

Prof. Mark Auslander Office: Seney 312

TTh O: (770) 784-4664

Humanities Multimedia mausland@learnlink.emory.edu

Spring 2002 Office Hours: .

Foundations of Cultural And Linguistic Anthropology

Anthro 202

AIMS OF COURSE: This course introduces students to the anthropological study of culture, society and language. We concentrate on different approaches to the relationship between "structure" and "process" in varied social domains. We begin with Ruth Benedict's classic work of cultural anthropology "The Chrysanthemum and the Sword" and consider the concept of "cultural pattern". We then consider attempts to reconcile "cultural" and "social approaches." We then go on to consider recent work in some of the most interesting areas of contemporary sociocultural anthropology -especially the meaningful dimensions of the body, place and the material world, and language as social practice. Throughout the course, we move back and forward between the thoughtful study of others and of ourselves, considering the philosophical and methodological foundations of a comparative human science.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS: This is a demanding course. Students must give careful attention to all the reading, and indicate through class discussion, frequent LearnLink postings and written essays that they have fully engaged with the texts. You should read critically. Feel free to challenge assertions or interpretations made in the readings, by the instructor, and by fellow students, provided your critiques are well-reasoned and constructively framed.

The following work is required:

- ? Three short papers (5-7 pages). 15 percent each (45 percent)
- ? Research report on Oakland Cemetery (10 percent)
- ? One in-class midterm examination (15 percent)
- ? One Take Home Final Examination. (20 percent)
- ? Class participation, including quizzes and LearnLink (10 percent)

You are expected to come to class on time having read and thought carefully about the assigned readings. Please remember to bring hard copies of all the assigned readings for that day (including those you have printed out from electronic reserve) and to bring your notes on those readings. I advise you to bring relevant LearnLink postings by fellow students as well. Pop quizzes may be given from time to time, without prior announcement.

Over the course of the semester, we will pay several field visits to Oakland Cemetery in Atlanta. Each student will develop a specific project on some aspects of narratives about a site in the cemetery. Reports on this project will be placed on the web.

Note on Writing and Plagiarism. Plus/minus grading is used in this course and the Honor Code is always in course. Students must be scrupulous to avoid plagiarism, and to give very precise and complete citations for any work used in any way. Always make it precisely clear to the reader through the use of quotation marks and citations which words, if any, are taken from some other source. Be very careful if you draw on any Internet source to give the precise source of each and every word used. Lifting text from the web, without giving full and complete attribution, is considered an extremely serious violation of the honor code. Recycling your own work, without precise attribution, is also unacceptable.

In all essays, please make specific references, as appropriate, with internal citations: for example, "Lineage group is not restricted to segmentary societies" (Fortes: 12)." Avoid direct quotations from the text whenever possible; I am much more interested in your paraphrasing of, and commentary upon, the author's arguments than in your ability to quote directly.

Each paper must be typed, double-spaced and in 10 or 12 point. Please append a bibliography.

Attendance and Lateness Policy: Students are required to attend each class, on time. It is the student's responsibility to sign in on the sign in sheet at the front of the classroom. Missed in-class quizzes will not be re-administered, regardless of circumstances (including illness or family emergencies). Students will not be directly penalized for the first three classes that they miss (although they will miss the chance to take a quiz that day, if one is administered). For each subsequent class missed (regardless of cause) a grade level will be deducted from the student's course total (for example, a B+ will turn into a B). Eight absences will be regarded as grounds for failing the course. One or more points will be deducted for each lateness or for leaving class prematurely.

Some of the readings are on electronic reserve. The following books are available for sale in the College bookstore:

- ? Ruth Benedict. The Chrysanthemum and the Sword: Patterns of Japanese Culture.
- ? Victor Turner. Schism and Continuity in an African Society.
- ? Keith Basso. Portraits of the Whiteman. Cambridge Univ Press
- ? Alessandro Duranti. Linguistic Anthropology: A Reader.

COURSE OUTLINE

Thursday, January 17. Overview: Culture and Society. Culture and History. Rules and Process, Structure and Practice, Language and Society.

I. Culture as "Pattern": The Case of Japan.

Tuesday, January 22. **Culture and History.** Ruth Benedict. The Chrysanthemum and the Sword: Patterns of Japanese Culture. pp. 1-97.

