INTRO TO CULTURAL ANTHROPOLOGY
University of Central Florida ~ Spring 2018
ANTHROPOLOGY 2410 ~ mon & wed. 9:30 – 10:20, fri online
Class Location: BA2, Room 0207

Professor Nessette Falu
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HPH 309
407-823-3991
Mon and Wed, 10:30-11:30am
Or by appointment

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For well over a century, anthropology has sought to understand the social and cultural dynamics of humanity: how we are similar, how we are different and how we, as social beings, have imagined and engaged with the world. This course introduces students to the central concepts, theories, methods and empirical findings of cultural anthropology, including debates surrounding the meaning of "culture." Using comparative material from around the globe, students are encouraged to question both scholarly and commonsense understandings of what is often dubbed "human nature." The topics we will cover in this course are many: kinship, family and marriage practices; language and communication; gender, sexuality, ethnicity and race; ritual and religion; political and economic systems; and globalization, trafficking and human rights. Students will develop practical skills in ethnographic documentation, data gathering, fieldwork and analysis that will be applicable to a range of professional and intellectual endeavors. We will discuss and question the existing debates toward norms, identities, family, love, relationships, sex, freedom, justice, and rights to express, perform, and even discipline the body or bodies. This course will engage films, media, and archival materials as alternative modes of interpreting the aforementioned concepts and ways of life. Students will also come away from the course with a deeper understanding of the world in which we now live—including the challenges and rewards of becoming a global citizen.

Course Objectives

- to introduce students to the study of cultural anthropology
- to give students an awareness of cultural issues and diversity at US, international and global scales
- to enable students to grasp culture as practice, representation, and systems as imbricated with social life
- to encourage critical thinking on a range of dilemmas posed by the readings and films
- to develop students' proficiency in speaking critically and effectively about cultural anthropology
- to develop students' ability to write cogently and/or persuasively

REQUIRED TEXTS

Guest, Kenneth. 2015. Essentials of Cultural Anthropology: A Toolkit for a Global Age, W.W. Norton & Company.

Wool, Zoe. After War: The Weight of the Life at Walter Reed

All other readings will be available on webcourses

Recommended:
Dana-Ain Davis and Christa Craven. Feminist Ethnography: Thinking through Methodologies, Challenges and Possibilities

EVALUATION GUIDELINES

Participation:	*10 points*
Random in-class quizzes (no make ups) (2)	*10 points*
Online Assignmentsx4	*20 points*
Midterm	*20 points*
Book Review	*20 points*
Final Exam	*20 points*

ASSIGNMENTS

Attendance and Participation 10pts: It is expected that students will attend all classes unless they have a valid excuse as determined by the professor. Class participation and demonstration of having read and reflected upon the texts is required. Students who have more than two undocumented absences will suffer consequences as much as a 10% deduced from their final grade. This deduction is strict and can surmount to a full grade deduction or more. Acceptable documentation includes a physician note documenting an illness or some other documentation for a significant circumstance. Students' final grade will be reduced by 2 points for every absence beyond two undocumented absences.

Occasionally, there will be spontaneous in-class or homework activities for credit based upon the readings and topics of the week. There will be attendance recorded by the GTA and/or professor.

Participation counts toward 10 points of your grade. 3 points will be given for participating in the Feminist Ethnography discussion thread. The other 7 points will be granted based upon your discussion participation in class.

Strict class policy about the use of social media and cell phones in class. Please put your cell phones away. Do not use Facebook and social media while in class. Do not surf the internet for personal reasons. You will lose 10 points off your final grade for excessive social media use in class. It is very disruptive to your learning and to the learning of other students sitting near you.

Random In-Class Quizzes: 10 points: Two 5-pt random in-class quizzes will be given during the semester. No make-up or extra credit without medical or significant documentation for absence.

Midterm Exam: 20 points: Exam will be an in-class multiple choice and short answer questions.

Online Assignments: 20 points: On designated dates, there are activities and assignments. The activities are not for credit but count as participation. Since this is a mix-mode course, you are responsible for completing all the online activities or review of materials during your own time. They are intended to support your learning as a mix-module course beyond the in-class materials and lectures.

However, the online assignments are required and will count toward 20 points toward your final grade. There are four online assignments for the semester - 5 points each.

Book Review 20pts: Students will be required to write a book review.

Final Exam: 20 points. Online exam during finals week will be multiple choice and short answer questions.

A film(s) may be screened in class.

Missed Assignments/Make-Ups/Extra Credit

There are many due dates for assignments, so you have to stay on top of this as no late work will be accepted. Communication is key. If you feel that you are falling behind or anticipate missing an assignment, you may email me to explore your circumstances and any options for missed assignments or extra credit. However, extra credit assignments are extended under documented circumstances. No make-up assignments or make-up exams are extended.

LOGISTICS

° *Submitting work for evaluation:* All of the work you do for this course is due on the day it is due. Late work may be accepted (only one assignment), but for much-reduced credit (one grade reduction for each 24 hour period that it is late), except with a physician-certified medical reason or a documented death in the family. Please plan carefully.

