

ANT 101: Introduction to Sociocultural Anthropology
Spring 2009, M,W,F 10:30 — 11:20, Chambers 1027

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This course is an introduction to topical areas in the history, theory, and research methods of sociocultural anthropology. In this class, we will read different theoretical articles and overviews on a broad array of subjects within sociocultural anthropology and three ethnographies on specific issues to explore anthropology's disciplinary perspectives. The class will meet three times a week.

Our emphasis will be on the **holistic** nature of anthropology and anthropological methodology. How do we understand the diversity of societies and cultures in light of our shared physical biology?

What is ethnography, and how do anthropologists know what they say they know? How is anthropology especially relevant today? In this class, it is more important to understand the thinking behind the conclusions and ethnographic details rather than memorizing “facts” themselves.

Course Readings

- Nanda, Serena and Richard Warms 2009. *Culture Counts: A Concise Introduction to Cultural Anthropology*. Belmont: Wadsworth.
- Wolf, Margery 1972. *Women and the Family in Rural Taiwan*. Stanford, Calif., Stanford University Press.
- Myerhoff, Barbara G. 1980 (1978). *Number our Days*. New York, N.Y. : Simon and Schuster.
- Shankar, Shalini 2008. *Desi Land: Teen Culture, Class, and Success in Silicon Valley*. Durham: Duke University Press.

Additional articles required for class are available on Blackboard.

Course Requirements

Class Participation: **10%**

The most important work in this course is to be prepared for each class; this means having thoroughly read the material and being prepared to discuss particular points from the reading. Readings are due on the day listed in the class schedule. I am not a TV; discussions in class are an important part of exploring anthropological topics. Films will be shown regularly throughout the course and are an important component of the course; they are a required part of the course material and can be used for review essays. Remember, there is no such thing as a dumb question or comment – if you do not understand something that I present in class, do not hesitate to either ask me in class or find me during office hours.

Response Papers: 10%

You will write five (5) response papers throughout the term, no more than two pages and double-spaced. They will be graded ($\sqrt{+}$, $\sqrt{}$, $\sqrt{-}$) and require timely submission for full credit. Response papers will serve as a diagnostic for me to help me see how much you understand the reading and the concepts that we will discuss in class.

Online Quizzes: 10%

You will take five (5) online quizzes throughout the term; I don't expect any extra studying for these quizzes, but you will need to have done the reading and attended class. They will be graded ($\sqrt{+}$, $\sqrt{}$, $\sqrt{-}$) and require completion for full credit. Quizzes will reinforce some of the main points from the readings.

Midterm Review: 20%

This will be a one-hour essay exam on **23 February 2009**, without the use of notes or class material. One week prior to the exam, I will hand out five possible questions for you to think through; on the day of the exam, I will ask two of those five questions. I will distribute a handout explaining the mechanics for taking this exam later in the semester.

Fieldwork Project: 20%

This project, due **3 April 2009**, is designed to familiarize you with the conduct of ethnographic field research, applying the theoretical and methodological considerations we have discussed to a particular social situation. What you choose to study is up to you; if you have questions about what is suitable after reading the handout that I will distribute later in the term, please email or meet with me. The field project consists of two parts: fieldnotes (25% of this project's grade), and an analysis in the form of a short essay (75%).

Final Review: 30%

This will follow the same format as the midterm examination, an essay exam without using any notes or class material. One week prior to the end of the semester, I will hand out five possible questions for you to think through. When you take the exam, I will ask three of those five questions. I will distribute a handout explaining the mechanics for taking this exam later in the semester.

Submission of Writing Assignments: All assignments must be submitted to me electronically, and will be returned to you electronically. You can do this in two ways: as an email attachment; or through the digital drop box in Blackboard. If you have any questions about how to submit assignments, please see me individually.

Grading System:

Grades will follow the college system using the 4.0 scale (i.e., A=4.0, A-=3.7, B+=3.3, etc. – see the college catalog) and weighted for each assignment as described above.

While students working with each other outside of class is highly encouraged, all graded, written work must be your own and pledged accordingly. All work is subject to the Davidson College Honor Code as stated in the student handbook. If there are individual accommodations for

special needs, please let me know and authorize the Dean of Students to contact me so that we can work something out.