Questions to consider:

? At the start of the book, Benedict makes a general argument for the importance of cultural anthropology in the modern world: what are the main points of her case for the discipline?

? What does Benedict mean why she claims that anthropology requires a 'certain tough-mindedness and a certain generosity'?

? What does Benedict appear to mean by the term "pattern" (as in "pattern of culture")? Does a "pattern" reside in specific social institutions, or does it transcend any given institution?

? How does Benedict appear to be thinking about the relationship between "culture" and "history"? Does historical change in a given society necessarily alter its "culture"? Does "culture" influence the nature of historical change?

? What were Benedict's research methods and how does she justify them? Why does she not rely on questionnaires and opinion polls, for example?

Tuesday, January 22. Required at 6:00 p.m. in Cannon Chapel, on the Emory Atlanta campus. Please attend the opening of the exhibition, "A Dream Deferred: African Americans at Emory and Oxford Colleges, 1836-1968". Thursday, January 24. **Obligation and Dependence.** Ruth Benedict. The Chrysanthemum and the Sword. pp.98-176

Friday, January 25. LearnLink posting: Obligation in Japan and the U.S. What forms of obligation were implied at the January 22 evening. How is this 'pattern' like or unlike that described by Benedict in Japan?

Tuesday, January 29. **Development and Social Reproduction** Ruth Benedict. The Chrysanthemum and the Sword: pp. 177-316

Thursday, January 31. **Gender and Dependence in Contemporary Japan** View and discuss video: "The Good Wife of Tokyo" in relationship to Benedict.

Friday, February 1. Learnlink. Post your reactions to the film, The Good Wife of Tokyo.

Tuesday, February 5. Discuss Benedict.

Thursday, February 7. Video: Dream Girls.

Due Monday February 11 at start of class. Paper #1. The Concept of "Cultural Pattern". at 5:00 p.m. Write a 5-7 page essay. Propose and defend a definition of "cultural pattern." Is a cultural pattern necessarily grounded in the structure of a language, or might it reside in a non linguistic form or genre, such as bodily movement, architecture, music or visual imagery? Are such patterns normally recognized as such by natives, or are they generally beyond the conscious articulation of members of a culture?

Part II. The Concept of the Social Drama.

Tuesday February 12 Victor Turner. Schism and Continuity in an African Society.

Thursday February 14. Schism and Continuity.

Tuesday February 19. Schism and Continuity.

Thursday February 21. Schism and Continuity.

Tuesday February 26. Schism and Continuity.

Thursday February 28. Schism and Continuity.

Monday, March 4 at 10:00 a.m. vPaper 2 due . Thinking about "Culture", Social Process. and Social Conflict (5-7 pages. Double spaced, typed, 10 or 12 point)
Paper topic: Compare and contrast the approaches of Benedict and Turner to the analysis of human society. Does an emphasis on society as a field of conflict require one to abandon the concept of "culture" as a shared system of symbols. Or can cultural and conflict approaches be reconciled?

Tuesday. March 5 Basso. Portraits of the Whiteman. 1-34

Thursday March 7, Basso. Portraits of the Whiteman. 35-94.

Tuesday March 12. No class: spring vacation

Thursday March 14. No class: spring vacation

Tuesday March 19. Mid-term examination (in class) Please bring blue book.

Part III. Structure and Meaning.

Thursday March 21. Saussure. General Course. (selections)

Tuesday March 26. Claude Levi-Strauss. The Science of the Concrete.

Thursday March 28. Benjamin Lee Whorf. The Relation of Habitual Language and Thought to Behavior"

Monday, March 29. Due at 10:00 a.m. Paper on concepts of structure.

Part IV. Thinking about Place, Death, and Narrative.

Tuesday April 2. Keith Basso, "Wisdom Sits in Places" (electronic reserve)

Thursday April 4 Start Oakland Cemetery Project.
Huntington and Metcalfe. "American Deathways"

Tuesday April 9 Oakland Cemetery Project. Selected readings.

Thursday April 11. Oakland Cemetery Project

Monday. April 15. Due at 10 a.m. Research Report on Oakland Cemetery

Part V. Language and Society

Tuesday. April 16 Durranti. selections

Thursday April 18 Durranti. selections

Tuesday April 23. Durranti. Selections

Thursday April 25. Durranti. Selections

Tuesday April 30. Final class.

Final Examination. See Schedule.

