Anthropology 101 Syllabus

Introduction To Cultural Anthropology (Queens College CUNY)



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INTRODUCTION TO CULTURAL ANTHROPOLOGY
ANTH 101 – 05 – Syllabus

Queens College, Spring 2020
Tuesday/Thursday 10:45am- 12:00pm
Kiely Hall 150

Instructor: Richard Payne
Email: richard.c.payne14@gmail.com
Office hours: Tuesdays/Thursdays 1:00-2:00pm in PH-314F, or by appointment
Office phone: (718) 997-5522

COURSE DESCRIPTION:
Cultural anthropology involves a holistic and comparative study of human experience, culture, and social organization. Anthropologists typically study the beliefs, lives, and practices of "others," and in doing so gain perspective that enables them to reflect critically upon their own societies. In this course we will explore the ways in which cultural anthropologists think about human institutions such as kinship, gender, ethnicity, religion, and politics. By the end of the semester, you will be familiar with the concepts and methods of cultural anthropology and will be able to bring an analytic perspective to your own cultural beliefs and practices.

REQUIRED TEXTS:
Kenneth J. Guest. *Cultural Anthropology: A Reader for a Global Age.*
Additional readings will be posted to the class website on Blackboard

GRADING:
There will be three multiple choice exams over the course of the semester.

Midterm Exam I (**February 27**): 30%
Midterm Exam II (**March 31**): 30%
Final Exam (**May 19**): 40%

Please read the following explanations of the course grading.

ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION:
You must attend class regularly, whether or not I take attendance. Attendance is mandatory **if you want a good grade in this class**. Lectures regularly cover material that is not in the readings, and you will miss important material that will be on the exams if you do not attend class. Every class covers new material so if you did not attend a class then you can safely assume that, yes, you missed something important.

Come prepared to ask and answer questions about the readings. Active participation raises your level of comprehension and increases your chances for a higher grade. You should **feel free to ask questions** or seek clarification at any point. **Students who thoughtfully participate in class discussion will receive extra credit points**.

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RULES OF CONDUCT:
Students who talk in class amongst themselves, text, use computers for anything other than taking notes, or engage in disruptive or disrespectful behavior will be asked to leave. **Disruptive behavior will not be tolerated**, and students disrupt lecture by talking to each other **will have points deducted from their final grade**.

I discourage use of computers because studies show that students perform better in courses when they take notes by hand. **Cell phones must not be used** at any point during lectures and must be placed out of view during class time.

MAKE-UP POLICIES:
Unless you contact me BEFORE class with a legitimate excuse for your absence, you will not be able to make up any in-class assignments. Students with a legitimate excuse (i.e. serious illness, family emergency, etc.) who are unable to be present for a midterm exam can make it up within ten days (the make-up exam will be different from the in-class exam). You should be prepared to provide documentation of the reason for your absence.

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY:
Cheating will result in disciplinary action and an F in the course.

CONTACTING ME:
If you need to contact me for any reason, including making an appointment for office hours, notifying me about an absence from class, or requesting information about missed lectures, please email me at the email address listed on the first page of this syllabus.

COURSE SCHEDULE (subject to revision):

(Readings should be completed *prior to* the class under which they are listed)

Week 1
Tuesday Jan 28
WHAT IS ANTHROPOLOGY?

Thursday Jan 30
CULTURE
-Guest: "Culture," intro to Chapter 2 of *Cultural Anthropology Reader for a Global Age [RFGA],* pp. 42-43.
-Miner: "Body Ritual among the Nacirema," in *Cultural Anthropology RFGA,* pp. 44-48.
-Lee: "Eating Christmas in the Kalahari," (article on Blackboard)

Week 2
Tuesday Feb 4
FIELDWORK and ETHNOGRAPHY
-Guest: "Fieldwork and Ethnography," intro to Chapter 3 of *Cultural Anthropology RFGA,* pp. 70-71.
-Myerhoff: from *Number Our Days,* in *Cultural Anthropology RFGA,* pp. 72-82.
-Gmelch: "Nice Girls Don't Talk to Rastas," (article on Blackboard)

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Thursday Feb 6
LANGUAGE and MEANING (1)
-Guest: "Language," intro to Chapter 4 of *Cultural Anthropology RFGA,* pp. 94-95.
-Bohannan: "Shakespeare in the Bush," in *Cultural Anthropology RFGA,* pp. 95-104.
-Tannen: "Conversation Style," (article on Blackboard)

Week 3
Tuesday Feb 11
LANGUAGE and MEANING (2)
-Ahearn: "Literacy, Power, and Agency: Love Letters and Development in Nepal," in *Cultural Anthropology RFGA,* pp. 105-112.

Thursday Feb 13
KINSHIP, FAMILY, MARRIAGE (1)
-Guest: "Kinship, Family, and Marriage," intro to Chapter 9 of *Cultural Anthropology RFGA,* pp. 213-214.
-Goldstein: "When Brothers Share a Wife," in *Cultural Anthropology RFGA,* pp. 214-220.

