

University of Toronto, Department of Anthropology

ANT 207H , Fall Term 2016

CORE CONCEPTS IN SOCIAL AND CULTURAL ANTHROPOLOGY

Time: Thursday 2- 4 pm and tutorials
Location: Building HS610
Instructor: Prof. Tania Li, tania.li@utoronto.ca, Office Hours Wednesday 1-4pm, Anthropology Department 424
TAs: Mathew Gagne mathew.gagne@mail.utoronto.ca
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Are we all the same, or are we all different? What is “a society”? Are there “cultures”? What is politics in a society without political parties? What do concepts like individual, family and community mean in different contexts and why does this matter? Why should anyone worry about a kinship chart? These are among the questions we will address in this class through lectures, films, tutorials, readings and discussion.

Objectives: The objective of the class are 1) to expose you to the core concepts of social and cultural anthropology, and 2) to develop your critical thinking and writing skills. Anthropology is first and foremost a form of critical inquiry. There are many questions that don't have yes/no answers. Anthropology's subject matter - people in their social relations - can be approached in more than one way. So be ready to think, debate, and take positions. Anyone can benefit from taking the course, but its main purpose is to provide essential preparation for students who plan to enroll in the majors, minors or specialist programs in social-cultural anthropology. We cover a lot of ground, but definitely not everything! Topics such as development, environment, human rights and the application of anthropology are taken up in ANT204, Anthropology of the Contemporary World; language and linguistics are covered in ANT 253; an introduction to medical anthropology is covered in ANT208.

Course Assessment:

Mid-term in-class test (80 minutes)	15%
Two short essays @ 1000 words	30%
Short assignments linked to tutorials, counting best 5 of 6	10%
Participation in 5 of 6 tutorials	10%
Formal final exam in exam period (3 hours)	35%

Teaching Approach:

- The **required reading** material comprises a textbook *Stories of Culture and Place* (SCP), and an ethnography, *Land's End* (LE), in which you will see how methods and concepts are used in research and analysis, and a few additional readings related to short writing assignments and tutorials. Both books are available for purchase at U of T bookstore or you can buy kindle versions. You can also borrow both of them **free** on line through Robarts. There are copies of both books in u of t libraries on reserve. I will not be covering all the reading material in the lectures, so you **MUST** read and study these two books to pass the class. SCP has useful **study questions** at the end of each chapter: make note-form answers to these questions as you go. I will incorporate some of these questions into the exams and/or use them for short reading/writing assignments (see below).
- I have assigned several **films** for you to watch on youtube: these are required parts of the class. Make sure you watch them **before** the session in which they will be discussed, and make notes on them to review before exams. In class I will assume that you have **already** watched the film: this saves our class time for lecture and discussion.
- The **essays** will draw on material covered in the required reading and in class, and will not need additional research. The objective is to practice taking a position on a complex issue and defending it through argument and use of appropriate examples. Essays will be uploaded to blackboard by 2pm on the due date. Late penalty 2% per day.

- **Exams** will include a mix of multiple choice, short answer and essay questions. They will thoroughly test material covered in the films, readings and lectures. You need to be in class, and keep up with films and reading. No excuses! The short answer part of the exams is not cumulative, ie material covered in the mid-term relates to the first part of the class, and will not be retested in the final. BUT the essay part of the final exam will require you to draw on all the material covered in the class for ideas and examples, so you will need to review your notes from the course as a whole to prepare for the final.
- **Tutorials and short assignments:** These are an integral part of the course. Participation in tutorials is worth 10% of the grade: be present and prepared. If you miss your tutorial you may attend another in the same week but we extend this privilege once only - don't make a habit of it. Linked to each tutorial is a short assignment to prepare ahead and upload on blackboard by Wed 10am in the week due. Late assignments are not accepted. Details of the assignment will be posted on blackboard by Friday noon the week before. We count the best 5 of 6 but there are **NO MAKE UPS**. Feedback on the short assignments will be prompt but brief. As a form of peer feedback, we will post the best 5 answers to blackboard each week (without names), so you can read excellent work, and get inspired.

