

# ANT-100-A Social Anthropology

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## ANT 100

### Social Anthropology

Mondays and Wednesdays 11 a.m. - 12:20 p.m.

Shadek-Fackenthal Library 106

Professor Guarasci

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Office: Gerhart 301

Office Hours: Tuesdays 9:20 a.m. – 11:20 a.m., Wednesdays 4:40 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.

### Course Description

This course offers an introduction to social anthropology as a discipline that investigates social organization, power, and history. We explore the study of anthropology in two ways: first, by analyzing cultural anthropology as a system of knowledge production and, second, by examining its prime method of inquiry, ethnography. Employing a comparative perspective across contexts, we ask: what is culture? what can it tell us about how humans create meaningful social lives? what can the study of culture tell us about social, political, and economic systems? The course is a combination of lecture and discussion.

### Learning Objectives

The goal of this course is to introduce you to the discipline of social anthropology, both as a method of inquiry and form of scholarly analysis. Learning objectives are:

- To understand the core principles of social anthropology: kinship and social organization; symbols; language and communication; identity; exchange; power; and the relationship of anthropology and history.
- To understand the ethnographic method
- To evaluate socio-cultural processes using foundational principles of anthropology
- To more critically examine our daily lives by examining other ways of living
- To conduct independent research and writing in anthropology

### Grades:

Participation (20%) including pop quizzes

Exams (45%)

Exam One (15%), September 21<sup>st</sup>

Exam Two (15%), October 19<sup>th</sup>

Exam Three (15%), November 7<sup>th</sup>

Ethnographic Research Project and Presentation (35%)

- Group Presentation (15%), starting 11/28
- 5-page Ethnography Review (20%), due December 12<sup>th</sup>

## Required Books

Basso, Keith. 1996. *Wisdom Sits in Places: Landscapes and Language Among the Western Apache*. Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press. ISBN: 0826317243

Garcia, Angela. 2010. *The Pastoral Clinic: Addiction and Dispossession along the Rio Grande*. Berkeley: University of California Press. ISBN: 9780520262089

Weiner, Annette. 1988. *The Trobrianders of Papua New Guinea*. Fort Worth: Hancourt Brace Jovanovich Publishers. ISBN: 0030119197

## LIVING COURSE SCHEDULE

### UNIT I: WHAT IS ANTHROPOLOGY?

#### **Week One: Cultural Critique and Cultural Production**

8/31 Introduction and Course Overview

[Lepore, Jill. July 8, 2013. "The Prodigal Daughter." \*New Yorker\*.](https://fandm.instructure.com/courses/17789/files/1432874?wrap=1)

[\(https://fandm.instructure.com/courses/17789/files/1432874?wrap=1\)](https://fandm.instructure.com/courses/17789/files/1432874?wrap=1) \_ [↓](#)

[\(https://fandm.instructure.com/courses/17789/files/1432874/download?download\\_frd=1\)](https://fandm.instructure.com/courses/17789/files/1432874/download?download_frd=1)

#### **Week Two: Fieldwork and the Culture Concept**

9/5 What is Cultural Anthropology?

[Miner, Horace. 1956. "Body Ritual Among the Nacirema" \*American Anthropologist\* 58: 503-507.](https://fandm.instructure.com/courses/17789/files/1440186?wrap=1)

[\(https://fandm.instructure.com/courses/17789/files/1440186?wrap=1\)](https://fandm.instructure.com/courses/17789/files/1440186?wrap=1) \_ [↓](#)

[\(https://fandm.instructure.com/courses/17789/files/1440186/download?download\\_frd=1\)](https://fandm.instructure.com/courses/17789/files/1440186/download?download_frd=1)

[Delany, Carol and Deborah Kaspin. 2011. "Orientation and Disorientation." In \*Investigating Culture: An Experiential Introduction to Anthropology\*. Malden: Wiley-Blackwell. 3-24.](https://fandm.instructure.com/courses/17789/files/1440175?wrap=1)

[\(https://fandm.instructure.com/courses/17789/files/1440175?wrap=1\)](https://fandm.instructure.com/courses/17789/files/1440175?wrap=1) \_ [↓](#)

[\(https://fandm.instructure.com/courses/17789/files/1440175/download?download\\_frd=1\)](https://fandm.instructure.com/courses/17789/files/1440175/download?download_frd=1)

*Reading Prompt: This unit of the course is introductory, designed to expose you to the basic tools of anthropological analysis. This group of readings will introduce you to the concept of culture and the discipline of anthropology. I recommend reading Delany and Kaspin first, and then moving to Miner. What is culture as defined*

by Delany and Kaspin? What is cultural relativism? What methods does Miner employ to make his determinations about the culture and society of the Nacirema? Are his methods anthropological? Why or why not.

