

ASB 102: Introduction to Cultural & Social Anthropology

Glendale Community College

Spring Term 2009

LEC 20316

T R 8:30-9:45

Room: HU 101

Instructor: Dr. Dean Wheeler

Office: 05-129

Office Hours: M W 10:00 – 11:50 AM, T 2:15 – 4:00 PM, and by appointment

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Course Description

Anthropology studies human diversity around the world through its sub-fields of biological anthropology, archaeology, linguistic anthropology, and cultural anthropology. In this class we will focus on cultural anthropology and explore the diverse social institutions and belief systems of people in the world.

Although anthropologists have traditionally worked with isolated small-scale societies, today many of them work in more complex societies. For example, art communities in New York, immigrant workers in Berlin, and computer hackers are among the many groups anthropologists explore. Although the locations and topics of their research are extremely diverse, cultural anthropologists attempt to understand how humans live, think, act, and communicate in the world they live. In order to do so, anthropologists immerse themselves in cultures and live with them for extended periods of time.

In this course we will explore anthropological concepts, methods, and theories. We will also study the diverse forms of human organization documented and discussed by anthropologists. This course will allow you to realize that the way you see and act in the world is only one of many possibilities. It will also give you an opportunity to question and critique ethnocentrism as well as domination and oppression of other cultures.

Required Texts

Cultural Anthropology: The Human Challenge, 12th Edition, by William A. Haviland, et al. (textbook)

Conformity and Conflict: Readings in Cultural Anthropology, 12th Edition, by James Spradley and David McCurdy.
(collection of readings in Cultural Anthropology)

Guests of the Sheik: An Ethnography of an Iraqi Village, by Elizabeth Warnock Fernea
(ethnographic monograph)

There will also be articles distributed in class and/or posted on *Blackboard* that you will be required to read for in-class discussions.

Course Requirements

- 1) Exams (60%): There will be three exams. Each exam is worth 20% of the course grade. Each exam will mainly cover only material presented since the previous exam, although you are expected to remember basic concepts and important information from all the preceding parts of the course. Exams will consist of objective questions (e.g. multiple-choice, matching, true or false) and subjective questions (define or discuss issues or concepts in short sentences or paragraphs). Exams will only be administered during the designated exam periods. If you miss an exam without a good, documented reason (illness, death in the family, etc.) you will receive a 0 grade for that exam, with no opportunity to make it up. If you miss an exam for an acceptable, documented reason you may be required to take an alternative essay exam at Testing Services (TDS 118). Most students find the essay exam more time consuming and difficult, so it is a good idea not to miss a regular exam. Requests to take an exam at a different time because the scheduled exam date is inconvenient will not be granted. Such requests are particularly common for final exams at the end of the term or for exams immediately before or after Spring Break; don't bother making them.
- 2) Fieldwork Assignment (20%): Conduct anthropological fieldwork in an athletic setting (e.g. gymnasium, baseball game, park, etc.) and report your results in a type-written paper. Observe people for at least half-an-hour and take detailed notes about the way they act, socialize, and appear. In your paper describe the place and people, and explain why you think they behave the way they do. You will be graded on the extent to which you use details, originality, incorporate themes from lecture, class discussion and the textbook, and the clarity of your organization. Papers must be 3-4 pages of text, double-spaced using 12-point font and 1 inch margins. We will discuss the requirements for the fieldwork and paper in greater detail in class.*

****Important note on papers:*** Papers submitted with less than 3 pages or with more than 4 pages of text will not be read and a 0 grade will be given. Papers must be well-written and reflect that care was taken to check for spelling and grammatical errors. ½ point will be deducted for every spelling and grammatical error found in a paper. If you fail to turn-in a paper on or before the assigned due date without a good, documented reason (illness, death in the family, etc.) you will receive a 0 grade for that paper, with no opportunity to make it up. If you anticipate missing a due date for an acceptable, documented reason you must let the instructor know as soon as possible before the due date so that an alternative arrangement can be made.

- 3) Quizzes (20%): There will be ten pop-quizzes pertaining to assigned readings from *Conformity and Conflict*, articles distributed in class and/or posted on *Blackboard*, and *Guests of the Sheik*. Each quiz is worth 2% of the course grade. The quizzes are designed to test whether you have completed the reading assignment. You will find that the quizzes are relatively easy if, in fact, you have done the reading.

Attendance and Participation

Although attendance and participation are not factored into the calculation of your course grade, you are encouraged to actively participate in class discussions and activities. Many of the assigned readings require that you participate in class discussion of the readings in order to grasp and apply important points. Therefore, if you fail to attend class and/or participate you will not be prepared for the exams.

**IMPORTANT NOTICE: if you are absent more than twice during the first two weeks of class you will be DROPPED from the class. Also, if you are absent more than three times prior to the 45th DAY ROSTERS you will be DROPPED from the class. If you are dropped, you are responsible for your class standing. If you wish to withdraw from the course, you must have me sign a withdrawal slip. If you simply stop attending and appear on my final roster you will receive either an "F" or a "W" for the course.*

Grading

Grades will be assigned according to the percentage of total points scored on the combined exams, fieldwork assignment, and quizzes.