Course Schedule (subject to modification)

Monday, 12 Jan	What is Culture, what is Anthropology? Course Introduction
Wednesday, 14 Jan	Reading: Horace Miner essay (read this one first, please); Renato Rosaldo essay (available on Blackboard)
Friday, 16 Jan	Reading: Nanda and Warms pp 2-40 Film: First Contact
Monday, 19 Jan	Martin Luther King Holiday
Wednesday, 21 Jan	Anthropological Methodology Reading: Nanda and Warms, pp 44-65. Clifford Geertz essay (available on Blackboard) Assignment: Quiz #1
Friday, 23 Jan	Reading: Laura Bohannon essay (available on Blackboard) Assignment: Response Paper Due
Monday, 26 Jan	Class Meeting in Library, Electronic Resources Room
Wednesday, 28 Jan	Doing Fieldwork Reading: Claire Sterk essay (available on Blackboard)
Friday, 30 Jan	Taking Fieldnotes Reading: Jean Jackson essay (available on Blackboard)
Monday, 2 Feb	Families and Kinship Reading: Nanda and Warms, pp. 141-166 Margery Wolf, Chapters 1 and 2
Wednesday, 4 Feb	Getting Married in China Reading: Continue reading Margery Wolf, Chapters 3, 4, 5, 6 Assignment: Quiz #2
Friday, 6 Feb	Reading: Continue reading Margery Wolf, Chapters 7, 8 Film: Dadi's Family Assignment: Response Paper Due (Library Project)
Monday, 9 Feb	Little Daughter-in-Laws Reading: Nanda and Warms, pp. 169-191 Continue reading Margery Wolf, Chapter 11
Wednesday, 11 Feb	American Kinship Reading: Murphy essay; Stack essay (available on Blackboard) Assignment: Quiz #3

Friday, 13 Feb	Film: Small Happiness Assignment: Response Paper Due
Monday, 16 Feb	Race and Ethnicity Reading: Nanda and Warms, pp. 239-262 AAA statement on race (available on Blackboard)
Wednesday, 18 Feb	Reading: Stephen Gould essay; Franz Boas essay (available on Blackboard)
Friday, 20 Feb	Reading: Diamond article; Lozada article on ethnicity (available on Blackboard) Film: American Tongues
Monday, 23 Feb	Assignment: Midterm Review
Wednesday, 25 Feb	Economy and Exchange Reading: Nanda and Warms, 115-139
Friday, 27 Feb	Film: Ongka's Big Moka
2-6 Mar	Spring Break! Have a good holiday.
Monday, 9 Mar	The Spirit of the Gift Reading: Yan chapter; Sahlins article (available on Blackboard)
Wednesday, 11 Mar	Production and Consumption Reading: Nietschmann article; Mintz article (available on Blackboard)
Friday, 13 Mar	Reading: Bestor essay (available on Blackboard) Film: Cannibal Tours
Monday, 16 Mar	Religion and Ritual Reading: Nanda and Warms, pp 263-284; Geertz essay on religion (available on Blackboard)
Wednesday, 18 Mar	Reading: Myerhoff, Chapters 1, 2 Film: Number Our Days Assignment: Quiz #4
Friday, 20 Mar	Reading: Myerhoff, Chapter 3; Turner article (available on Blackboard)
Monday, 23 Mar	Reading: Myerhoff, Chapters 4, 5
Wednesday, 25 Mar	Reading: Continue reading Myerhoff, Chapters 6, 7 Assignment: Response Paper Due
Friday, 27 Mar	Science, Religion, and Rationality Reading: Evans-Pritchard article; Gmelch Baseball Magic article (available on Blackboard) Film: Trobriand Cricket

Monday, 30 Mar	Politics, Power, and Globalization Reading: Nanda and Warms, pp 193-214; Llewelyn article (available on Blackboard)
Wednesday, 1 Apr	The Power of Culture Reading: Bourdieu article (available on Blackboard)
Friday, 3 Apr	Film: Chief in Two Worlds Assignment: Fieldwork Project Due
Monday, 6 Apr	Case Study: Love Parade Reading: Borneman article (available on Blackboard)
Wednesday, 8 Apr	Development and Anthropology Reading: Nanda and Warms, pp 312-336; Miller, Chapter 16 (optional; available on Blackboard)
Friday, 10 Apr	Reading: Escobar article (available on Blackboard) Assignment: Quiz #5
Monday, 13 Apr	Easter Break!
Wednesday, 15 Apr	Reading: Hannerz article; Appadurai article (available on Blackboard)
Friday, 17 Apr	Reading: Watson McD's essay (available on Blackboard)
Monday, 20 Apr	Ethnographic Study of Globalization: People and Popular Culture Reading: Shankar, p. 1-52
Wednesday, 22 Apr	Reading: Shankar, p. 53-99
Friday, 24 Apr	Reading: Shankar, p. 100-141
Monday, 27 Apr	Reading: Shankar, p. 142-212 Assignment: Response Paper Due
Wednesday, 29 Apr	Last Day of Class Course Overview
Self-Scheduled	Final Review