Some Rules and Advice

- Updates about the course, info on the assignments, and feedback on your essays will all be posted on Blackboard. So be sure to check in often. Short writing assignments and tutorial work will also be posted to blackboard: master it!
- I seldom use power point for lectures. If I do, it will only be for the lecture outline and a few quotes, images or key words. So you need to be in class, be alert, listen, and take notes. I may post notes to Blackboard but this will not be routine. You should get to know one or two people in the class and agree to exchange notes should you miss class.
- Use your college registrar if you need to; that person is there to advocate for you if you are having problems. For example, if you have been seriously ill and need an extension on a paper, your best strategy is to bring your doctor's note to your college registrar, explain the situation to him or her, and have him or her contact *all* your professors asking for consideration. That way you do not have to go to your professors individually and you do not have to confide personal information to your professor if you do not want to.
- Office hours: this is a big class and I won't get to know you during class time, so feel free to drop by my office hours, even if you don't have a pressing question in mind. Talking to students is an important way for me to get feedback on the class. I'm also happy to advise on anthropology courses and programs, and where your degree might take you.
- The TAs are there to help you understand course content, learn important academic skills, and do a great job of the assignments. They will hold office hours before each test and exam to help you understand any aspect of the course you are finding tough. Communicate directly with your TA re late essays. Use the assistance we have provided - there is no need to be lost or confused in this class. If you are feeling this way take action, starting with an email to your TA or drop by my office hours.
- Learning how to write an excellent academic essay is one of the goals of the course. You will be writing two short essays at home and at least one essay on the final exam. Please check out the resources available at <http://www.writing.utoronto.ca/> especially in the "advice" section.
- Your private study (reading, writing, preparing for tutorials, watching films, making notes, reviewing weekly lecture notes) will take you 4-5 hours per week. Keep up!

Academic Integrity:

Academic integrity is fundamental to learning and scholarship at the University of Toronto. Participating honestly, respectfully, responsibly, and fairly in this academic community ensures that the U of T degree that you earn will be valued as a true indication of your individual academic achievement, and will continue to receive the respect and recognition it deserves.

Familiarize yourself with the University of Toronto's *Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters*

(<http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/policies/behaveac.htm>). It is the rule book for academic behaviour at the U of T, and you are expected to know the rules. Potential offences include, but are not limited to:

In papers and assignments:

- Using someone else's ideas or words without appropriate acknowledgement.
- Copying material word-for-word from a source (including lecture and study group notes) and not placing the words within quotation marks.
- Submitting your own work in more than one course without the permission of the instructor.
- Making up sources or facts.
- Including references to sources that you did not use.
- Obtaining or providing unauthorized assistance on any assignment including:
 - working in groups on assignments that are supposed to be individual work;
 - having someone rewrite or add material to your work while "editing".
- Lending your work to a classmate who submits it as his/her own without your permission.

On tests and exams:

- Using or possessing any unauthorized aid, including a cell phone.
- Looking at someone else's answers
- Letting someone else look at your answers.
- Misrepresenting your identity.
- Submitting an altered test for re-grading.

Misrepresentation:

- Falsifying or altering any documentation required by the University, including doctor's notes.
- Falsifying institutional documents or grades.

The University of Toronto treats cases of academic misconduct very seriously. All suspected cases of academic dishonesty will be investigated following the procedures outlined in the *Code*. The consequences for academic misconduct can be severe, including a failure in the course and a notation on your transcript. If you have any questions about what is or is not permitted in this course, please do not hesitate to contact me. If you have questions about appropriate research and citation methods, seek out additional information from me, or from other available campus resources like the [U of T Writing Website](#). If you are experiencing personal challenges that are having an impact on your academic work, please speak to me or seek the advice of your college registrar.

Citation format:

We use the AAA format. Here are some examples from each of the main categories (book, book section, article, film, lecture). The full explanation is here: <http://www.unl.edu/rhames/courses/current/readings/AAA%20Style.pdf> Follow the formats **exactly** (ie re capitals, italics, punctuation etc.). Use in text citations not footnotes, following this format (Li 2015:32). Quoted and paraphrased material must have page numbers. Reserve footnotes for clarifications that would interrupt the flow of the text.

Agrawal, Arun

1995 Dismantling the Divide Between Indigenous and Scientific Knowledge. *Development and Change* 26:413-439.

Boddy, Janice

1997 Womb as Oasis: The Symbolic Context of Pharaonic Circumcision in Rural Northern Sudan. *In* The Gender/Sexuality Reader: Culture, History, Political Economy. R.N. Lancaster and M.d. Leonardo, eds. Pp. 309-324. New York: Routledge.