90% and above = A

80-89% = B

70-79% = C

60-69% = D

below 60% = F

Note that a grade of "C" or higher is required for transfer credit to a University. Once graded, you should promptly go over your exam to catch errors in addition of points or evaluation of answers. It is your responsibility to detect such errors and bring them to the attention of the instructor as soon as possible. DO NOT wait until the end of the term to address potential errors in grading as it may be too late to adjust the grade. Grades will be updated periodically on *Blackboard*.

Academic Integrity

All students are expected to act with civility, personal integrity; respect other students' dignity, rights and property; and help create and maintain an environment in which all can succeed through the fruits of their own efforts. An environment of academic integrity is requisite to respect for self and others and a civil community.

Academic integrity includes a commitment to not engage in or tolerate acts of falsification, misrepresentation or deception. Such acts of dishonesty include cheating or copying, plagiarizing, submitting another persons' work as one's own, using Internet sources without citation, fabricating field data or citations, "ghosting" (taking or having another student take an exam), stealing examinations, tampering with the academic work of another student, facilitating other students' acts of academic dishonesty, etc.

If cheating is detected at any time, ALL cheaters will receive a zero on the exam or assignment. In most cases, this will result in a failing grade for the course. Please refer to the Catalog & Student Handbook (<http://www.gc.maricopa.edu/catalog/>) regarding campus-wide policies relating to academic misconduct and disciplinary standards.

Special Accommodations

I am committed to providing access to a quality education for all students, including those with documented disabilities. If you have a disability and wish to have an accommodation for the course, it is your responsibility to notify the Disability Services and Resources office located in TDS 100 (623-845-3080). They will have you complete the appropriate paperwork to submit to me. You are encouraged to request accommodation early in the semester so that, once identified, reasonable accommodation can be implemented in a timely manner.

In-Class Behavior

This classroom is acoustically “live” and even whispering in the back row carries to the front of the room which bothers me and the other students. Please DO NOT make comments or carry on private conversations during class time (including videos). If you have a question or comment, please direct it to me.

Please be considerate of your classmates and of me; it is a rude disruption to have a beeper, PDA, ipod, cell phone, or any other electronic device activate during class. Please TURN-OFF ALL ELECTRONIC DEVICES and store them out of sight during class time. This includes laptop and notebook computers. Repeated violations may result in you being required to leave class and receive an unexcused absence for the day. During class please refrain from engaging in any of the following, or similarly distracting, activities: sleeping, eating, reading, text messaging, homework/assignments for another class, putting on make-up, combing hair, any personal grooming, disposing of trash, sharpening pencils, leaving to go to the bathroom, or any other activities unrelated to the matter at hand in our classroom.

Syllabus Subject to Change Statement

I anticipate that we will follow the schedule I've outlined here, but I may make adjustments based on what actually happens in class. All changes will be announced in class. Be sure to check with a classmate after an absence to see if assignments have changed. I may also change the basis for the course grade; if I do so, I will so inform you in writing. Remaining in the course after reading this syllabus will signal that you accept the possibility of changes and responsibility for being aware of them.

Weekly Schedule

Week 1 (Jan 20, 22): Introduction & What is Anthropology? (Ch. 1)
Read *Body Ritual of the Nacirema* (on Blackboard) before Jan 22

Week 2 (Jan 27, 29): Culture (Ch. 2)
Read *Eating Christmas in the Kalahari* before Jan 29

Week 3 (Feb 3, 5): Language and Communication (Ch. 5)
Read *Conversation Style: Talking on the Job* before Feb 5

Week 4 (Feb 10, 12): Subsistence (Ch. 7)
Read *Adaptive Failure: Easter's End* before Feb 12

Week 5 (Feb 17, 19): Feb 17: **Exam I**
Economic Systems (Ch. 8)

Week 6 (Feb 24, 26): Sexuality and Marriage (Ch. 9)
Explanation of Fieldwork Assignment

Week 7 (Mar 3, 5): Family and Household (Ch. 9)
Read *Mother's Love: Death without Weeping* before Mar 5

Week 8 (Mar 10, 12): Grouping by Gender, Age, Common Interest, and Class (Ch. 11)
Read *Mixed Blood* before Mar 12

Spring Break March 16-20

Week 9 (Mar 24, 26): Mar 24: **Fieldwork Assignment due**
Kinship (Ch. 10)
Begin reading *Guests of the Sheik (Part I)*

Week 10 (Mar 31, Apr 2): Politics (Ch. 12)
Read *Guests of the Sheik (Part I)* before Mar 31
Continue reading *Guests of the Sheik (Parts II & III)*

Week 11 (Apr 7, 9): Apr 7: **Exam II**
The Arts (Ch. 14)
Read *Guests of the Sheik (Parts II & III)* before Apr 9
Continue reading *Guests of the Sheik (Parts IV, V, & VI)*

Week 12 (Apr 15, 16): Spirituality, Religion, and the Supernatural (Ch. 13)
Read *Guests of the Sheik (Parts IV, V & VI)* before Apr 16

Week 13 (Apr 21, 23): Cultural Change and Resistance (Ch. 15)
Read *Baseball Magic* before Apr 21

Week 14 (Apr 28, 30): Cultural Change and Resistance (cont'd)

Week 15 (May 5, 7): Global Challenges, Local Responses, and the Role of Anthropology (Ch. 16)
Read *Improving Nutrition in Malawi* before May 7

Final Exam – Tuesday, May 12 at 8:00 AM