

Instructor: Dr. Thomas W. Neumann

Office Hours: 205B Language Hall (Oxford Campus)
T, Th ca. 0830-0930
M, W, F ca. 0800-0830, 0930-1020

If you think that you are having problems or are, in some way, confused, please come in and see me. Even if you are not having problems, you are more than welcome to stop by anyway. A course like this is just that: A path charted through an intellectual region of much greater range. It is pleasant at times just to sit back and discuss the landscape.

Course Objectives

A *Foundations in Cultural Anthropology and Linguistics* course provides a detailed introduction to how human cultures work. Such a course examines how technology, social organization, and cosmology work together to provide a human population with a viable behavioral adaptation.

This particular class serves as one of the two foundation courses required of the Emory University Anthropology major. When completed, you should have a mastery of the basics of cultural Anthropology such that work in more advanced -- and focused -- cultural Anthropology classes will be comparatively easy. The goal here is, in part, to give you a sound training that will last you through the remainder of your Anthropology course work while also enabling you to better understand how and why human cultures work the way they do.

Texts

Nanda, Serena, and Richard L. Warms. 2004. *Cultural Anthropology*. Eighth edition. Wadsworth/Thomson Learning, Belmont, CA.

Barley, Nigel. 1983. *The Innocent Anthropologist: Notes from a Mud Hut*. Waveland Press, Prospect Heights, IL.

Chang, Raymond, and Margaret Scrogin Chang. 2001 [1978]. *Speaking of Chinese*. Updated edition. W.W. Norton & Co., New York.

Ekvall, Robert B. 1968. *Fields on the Hoof: Nexus of Tibetan Nomadic Pastoralism*. Originally Waveland Press, Prospect Heights, rights now owned by Wadsworth/Thomson Learning, Belmont, CA.

Hickerson, Nancy Parrott. 2000. *Linguistic Anthropology*. Second edition. Harcourt Brace, Ft. Worth.

Kottak, Conrad Phillip. 1998. *Assault on Paradise: Social Change in a Brazilian Village*. Third edition. McGraw-Hill, New York.

Uchendu, Victor C. 1965. *The Igbo of Southeast Nigeria*. Originally Harcourt, Brace, Jovanovich, Fort Worth; now Thomson Custom Publishing.

Course Requirements: Tests

Three tests must be taken to receive full credit for the class. Each test will focus on its particular segment of the course. These tests will be given on 16 February, on 26 March, and during the scheduled final-exam period on Friday 30 April from 0900 - 1200.

Optional [Extra-Credit] Take-Home Book Test

Each of the six monographs has an associated 31 - 47 question fill-in test that you will complete at home. Each will be worth a maximum of seven points. These are meant to help direct your reading while also keeping some notes. The tests are optional; the points are additional to the tests. The due dates for each are given in the schedule below; note that most of these will be due before you absolutely have to have read through the book.

Course Grading

Grading for the course will use the +/- system discussed on p.86, *Oxford College of Emory University 2003-2004 Catalog*. The table below gives the anticipated grading scale. Final authority for all interpretations and grading rests with the instructor.

| Anticipated Test Scores and Grade Equivalents | Level of Work Quality and Command of the Information |
|---|---|
| A = 100 - 87 | Outstanding and superior work for a student in a top-tier national university |
| A- = 86 - 83 | |
| B+ = 82 - 78 | Above-average work for a student in a top-tier national university |
| B = 77 - 73 | |
| B- = 72 - 70 | |
| C+ = 69 - 67 | Average work, that is, work that would be expected of any student in a top-tier national university |
| C = 66 - 63 | |
| C- = 62 - 60 | |
| D+ = 59 - 58 | Below-average work for which credit for knowing some of the material still should be given, even though it is not quite as solid as might have been hoped |
| D = 57 - 50 | |
| F [=N] = < 50 | Credit for knowing the material cannot be given based upon evidenced work |

Attendance

Regular class attendance and participation will be *considered* in determining the final grade. Regular attendance -- meaning five or fewer unexcused absences -- might be used to boost border-line grades by a third (e.g., from a B+ to an A-).

Organization

PART 1. HISTORY AND CONCEPTUAL BACKGROUND

- 14, 16 Jan Introduction; Historical and Conceptual Background
Read: Nanda & Warms: Chapters 1, 3, 4 (pp.2-21, 50-93), Appendix (pp.394-400)
- 21, 23 Jan Historical and Conceptual Background; Cultural Ecological Approach
Read for first time: Barley, pp. 6-67 (to be finished by 16 February); the entire book to be finished by 26 March

PART 2. ASPECTS OF HUMAN CULTURE

Biocultural Interface and Technoeconomic Subsystem

- 26 - 30 Jan Biocultural Interface; Technoeconomic Subsystem: Technology
Ekvall: Start reading, to be finished by 16 February
- 2 - 6 Feb Technoeconomic Subsystem: Technology
Read: Nanda & Warms: Chapter 7 (pp. 138-161)
- 9 - 13 Feb Technoeconomic Subsystem: Economy
Read: Nanda & Warms: Chapter 8 (pp. 162-187)
- => Wednesday 11 February turn in take-home book test for Ekvall

16 FEB **** FIRST TEST MONDAY 16 FEBRUARY ****

Class meetings = 13 (excluding test)

Social Organization and Related

- 18, 20 Feb Social Organization: Concepts, Residence, Kinship
Read: Nanda & Warms: Chapter 10 (pp.212-231)
Uchendu: Start reading, to be finished by 26 March
- 23 - 27 Feb Social Organization: Kinship, Environment
- 1 - 5 Mar Social Organization: Marriage, Mating
Read: Nanda & Warms: Chapter 9 (pp.188-211)
Kottak: Start reading, to be finished by 26 March
- => Friday 5 March turn in take-home book tests for Barley and Uchendu
- 8 - 12 Mar **** SPRING RECESS ****
- 15 - 19 Mar Social Organization: Population; Culture and Personality/Life Cycle
Read: Nanda & Warms: Chapters 6, 11 (pp.120-137, 232-251)
- => Friday 19 March turn in take-home book test for Kottak

22, 24 Mar Life Cycle; Levels of Sociopolitical Complexity
Read: Nanda & Warms: Chapters 12 and 13 (pp.252-295)

26 MAR **** SECOND TEST FRIDAY 26 MARCH ****

Class meetings = 13 (excluding test)

Cosmological Subsystem

29, 31 Mar Cosmology: Religion, Belief, Ritual
1 Apr Read: Nanda & Warms: Chapter 15 (pp.320-347)
Chang & Chang: Start reading, to be finished by 16 April

5 - 9 Apr Cosmology: Overview Major Religions
Hickerson: Start reading, to be finished by 16 April

12 - 16 Apr Cosmology: Overview of Religions; Art
Read: Nanda & Warms: Chapter 16 (pp.348-367)
=> Friday 16 April turn in take-home book tests for both Chang & Chang and Hickerson

19 - 23 Apr Communications and Linguistics
Read: Nanda & Warms: Chapter 5 (pp.94-119)

26 Apr Culture Change
Read: Nanda & Warms: Chapters 14 and 17 (pp.296-319, 368-393)

30 Apr ***** THIRD TEST FRIDAY 30 APRIL 0900 - 1200 *****

Class meetings = 13