9/7 Cultural Relativism, Reconsidered

**Abu-Lughod, Lila. 2002. "Do Muslim Women Really Need Saving? Anthropological Reflections on Cultural Relativism and Its Others." *American Anthropologist* 104(3): 783-790.**

(<https://fandm.instructure.com/courses/17789/files/1432875?wrap=1>)\_ ↓

([https://fandm.instructure.com/courses/17789/files/1432875/download?download\\_frd=1](https://fandm.instructure.com/courses/17789/files/1432875/download?download_frd=1))

**Bush, Laura. November 17, 2001. "Radio Address." (<https://fandm.instructure.com/courses/17789/files/1432878?wrap=1>)\_ ↓ ([https://fandm.instructure.com/courses/17789/files/1432878/download?download\\_frd=1](https://fandm.instructure.com/courses/17789/files/1432878/download?download_frd=1))**

*Reading Prompt: Do you remember 9/11? Why did we go to war in Iraq? How did the Bush Administration make a case for the need for U.S. intervention in Afghanistan and Iraq and how did gender based discrimination play a role in that calculus? In this session we examine the ways in which particular cultural groups are politicized by media and politicians to accomplish particular goals. How are relations of political power encoded in cultural judgments?*

## **UNIT II: WHAT HOLDS SOCIETY TOGETHER?**

### **Week Three: A Science of Experience**

9/12 The Social Person

Weiner, Annette. 1988. *The Trobrianders of Papua New Guinea*. Fort Worth: Harcourt Brace Jovanovich College Publishers. p. 1-50

*Reading Prompt: Weiner is concerned with the creation of value as both an economic and a kin relation. How is a person socially created through the exchange of objects and the solidification of social relationships?*

9/14 Kinship

Weiner, p. 65-96

**Delany, Carol and Deborah Kaspin. 2011. "Relatives and Relations." In *Investigating Culture: An***

(<https://fandm.instructure.com/courses/17789/files/1440176?wrap=1>)\_ ↓

([https://fandm.instructure.com/courses/17789/files/1440176/download?download\\_frd=1](https://fandm.instructure.com/courses/17789/files/1440176/download?download_frd=1)) ***Experiential Introduction to Anthropology*. Malden: Wiley-Blackwell. p. 162-178. (<https://fandm.instructure.com/courses/17789/files/1440176?wrap=1>)\_ ↓ ([https://fandm.instructure.com/courses/17789/files/1440176/download?download\\_frd=1](https://fandm.instructure.com/courses/17789/files/1440176/download?download_frd=1))**

*Reading Prompt: How does keyawa kin connect matrilineages through the father's clan membership? What is the economic significance of keyawa kin? How are aesthetics (shell adornment and such) related to social order? In Delany and Kaspin, how did anthropologists study kinship? What biases were encoded in early kinship charts and how did subsequent anthropologists address them? What social relations do these charts highlight or exclude?*

## Week Four: Economy

9/19 Exchange

**Carrier, James. 1993. "The Rituals of Christmas Giving." In *Unwrapping Christmas*. Daniel**

**(<https://fandm.instructure.com/courses/17789/files/1440174?wrap=1>)** ↓

**([https://fandm.instructure.com/courses/17789/files/1440174/download?download\\_frd=1](https://fandm.instructure.com/courses/17789/files/1440174/download?download_frd=1)) Miller, Ed. New York:**

**Oxford University Press. p. 55-74. (<https://fandm.instructure.com/courses/17789/files/1440174?wrap=1>)** ↓

**([https://fandm.instructure.com/courses/17789/files/1440174/download?download\\_frd=1](https://fandm.instructure.com/courses/17789/files/1440174/download?download_frd=1))**

*Reading Prompt: How does the gift compel reciprocity? How does exchange propel social connection? When reading Carrier consider how the same principles of exchange and reciprocity apply to American consumer practices. According to Carrier, what is the significance of wrapping paper and shopping? How are wrapping paper and mall shopping in the United States similar to or different from yam exchange in the Trobriand Islands?*

9/21 **Exam One**

## Week Five

9/26 Analyzing Visual Culture

Harris-Perry, Melissa. April 26, 2016. "**[A Call and Response with Melissa Harris-Perry: The Pain and the Power of 'Lemonade'](http://www.elle.com/culture/music/a35903/lemonade-call-and-response/)**. ↗ (<http://www.elle.com/culture/music/a35903/lemonade-call-and-response/>)" *Elle*.

