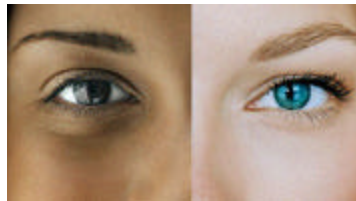




Soc. 381.1

Cultural Anthropology

EV 251
TTH 11-12:20
Fall 2008
3 Credit Hours



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Office Hours:
Mondays 4:30-5:30 pm
Tuesdays 3:30-4:30pm
or by appointment

What is Cultural Anthropology?

How does one understand different societies?

“How can peoples of different appearance, mutually intelligible languages, and dissimilar ways of life get along peaceably together?”*

ARE WE SO DIFFERENT?

Course Objectives

- ☞ Demonstrate a familiarity of Cultural Anthropology and identify its main theoretical and methodological components.
- ☞ Integrate fundamental concepts of cultural relativism with lived experience in the U.S.
- ☞ Communicate an understanding, respect and an appreciation for diverse populations throughout the world.
- ☞ Recognize and challenge the cultural assumptions that constrain acceptance of others and leads to ethnocentrism.

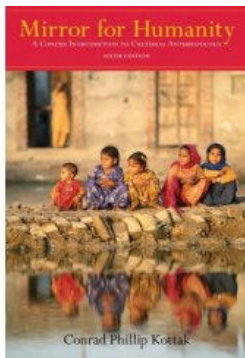
*Clyde Kluckhohn 1944

Pictures for this syllabus were taken from Dr. Vega's personal collection, the SHSU website, and understandingrace.org

Course Description

This course introduces students to key concepts of sociocultural anthropology through a series of ethnographic case studies from various world regions. Students will learn to examine the “tools” anthropologists use to think with (theory) and how anthropologists approach their research (method) as a means to confront the ever-changing social and cultural issues facing the contemporary world. Through a variety of written texts, films and documentaries, and creative written exercises and in-class discussions, students will learn how to apply an anthropological “lens” to critically think about such broad themes as culture, identity, power, difference, violence, capitalism, and space in ways applicable to pressing globalizing forces in localized contexts. In doing so, students will not only be able to gain a deeper understanding of cultures, peoples, and places around the world, but also their own interconnected social and cultural realities.

Required Text



Textbook: Conrad Phillip Kottak. 2007. *Mirror for Humanity: A Concise Introduction to Cultural Anthropology*. McGraw-Hill. 6th Edition

Online Readings: Additional readings will be provided on Blackboard in PDF format and/or weblinks. Students are required to read these online readings when assigned in the

Course Requirements

1. **Regular, punctual attendance:** Attendance at all lectures is necessary and expected. Treat each class meeting with the same level of commitment, preparation, and attentiveness that you would a professional meeting. Regular attendance is critical to your learning and demonstrates your professionalism. If you are unable to commit to taking the class, it is advisable to wait until you are able to make the commitment. Please do not schedule doctor or dental appointments, meetings, etc. during class time. I will have the same respect for your time and will make sure that I am in class as scheduled, barring any unforeseen emergencies.

Attendance will be taken at all class meetings. Absence from class will result in zero credit for quizzes, exams, or exercises covered that day. I do not distinguish between excused and unexcused absences. If you miss class for whatever reason, you do not get the benefit of the day's discussion and activities. *A student shall not be penalized for three or fewer hours of absences when examinations or other assigned class work has not been missed; however, at the discretion of the instructor, a student may be penalized for more than three hours of absence.* Each absence after the third shall result in the **reduction of the final grade**. If you miss more than 3 class dates, your final grade will

be lowered by 10% for each successive absence after the third. Tardiness and cell phone/electronic usage during class may be counted as an absence.

Attending class means you are actively alert and you are in class for the duration of the entire class period. Tardiness will not be accepted. Students who are not present within 5 minutes of the start of class will be counted absent. Do not come in late, leave early, or come and go from the class lecture. Should a medical emergency or severe illness occur, your absence will be evaluated by me on a case-by-case basis. Because I calculate absences at the end of the semester, please do not ask me how many absences you have accumulated. It is your responsibility to track your absences.

- 2. Reading & GFW Quizzes:** To get the most out of this course, you must actively take ownership of your learning process. You are expected to complete assigned readings **before** the class in which they will be discussed. My lectures will expand upon and contextualize the readings rather than recap them. I **WILL NOT** post my lectures online. Instead, students are **REQUIRED** to read the texts and keep up with lectures using outlines posted on blackboard. These outlines are made to supplement and not cover the entirety of the course materials.

