

ANTH 2301
Introduction to Cultural Anthropology
Fall 2011

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Office Hours: T/Th 11:00-12:00 (w/exceptions)
Lecture: Hyer Hall 100
Class Meetings: T/Th 9:30-10:50.

Teaching Assistants:

Megan Bond: mbond@smu.edu Heroy 341 Office hours: Wednesday 2:30-3:30 (or by appointment).
Shay Cannedy: scannedy@smu.edu Heroy 438A Office hours: Tuesday 12:00-1:00 (or by appointment).
Carina Heckert: heckert@smu.edu Heroy 428B Office hours: Mondays 10:00-11:00(or by appointment).

This course provides an overview of the field of socio-cultural anthropology, its history, theories, major methods and approaches to studying human beings across space and time. Humans have complex social organization, kinship structures, religions, belief and knowledge systems, and political and economic systems. These systems are characterized by continuity and change. This course introduces you to critical thinking about key categories of socially constructed difference and examining historical processes of change such as colonialism and globalization. The course also gives you tools to arrive at a more nuanced understanding of what it means to be human at different times and in different places, with the intellectual goal of arriving at a more sophisticated understanding of ourselves, our global society, and the place of anthropology and anthropologists within these social milieus.

Learning objectives for this course are:

1. For students to understand how individuals and societies respond to such issues as identity, social difference, power, status, and intra- and inter-group relations;
2. To study the effects of social and cultural institutions on individual experience;
3. To see how anthropological perspectives promote a more nuanced insight to issues of colonial expansion, demographic transition, industrialization, and culture change; and,
4. To challenge students' preconceptions about the "American way" of doing things, and to consider non-U.S. and non-Western cultural groups and to explore their own ethnocentric biases, to learn to approach others with greater sensitivity.

Required Texts:

Texts available in SMU Bookstore and on Reserve in ISEM Library, Heroy Hall 129.

Cultural Anthropology: Global Forces, Local Lives by Jack David Eller. New York: Routledge.

Annual Editions: Anthropology 11/12 by Elvio Angelino. New York: McGraw-Hill.

Ancestral Lines: The Maisin of Papua New Guinea and the Fate of the Rainforest. John Barker. University of Toronto Press.

The Miniature Guide to Critical Thinking by Richard Paul and Linda Elder.

Course Requirements:

Discussion Section (Attendance and Participation)	25%
Lecture (Participation, Activities, and Quizzes)	10%
Ethnography Paper	15%
Exam 1	15%
Exam 2	15%
Final Exam	20%

Discussion Sections: Students must be enrolled in a discussion section. Because the lecture section is so large and makes discussion of topics difficult, discussion sections are very important for the development of ideas and understanding course concepts and ethnographic contexts. The object of discussion groups is to participate- basic attendance will not receive a passing grade. If speaking up in class is very difficult for you, please see your Teaching Assistant ASAP.

Lectures: Lectures help students explore the concepts and positions introduced in required readings, guest lectures, and films in greater depth considering contrasting opinions and theories. I do not lecture on the required readings. Various activities, exercises, and quizzes will be given during the semester in lecture.

Assignments: Please include your name, course number, TA name, assignment name, and date on any written assignment. All assignments are to be typed- only printed materials are accepted. Guidelines for formatting and length will be provided for each assignment. **Assignments are due in class.** Assignments submitted late will be graded down by 10 points for each day that they are late. If not submitted in class, assignments must be hand-delivered to the Professor or you may have the department secretary date & time stamp the material. Emailed assignments are not acceptable and will not be considered on time. **Ethnography Paper:** a paper on the book Ancestral Lines will be due later in the semester and guidelines for that paper will be provided by the professor.

Exams: Exams are intended to ensure that students have mastered and understand anthropological perspectives and tools used in the study of human culture. Exams may include multiple choice, true/false (with explanations), short answer questions, essay questions, and other formats. The exams will cover material from both the course texts and lectures (including slides and films) and are cumulative.

Make-Up Tests: Make-up exams are offered only to students with *written documentation* (i.e., by healthcare provider or funeral director) of a debilitating illness or death in the family. You must notify me *before* you miss the exam. You must also make up the exam at the earliest possible date – as soon as you’re well or return to campus. Failure to make up the exam promptly will result in the imposition of normal penalties for late work – that is, 10 points per day (24-hour period) will be deducted from your exam grade. If you experience an extended illness or devastating loss, we urge you to speak with the Dean of Students about appropriate action. NO early tests are given.

Films: Several films will be shown during the semester and are available in Fondren or online if you miss the class showing. The visual element is exceptionally important in this course, as words can only go so far in explaining cross-cultural difference. Several films will therefore be shown during the semester. Films are certainly covered on exams.

Extra Credit: No extra credit is offered.

Other Standard Course Information

Class Participation: Class participation grades will be based on the frequency, pertinence, creativity, and clarity of contributions in class. Comments must reflect critical thinking and must engage the course material; comments that are general or personal in nature will not contribute significantly toward your participation grade. Active participation is volunteered participation through discussion of assigned material. Students who have great difficulty speaking out in class are encouraged to come up with other ways to meet this requirement (e.g., creating handouts, puzzles, posters relevant to the discussion) – these must be discussed with the Professor and approved for credit.

Absences/Missed Assignments: Absences are excused for a debilitating illness or death in the family, and religious holidays. Notify the professor *before* you are absent. *Written documentation* (i.e., by healthcare provider or funeral director) must be presented to the professor or TA upon your return in order to make up any missed work or in-class quiz. If you fail to notify me and provide the necessary documentation, you will not be allowed to make up the work. Make-up assignments and extensions on homework deadlines can be offered only by the Professor. Missed assignments or tests receive a 0 (zero).

Disabilities, Accommodation, and Religious Observance: Southern Methodist University provides reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities. If you need academic accommodations for a disability, you must first contact Ms. Rebecca Marin, Coordinator, Services for Students with Disabilities (214-768-4563) to verify the disability and establish eligibility for accommodation. Then you should schedule an appointment with the professor to make appropriate arrangements. If you feel you have a disability but elect not to verify the disability under SMU policies, I will not be able to provide you with special accommodations (including extensions or extra exam time). Tests are scheduled so as to avoid most religious holidays – if you have a conflict with the course schedule for religious reasons, please discuss it with me by the 12th day of university classes.

Plagiarism and Academic Misconduct: Plagiarism, cheating, inappropriate consultation of peers or their work, any other form of academic misconduct, and failing to report evidence of others' misconduct are all Honor Code violations. Penalties are outlined in the Honor Code and may include anything from a zero for the assignment to dismissal from school. Students are expected to prepare work independently, cite any work (quotes or ideas) that is not their own, submit original work (i.e., not already submitted for any other class), and to neither give nor receive assistance in examinations. If you are uncertain about whether an activity or piece of work compromises your academic integrity, you should speak to the professor before turning it in! I can find the internet source you plagiarized faster than it took you to find it through google or wikipedia.

Computers and Cell Phones: Computers may only be used in class for note-taking. All online connections must be OFF and cell phones silenced AND put away for class. Students shopping for Gucci handbags or reading jezebel.com or gizmodo.com or internet gaming or cell phone texting during class will be told to leave and required to write a 15 page exposition on the dumbing down of America's university students by the internet. No computers are allowed in Discussion Sections.