Als, Hilton. May 30, 2016. "**[Beywatch](http://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2016/05/30/beyonces-lemonade)** ↗ (<http://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2016/05/30/beyonces-lemonade>)" *New Yorker*.

At Home Film: **[Beyoncé. Lemonade. Parkwood Entertainment/ Good Company. 65 Minutes.](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1jY_YF0-d8homoxXmNEYeHtx2n4wkvu25/view?ts=630cd0f3)** ↗  
([https://drive.google.com/file/d/1jY\\_YF0-d8homoxXmNEYeHtx2n4wkvu25/view?ts=630cd0f3](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1jY_YF0-d8homoxXmNEYeHtx2n4wkvu25/view?ts=630cd0f3))

9/28 Mandatory research workshop at the library; meet in the lobby of the Shadek-Fackenthal library

## UNIT III: LANGUAGE

### Week Six: Symbols

10/3 The Life of Language

**[Ahearn, Laura. 2011. "The Socially Charged Life of Language." In \*Living Language: An Introduction to Linguistic Anthropology\*. Malden, MA: Wiley-Blackwell. p. 3-30.](https://fandm.instructure.com/courses/17789/files/1432856?wrap=1)**

**(<https://fandm.instructure.com/courses/17789/files/1432856?wrap=1>)** ↓

**([https://fandm.instructure.com/courses/17789/files/1432856/download?download\\_frd=1](https://fandm.instructure.com/courses/17789/files/1432856/download?download_frd=1))**

In Class Film: "**[American Tongues.](https://www.kanopy.com/en/fandm/watch/video/98661)** ↗ (<https://www.kanopy.com/en/fandm/watch/video/98661>)" 1988. Directed by Louis Alvarez and Andrew Kolker. Produced by Center for New American Media. 60 minutes.

*Reading Prompt: This unit of the class examines language and representation as forms of social action. Our aim in doing so is to analyze how written and visual grammars shape an understanding of cultural life. Ahearn is dense, but instructive. When reading pay particular attention to how scholars have differently conceived of the linguistic sign? How do different conceptions of the sign lead to different understandings of society?*

10/5 Symbol and Interpretation

**Geertz, Clifford. 1972. "Deep Play: Notes on a Balinese Cockfight." *Daedalus*. 101: 1-37.**

<https://fandm.instructure.com/courses/17789/files/1440180?wrap=1>\_ 

[https://fandm.instructure.com/courses/17789/files/1440180/download?download\\_frd=1](https://fandm.instructure.com/courses/17789/files/1440180/download?download_frd=1)

*Reading Prompt: Now that we have learned the basics in anthropology—the culture concept, cultural relativism, functionalism, and ethnography—we turn to Geertz who advanced the interpretive method for anthropological analysis. Geertz emphasized culture is socially constructed and that the key to unlocking the logics of this construct is in examining key cultural symbols. We still see a functionalist bent to his analysis in that he defines social organization according to the social roles people play within it. What are the prominent social roles in the cockfight? What are the key symbols of the cockfight? What does an analysis of these symbols add to our understanding of culture that we wouldn't otherwise know? What is the significance of the cockfight in Balinese society?*

## **Week Seven: Language and History**

10/10 Fall break

10/12 Language in Practice: Stories of Place

Basso, Keith. 1996. *Wisdom Sits in Places: Landscape and Language Among the Western Apache*. University of New Mexico Press. xiii-70.