To keep you on task with your readings, there will be reading and lecture quizzes during the semester. Guided Free Write (GFW's) quizzes can come at the beginning, middle, or end of class and will cover a variety of topics from the textbook, additional readings, and even personal lived experience. Students should expect that quizzes will be given on a weekly basis, with the top 10 quizzes counted toward final grade. The total points given to this final quiz grade will have the same weight as one exam. In other words the combined grade for GFW's will represent 20% of the student's final grade. The GFW's will be graded on a v, +, - system worth 10, 5, and 2 points respectively. See GFW sheet for further information on these quizzes.

Important Note: In class GFW quizzes **CANNOT** be made up.

- 3. Exams:** There will be 2 semester exams and one final (3 total exams). Each exam will test your knowledge of the course materials (readings and lecture notes). Exams **will not** be cumulative. Each exam will be worth a total 20% toward the final grade. Although much of the class lectures will refer to the readings, other material not in the readings will also be introduced. You are expected to keep up with the material covered in class and study the readings independently. Information discussed in class and that contained in the assigned readings, even if they are not reviewed in class, may appear on exams. Exams will combine multiple choice, identification, and true/false questions. A review sheet will be posted on blackboard at least a week prior to the exam. Each exam will constitute 20% of the final grade.
- 4. Applied Anthropology Career Project:** Students will be required to construct a poster regarding their own career interests, majors, and/or minors and the application of anthropology in their specific fields. This assignment will be segmented out into pieces that build onto each other and result in an overall poster that explains the importance of this course in their personal and professional development. Further details will be

provided to the students throughout the semester. The Applied Anthropology Career Project will be worth 20% of the student's final grade in the course.

******Very Important Note:** Make-up exams **will not be** offered due to an absence. Only cases of death, severe illness, or other extraordinary circumstances are satisfactory reasons for missing an exam. I will not grant requests to take exams at alternative times to accommodate a personal issue unless it satisfies one of the excused reasons outlined above [e.g., weddings, divorce proceedings, traffic court dates or traffic for that matter do not count as reasons that I will accommodate]. Understand that you will receive a zero for an exam if you miss an exam for reasons other than the ones I have outlined.

Grading

I do not negotiate grades and will abide by the grading scale above. I do not discuss or distribute grades over email. If you have concerns about your grade or the course, please make an appointment to meet with me during office hours. I will not discuss these items during class, before class, or after class. I will not schedule an appointment to discuss your exam on the same day you receive the exam. Grades will be assessed according to the following:

3 Exams @ a possible of 100 pts each =	60%
10 quizzes @ a possible of 10 pts each =	20%
Applied Anthropology Career Project =	<u>20%</u>
Total Possible Points for course ?	100% of grade

Final Letter Grade Breakdown

A = 90-100%
B = 80-89%
C = 70-79%
D = 60-69%
F = 59% and below

Extra Credit

Extra credit opportunities will be made available during the semester. Mainly, I will offer extra-credit for participation in local campus and community events. Students will be expected to accompany their participation in announced events with a one-page write-up of said event and its relevance to the course materials. Written guidelines for these write-ups will be posted on blackboard for students wishing to participate.

Academic Dishonesty: All students are expected to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is above reproach. Students are expected to maintain complete honesty and integrity in the academic experiences both in and out of the classroom. Any student found guilty of dishonesty in any phase of academic work will be subject to disciplinary action. The University and its official representatives may initiate disciplinary proceedings against a student accused of any form of academic dishonesty including, but not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work which is to be submitted, plagiarism, collusion and the abuse of resource materials.

Americans with Disabilities Act: It is the policy of Sam Houston State University that individuals otherwise qualified shall not be excluded, solely by reason of their disability, from participation in any academic program of the university. Further, they shall not be denied the benefits of these programs nor shall they be subjected to discrimination. Students with disabilities that might affect their academic performance should visit with the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities located in the Counseling Center. **NOTE:** no accommodation can be made until the student registers with the Counseling Center.

Religious Holidays: Section 51.911(b) of the Texas Education Code requires that an institution of higher education excuse a student from attending classes or other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day, including travel for that purpose. A student whose absence is excused under this subsection may not be penalized for that absence and shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment from which the student is excused within a reasonable time after the absence. "Religious holy day" means a holy day observed by a religion whose places of worship are exempt from property taxation under Section 11.20, Tax Code.

Visitors in the Classroom: Unannounced visitors to class must present a current, official SHSU identification card to be permitted into the classroom. They must not present a disruption to the class by their attendance. If the visitor is not a registered student, it is at the instructor's discretion whether or not the visitor will be allowed to remain in the classroom.