Kildea, Gary, and Jerry Leach dirs.

1975 Trobriand Cricket. 53 minutes min. Australia.

Li, Tania Murray

2014 Land's End: Capitalist Relations on an Indigenous Frontier. Durham, N.C.: Duke University Press.

Li, Tania Murray

2015 Lecture 23 September.

Class Schedule

- 1 Sept 15 Introducing Core Concepts; watch and discuss film Trobriand Cricket. In case you miss the class:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SDqI5LhHBRC
- 2 Sept 22 Anthropological Fieldwork; Lecture and discussion of film: Strangers Abroad: Off the Verandah
Prep Read SCP Chapters 1 & 2; watch film https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qn_gLroH3bQ
- 3 Sept 29 History of Anthropology: Lecture
Prep Read SCP Ch 3; watch Ishi the Last Yahi http://www.snagfilms.com/films/title/ishi_the_last_yahi
- 4 Oct 6 The Individual and Society; Lecture and discussion of film; tips on the essay
Prep Focus on essay writing. Watch on youtube: The Trap episode 1, Adam Curtis
<http://freedocumentaries.org/documentary/bbc-the-trap-what-happened-to-our-dream-of-freedom-f-k-you-buddy-episode-1>
- 5 Oct 13 Kinship and Beyond: Lecture. **Essay due**, upload by 2pm.
Prep Read SCP Ch 4 and kinship notes, available on blackboard.
- 6 Oct 20 Culture, symbols, myths and meanings
Prep Read SCP Ch 5 and 6; watch Strangers Abroad: Strange beliefs
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yIm2mL3g3t8&index=4&list=PLlxxR9eLYmTt7X41gSrB2T-olIMVRF7Y>
- 7 Oct 27 **Midterm exam**, in class.
- 8 Nov 3 Inequality and power: Lecture
Prep Read: LE intro and chapters 1 and 2; watch Land's End "visual tour"
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W3l6Ks-rsKg> (video and interviews also available on my book website)
- *** Nov 7 Course drop date: you will have 30% of your term work graded by this date
- 9 Nov 10 What is "the economy?" Lecture
Prep Read LE ch 3, 4 and 5 and conclusion
- 10 Nov 17 Understanding Gender (guest lecture by Mathew Gagne)
Prep Read: SCP ch 7; work on essay
- 11 Nov 24 Race and Globalization
Prep Read SCP ch 8 and 9 and conclusion; essay due, upload by 2pm.
- 12 Dec 1 Review and tips for the final exam.

Final Exam: This is a 3 hour, formal exam during exam period. DO NOT book travel before you know the exam date. Exceptions due to travel cannot be made.

Tutorial schedule

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| 1 | Sept 14,15 | No tutorials |
| 2 | Sept 21, 22 | (1) Contentious subjects: Making arguments, taking positions in debates
Assignment based on the week's readings and film. |
| 3 | Sept 27, 28 | (2) Critical reading skills 1 (and how to succeed in the reading/writing assignments)
Assignment based on the week's reading (SCP ch 3) |
| 4 | Oct 5,6 | (3) Critical writing skills: how to write strong, argument-based essays
Assignment will be your essay outline. TA office hours to help with essays |
| 5 | Oct 12, 13 | (4) Sorting out kinship - and why you should try
Assignment based on SCP ch 4 |
| 6 | Oct 19, 20 | No tutorials. TAs work on grading essays. |
| 7 | Oct 26, 27 | Tues 25 10-12 and 3-5 Prof Li "teach in" to help with exam prep. No regular tutorials.
TAs work on grading essays. |
| 8 | Nov 2,3 | (5) Critical reading skills 2: what are ethnographies and how should we read them?
Assignment based on the "Reading Ethnography" appendix (on Blackboard) together with LE introduction and tour. |
| 9 | Nov 9,10 | (6) Making sense of Land's End
Assignment based on LE chapter 3. |
| 10 | Nov 16,17 | No tutorials. TA office hours for essay support. |
| 11 | Nov 23, 24 | No tutorials. TAs work on grading essays. |
| 12 | Nov 30, Dec 1 | No tutorials. TAs work on grading essays. TA "teach in" to help with exam prep. Date TBA |