INTRO TO CULTURAL ANTHROPOLOGY
University of Central Florida ~ Summer 2018
ANTHROPOLOGY 2410 Online

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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 learn the 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. 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. First edition.

Wool, Zoe. After War: The Weight of the Life at Walter Reed. **This book is also available as E-Book as the UCF library.**

All other readings will be available on webcourses

EVALUATION GUIDELINES

6 Discussion Posts and Responses (4 points)	*30 points*
Quiz	*5 points*
Activities x 2 (5 points each)	*10 points*
Midterm	*20 points*
Book Review	*15 points*
Final Exam	*20 points*
Total	*100 points*

ASSIGNMENTS

Discussion Posts and Responses 30 points: The discussion posts and responses will discuss the ethnographic readings and integrate some of the Guest concepts. It is expected that all students will participate in discussion posts and responses. Each first and individual post and response will be worth 5 points together. In other words, if you do not respond to someone else's post, you will not receive full credit of 5 points. No exceptions will be made.

All post must be done by the deadline. Late work will not be accepted.

Quiz: 5 points: There will be one quiz before the midterm with 5 questions each worth one point. No make-up or extra credit without medical or significant documentation for absence.

Midterm Exam: 20 points: Exam will online with 40 multiple choice and T/F questions at 0.5 points each question.

Activities 5 points: There are two activities with required short written assignments.

Book Review 15 points: Students will be required to write a book review.

Final Exam: 20 points. Exam will online with 40 multiple choice and T/F questions at 0.5 points each question.

Missed Assignments/Make-Ups/Extra Credit

This 6-week course will move very quickly. 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. This will be strictly enforced.

° ***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: 6/25 – 7/1

what is anthropology

Guest. Chapter 1: Anthropology in a Global Age

what is culture

Guest. Chapter 2. Culture

ethnographic essays

Jason De Leon, *The Land of Open Graves*

Lila Abu-Lughod, *Do Muslim Women Really Need Saving?*

what is fieldwork and ethnography

Guest. Chapter 3. Fieldwork and Ethnography

Due: Discussion Post and Response #1

Financial Aid Assignment: Ethnography of Facebook, Twitter, or Instagram. Due today by noon.

Watch video: Cultural Anthropology

Week 2: 7/2 – 9

what is language

Guest. Chapter 4. Language

Ethnographic Essay:

Laura Ahearn, *Literacy, Power and Agency: Love Letters and Development in Nepal*

what is race and racism

Guest. Chapter 5: Race and Racism

Bonilla and Rosa, *#Ferguson: Digital Protest, Hashtag Ethnography and the Racial Politics of Social Media in the US*

Due: Assignment #1: Visual Anthropology

Due: Discussion Post and Response #2

Quiz

Week 3: 7/9-15

ethnicity and nationalism

Guest. Chapter 6. Ethnicity and Nationalism

ethnographic essay:

Audra Simpson, *Mohawk Interrupts*

what is kinship, family, and marriage

Guest. Chapter 9: Kingship, Family and Marriage

ethnographic essays:

Melvyn Goldstein, *When Brothers Share a Wife*
Dana-Ain Davis, *The Troubling Case of Nadya Suleman*

Due: Discussion Post and Response #3

Midterm: Review Guest. Chapters 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 9

Week 4: 7/16-22

what is gender

Guest. Chapter 7: Gender

ethnographic essays:

E. Blackwood, Tombois in West Sumatra

E. Martin, The Egg and the Sperm

what is sexuality

Guest. Chapter 8. Sexuality

ethnographic essay:

D. Gould, *Life During Wartime: Emotions and the Development of ACT UP*

what is class and inequality

Guest. Chapter 10. Class and Inequality

Watch online film: To be Announced

Due: Assignment #2 *Exploring Gender and Sexuality*

Due: Discussion Post and Response # 4

Week 5: 7/23-29

ethnography book read

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

Due: Discussion Post and Response #5

Due: Book Review

Week 6: 7/30 – 8/3

what is health and illness

Guest. Chapter 14: Health and Illness

what is religion

Guest. Chapter 13: Religion

ethnographic essay:

George Gmelch, *Baseball Magic*

Due: Discussion Post and Response #6

FINAL EXAM: **Review Guest, Chapters 7, 8, 10, 13, and 14**