° *If you miss a class*: contact another student in the course to find out what occurred in class that day and what you will need to prepare for the next meeting. *Students are expected to attend all classes; you must email me in advance about your absences, if warranted necessary. You will be penalized for excessive unexplained absences.* In cases where you must miss class for periods longer than one week, you should see a Dean of Students for assistance *to help verify these circumstances.*

° *Being in class:* In order to receive an excellent grade in this course, you will need to attend all class meetings, on time. While in class you may use your laptop computer to take notes and/or work on in-class projects. However, please refrain from using Facebook, on-line games, generalized surfing, etc. in order to be "mentally" (as well as physically) present in class. This will also avoid distracting other students.
° *Learning differences and support services:* Any student with a disability requiring accommodations in this course is encouraged to contact me after class, via email, or set up a time for office hours immediately when classes begin. Additionally, students will need to contact Student Accessibility Services (Location: Ferrell Commons s185, 407-823-2371, email: sas@ucf.edu)

° *Academic integrity:* The work you submit must be your own. Plagiarism or other practices that violate academic integrity will be followed with any disciplinary action mandated by University of Central Florida. It is the students' responsibility to be familiar with the rights and obligations associated with academic integrity. You are encouraged to read the full policy on academic integrity at the following website: http://www.fctl.ucf.edu/teachingandlearningresources/classroommanagement/AcademicIntegrity/cheating.php and to consult these resources for guidelines on producing academic work.

Week 1		
mon	1/8	overview and introduction
		Assignment: Ethnography of Facebook, Twitter, or Instagram
wed	1/10	what is anthropology
		Guest. Chapter 1: Anthropology in a Global Age
		Jason De Leon, *The Land of Open Graves*
		In class: report back on Ethnography of Facebook, Twitter, or Instagram
fri	1/12	online activity- watch video, Cultural Anthropology

Week 2		
mon	1/15	holiday; no class
wed	1/17	culture
		Guest. Chapter 2. Culture
		Lila Abu-Lughod, Do Muslim Women Really Need Saving?
fri	1/19	Due: Online Assignment #1: Visual Anthropology

Week 3		
mon	1/22	fieldwork and ethnography
		Guest. Chapter 3: Fieldwork and Ethnography
wed	1/24	Feminist Ethnography, Chapter 1: What is Feminist Ethnography Feminist Ethnography, Chapter 4: How does one do FE
fri	1/26	online activity: read Timeline of Feminist Ethnography

Week 4		
mon	1/29	language
		Guest. Chapter 4: Language
wed	1/31	Laura Ahearn, *Literacy, Power and Agency: Love Letters and Development in Nepal*
fri	2/2	due: online assignment #2: news and culture

Week 5		
mon	2/5	kinship, family, and marriage
		Guest. Chapter 9: Kingship, Family and Marriage
wed	2/7	Melvyn Goldstein, *When Brothers Share a Wife* Dana-Ain Davis, *The Troubling Case of Nadya Suleman*

fri	2/9	online activity – review chapter 9

Week 6

mon	2/12	race and racism Guest: Chapter 5: Race and Racism
wed	2/14	K. Perry, *If We Didn't Have Water": Black Women's Struggles for Urban Land Rights in Brazil* Bonilla and Rosa, *#Ferguson: Digital Protest, Hashtag Ethnography and the Racial Politics of Social Media in the US*
fri	2/16	online assignment #3: film review

Week 7

mon	2/19	ethnicity and nationalism Guest. Chapter 6. Ethnicity and Nationalism
wed	2/21	Guest. Chapter 6, continued Audra Simpson, *Mohawk Interrupts*
Fri	2/23	online activity: read Peggy McIntosh, White Privilege: Unpacking the Invisible Knapsack

Week 8

mon	2/26	midterm exam – in-class
wed	2/28	class and inequality Guest. Chapter 10: Class and Inequality K T Hansen, *Helping or Hindering? Controversies around the International Second-Hand Clothing Trade*
fri	3/2	online activity: watch film Class Divide

Week 9		
3/12-17		Spring Break: No Classes

Week 10		
mon	3/19	ethnography
		Wool, Z. *After War*. Introduction, Chapter 1 & 2
wed	3/21	Wool, Z. *After War*. Chapter 3 & 4
fri	3/23	online assignment: finish chapter 5 and submit book review

Week 11:		
mon	3/26	gender
		Guest. Chapter 7. Gender
		E. Blackwood, Tombois in West Sumatra
		E. Martin, The Egg and the Sperm
wed	3/28	sexuality
		Guest. Chapter 8. Sexuality
		D. Gould, *Life During Wartime: Emotions and the Development of ACT UP*
fri	3/30	online assignment #4 – exploring Gender and Sexuality

Week 12		
mon	4/2	politics and power
		Guest. Chapter 12: Politics and Power

wed	4/4	global economy
		Guest. Chapter 11: The Global Economy
fri	4/6	online activity. review your notes and readings

Week 13

mon	4/9	health and illness
		Guest. Chapter 14: Health and Illness
wed	4/11	*Dana-Ain Davis Lecture (Tentative)* (or class lecture)
fri	4/13	online activity. review your notes and readings

Week 14:

mon	4/16	religion
		Guest. Chapter 13: Religion
wed	4/18	George Gmelch, *Baseball Magic*
		Daromir Rudnyckyj, *Wall Street to Halal Street*
fri	4/20	online activity: read Feminist Ethnography. Chapters 6&7

Week 15:

mon	4/23	Feminist Ethnography – Ch. 6 & 7

Final Exam. Friday, April 27th or to be determined.
No make-up exams.