an online marketplace for books, fine art and collectibles where you can discover and buy the...Â AbeBooks Collectibles. Retail Company. Biblio: Used and Rare Books. Bookstore. Antiquarian Booksellers' Association of America (ABAA). Great selection of modern and classic books waiting to be discovered. All free and available in most ereader formats.Â The Ultimate Guide to Free eBooks. Not sure what to read next? Explore our catalog of public domain books with our editors. Some real gems are hidden in our library. Read more. Discover bestselling books, new releases in books, used books to buy online, and so much more. From popular literature and fiction, to rare signed books and first editions, this books page will help you discover your next great read.