Week 4
Tuesday Feb 18
KINSHIP, FAMILY, MARRIAGE (2)
-Davis: "The Troubling Case of Nadya Suleman," in *Cultural Anthropology RFGA,* pp. 221-229.
-Haraway: from *Staying with the Trouble,* in *Cultural Anthropology RFGA,* pp. 230-235.

Thursday Feb 20
GENDER
-Guest: "Gender," intro to Chapter 7 of *Cultural Anthropology RFGA,* pp. 167-168.
-Blackwood: "Tombois in West Sumatra," in *Cultural Anthropology RFGA,* pp. 169-178.
- Martin: "The Egg and the Sperm," in *Cultural Anthropology RFGA,* pp. 179-189.

Week 5
Tuesday Feb 25
SEXUALITY
-Guest: "Sexuality," intro to Chapter 8 of *Cultural Anthropology RFGA,* pp. 190-191.
-Kulick: "The Gender of Transgendered Brazilian Prostitutes," (article on Blackboard)

Thursday Feb 27
FIRST MIDTERM EXAM

Week 6
Tuesday March 3
RACE and ETHNICITY
-Fish: "Mixed Blood," *C&C,* pp. 200-208 (article on Blackboard)
-Smedley: "The History of the Idea of Race" (article on Blackboard)

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Thursday March 5
RELIGION, RITUAL, BELIEF (1)
-Guest: "Religion," intro to Chapter 13 of *Cultural Anthropology RFGA,* pp. 316-317.
-Gmelch: "Baseball Magic," in *Cultural Anthropology RFGA,* pp. 317-325.
-FLIM: Witchcraft among the Azande (available on YouTube)

Week 7
Tuesday March 10
RELIGION, RITUAL, BELIEF (2)
-Evans-Pritchard: "Witchcraft and Unfortunate Events," (article on Blackboard)
-Turner: "Liminality and Communitas," (article on Blackboard)

Thursday March 12
RELIGION, RITUAL, BELIEF (3)
-Mueller: "The Worst Lover: Boyfriend Spirits in Senegal," (article on Blackboard)
-Rudnyckyj: from *From Wall Street to Halal Street,* in *Cultural Anthropology RFGA,* pp. 326-336.

Week 8
Tuesday March 17
CULTURE and ECONOMY (1)
-Marcel Mauss, *The Gift* (two articles on Blackboard)

Thursday March 19
CULTURE and ECONOMY (2)
-Cronk: "Reciprocity and the Power of Giving" (article on Blackboard)
-Harris: "The Potlatch" (article on Blackboard)

Week 9
Tuesday March 24
CLASS and INEQUALITY
-Guest: "Class and Inequality," intro to Chapter 10 of *Cultural Anthropology RFGA,* pp. 236-37.
-Bourgeois: "Confronting the Restructuring of Capitalism in El Barrio," in *Cultural Anthropology RFGA,* pp. 238-249.

Thursday March 26
-Review session for midterm exam #2

Week 10
Tuesday March 31
****SECOND MIDTERM EXAM****

Thursday April 2
FILM: Trobriand Cricket

Week 11
Tuesday April 7 – ***NO CLASS TODAY*** (CLASSES FOLLOW A WEDNESDAY SCHEDULE)

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Wednesday April 8 – Thursday April 16
****SPRING BREAK****

Week 12
Tuesday April 21
LAW and CULTURE
-Sutherland: "Cross-Cultural Law" (article on Blackboard)
-Spradley and McCurdy: "Law and Order" (article on Blackboard)

Thursday April 23
POLITICS and POWER
-Guest: "Politics and Power," intro to Chapter 12 of *Cultural Anthropology RFGA,* pp. 286-287.
-Mead: "Warfare is Only an Invention," in *Cultural Anthropology RFGA,* pp. 287-293.
-De Leon: from *The Land of Open Graves,* in *Cultural Anthropology RFGA,* pp. 7-18.

Week 13
Tuesday April 28
-Checker: from *Polluted Promises,* in *Cultural Anthropology RFGA,* pp. 303-314.

Thursday April 30
THE GLOBAL ECONOMY
-Guest: "The Global Economy," intro to Chapter 11 of *Cultural Anthropology RFGA,* pp. 261-263.
-Dunn: from *Privatizing Poland,* in *Cultural Anthropology RFGA,* pp. 263-274.
-Tett: *Fool's Gold: The Inside Story of J.P. Morgan,* in *Cultural Anthropology RFGA,* pp. 281-285.

Week 14
Tuesday May 5
GLOBALIZATION (continued)
-Ehrenreich and Hochschild: "Global Women in the New Economy" (article on Blackboard)

Thursday May 7
FILM: Mardi Gras: Made in China

Week 15
Tuesday May 12
MEDICAL ANTHROPOLOGY
-Guest: "Health, Illness and the Body," intro to Ch. 14 of *Cultural Anthropology RFGA,* pp. 348-350.
-Fassin et al.: "Life and Times of Magda A," in *Cultural Anthropology RFGA,* pp. 350-360.
- *Second article to be announced.*

Thursday May 14
**Review for final exam – final day of class

Tuesday May 19: 11:00am-1:00pm
****FINAL EXAM****

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