Instructor Evaluations: Students are asked to complete a course/instructor evaluation form toward the end of the semester.

Our Contract:

1. I do not tolerate **academic dishonesty**. If I find that you are cheating on a quiz or exam, or misrepresenting your work in some other way, this will result, minimally, in an automatic course grade of "F." SHSU prohibits all forms of academic dishonesty and has additional conduct requirements. Please familiarize yourself with these:
<http://www.shsu.edu/students/guide/dean/codeofconduct.html>
2. Readings must be completed before the lecture on the day they are listed on the syllabus. You will not gain from this course without both attending lectures and keeping up with readings.
3. This syllabus is subject to change. Should you be physically or mentally absent when such changes are announced, you are responsible for keeping up to date.
4. Taping of the lectures is not permitted.
5. **Regarding Respect and Courtesy:** I create an environment of mutual respect in the classroom and I expect every student to maintain this environment. Disciplinary action results if a student does not adhere to standards of respectful classroom conduct.
 - a. **Courtesy.** In class we will discuss the material with mutual respect and courtesy. Offensive language and jokes, verbal abuse, and personal attacks will not be tolerated.
 - b. **No side conversations.** This is disruptive and disrespectful to both me and your fellow classmates.
 - c. **Entering and leaving class.** If you know in advance that you have to arrive late or leave class early, plan on not attending class that day as this is disruptive.
6. Cell phones, laptops, MP3 players, etc.: These wonderful advances in technology have also helped advance bad manners. Please turn off these devices when you arrive in class and put them away. If a student uses a cell phone during class, even to text message, he/she **will be asked to leave** the class for the day. Additionally, if you access Facebook, myspace, or any other site not affiliated with course materials or note taking, you will be asked to leave the class for the day.

COURSE TIMELINE AND READING SCHEDULE

August

Unit I – Core Concepts of Anthropology (Ch 1,2,3, 11)

Wk 1

- 26 Introduction to the Course Syllabus
Unit I – Core Concepts of Anthropology (Ch 1,2,3, 11)
28 Chapter 1 – What Is Anthropology?

September

Wk 2

- 2 Chapter 2 – Ethics and Methods
4 Supplemental Readings and Ethnographic Scenarios

Wk 3

- 9 Chapter 3 – Culture
11 Supplemental Readings and Ethnographic Scenarios –
Sept 11th Discussion – how U.S. culture has changed.

Wk 4

- 16 Chapter 11 – Ethnicity and Race
Mexican Independence Day!
18 Supplemental Readings and Ethnographic Scenarios
AAA's Web Project on Race
Review Handout for Test #1 : (Ch 1,2,3, 11)
(posted on blackboard Sept. 15)

Wk 5

- 23 Test #1: (Ch 1,2,3, 11)**

Unit II – What do Anthropologists Study?

- 25 Unit II – What specifically does Anthropology examine? (Ch 4,5,7,8,9)
Chapter 4 Language and Communication

Wk 6

- 30 Chapter 5 – Making a Living

October

- 2 Supplemental Readings and Ethnographic Scenarios

Wk 7

- 7 Chapter 7 – Families, Kinship, and Marriage
9 Kinship Maps - Supplemental Readings and Ethnographic Scenarios

- Wk 8
 14 Chapter 8 Gender
 16 Supplemental Readings and Ethnographic Scenarios
- Wk 9
 21 Chapter 9 Religion
 23 Supplemental Readings and Ethnographic Scenarios
 Review Handout for Test #2: (Ch 4,5,7,8,9)
 (posted on blackboard Oct. 20)
- Wk 10
 28 **Test #2: (Ch 4,5,7,8,9)**

Unit III – History and Contemporary Trajectory of Anthropology
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- 30 Unit III – Where has anthropology been and where is it going?
 Chapter 6 – Political Systems

November

- Wk 11
 4 Chapter 10 – The World System and Colonialism
 6 Supplemental Readings and Ethnographic Scenarios
- Wk 12
 11 Chapter 13 – Cultural Exchange and Survival
 13 Supplemental Readings and Ethnographic Scenarios
- Wk 13
 18 Chapter 12 Applying Anthropology
 20 Reading Day (Poster Peer Review)
- Wk 14
 25 Supplemental Readings and Ethnographic Scenarios
 Review Handout for Exam #3: (Ch 6,10,12,13)
 (posted on blackboard Nov. 22)
 27 NO CLASS (Thanksgiving Holiday)
- Wk 15
 2 **Test #3 (Ch 6,10,12,13)**
 4 Class discussion about poster presentations
- Wk 16
 9 Group #1 Poster Presentations
 11 Group #2 Poster Presentations