*Reading Prompt: When reading Basso, consider his role as a historian as well as an anthropologist. Why is language so important to Apache historiography according to Basso? What is the significance of place names? What is the linguistic structure of place names? How does language bring place into being? What is a historical tale? How is the role of place in a historical tale? How is place morally instructive?*

## **Week Eight: Power and Representation**

10/17 Place Names

Basso, p. 71-104

*Reading Prompt: In this class we consider how Basso examines the role of language in producing landscapes as a kind of active, moral and social text. While reading, consider the questions: How do place names appropriate landscape for social action according to Basso? How do people actively create and recreate landscapes through speaking, hearing, and thinking?*

10/19 Power in Land

In Class Film, Selections from: Kanehsatake: 270 Years of Resistance. 1994. Directed by Alanis Obomsawin. Produced by the National Film Board of Canada. 1 hour, 59 minutes.

[http://www.nfb.ca/film/kanehsatake\\_270\\_years\\_of\\_resistance/](http://www.nfb.ca/film/kanehsatake_270_years_of_resistance/) <http://www.archive.org/details/kanehsatake>

*Viewing Prompt: We evaluate how Native understandings of landscape are not only poetic, but political by viewing selections from Kanehsatake. While viewing the film, consider how visual representations of the Canadian land conflict differ from Basso's analysis of landscape. What differences do you notice?*

## **UNIT IV: POWER**

### **Week Nine: Revisiting Kinship**

10/24 **Exam Two**

10/26 Relatives and Relations

Garcia, Angela. 2010. "Introduction." In *The Pastoral Clinic: Addiction and Dispossession along the Rio Grande*. Berkeley: University of California Press. p. 1-36.

*Reading Prompt: What is the relationship between land and dispossession according to Garcia? How does Garcia's description of land along the Rio Grande compare to Basso's discussion of landscapes in the same geographic area?*

### **Week Eleven: What is Care?**

10/31 Blood Relative

Garcia, Angela. 2010. "Blood Relative." In *The Pastoral Clinic: Addiction and Dispossession along the Rio Grande*. Berkeley: University of California Press. p. 111-149.

*Reading Prompt: What is the significance of Garcia's title "blood relative" and what does it indicate about addiction?*

11/2 Ethics

Garcia, Angela. 2010. "Experiments with Care" and "Conclusion." In *The Pastoral Clinic: Addiction and Dispossession along the Rio Grande*. Berkeley: University of California Press. p. 183-210.

*Reading Prompt: What does it mean to care? How does Garcia use her definition of care as a critique of addiction management?*

<https://fandm.instructure.com/courses/17789/files/1442373?wrap=1>

## UNIT IV: REPRESENTATION

### Week Twelve: Care and Writing Workshop

11/7 Re-evaluating Care

[Buch, Elana. 2017. "Beyond Independence: Older Chicagoans Living Valued Lives." In \*Successful Aging as a Contemporary Obsession\*. Sarah Lamb, ed. New Brunswick: Rutgers University Press. p. 85-97.](#)

<https://fandm.instructure.com/courses/17789/files/1442373?wrap=1> ↓

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11/9 In Class Writing Workshop

### Week Thirteen: The Politics of Representation

11/14 **Museums. Meet at Phillips in CC (Steinman Center) opposite cafes.**

Class visit to the Phillips Museum of Art

[Patterson, Monica. 2011. "Teaching Tolerance through Objects of Hatred: The Jim Crow Museum of Racist Memorabilia as 'Counter-Museum.'" In \*Curating Difficult Knowledge: Violent Pasts in Public Places\*. Ed. Erica Lehrer, Cynthia E. Milton, and Monica Eileen Patterson. New York: Palgrave. p. 55-71.](#)

<https://fandm.instructure.com/courses/17789/files/1432873?wrap=1> ↓

[https://fandm.instructure.com/courses/17789/files/1432873/download?download\\_frd=1](https://fandm.instructure.com/courses/17789/files/1432873/download?download_frd=1)

[Moser, Stephanie. 2010. "The Devil is in the Detail: Museum Displays and the Creation of Knowledge." \*Museum Anthropology\* 33\(1\): 22-32. \(https://fandm.instructure.com/courses/17789/files/1432850?wrap=1\)](#) ↓

[https://fandm.instructure.com/courses/17789/files/1432850/download?download\\_frd=1](https://fandm.instructure.com/courses/17789/files/1432850/download?download_frd=1)

*Reading Prompt: As we move from thinking about language and social action in terms of verbal texts in Basso's ethnography, think about the communicative power of objects. How do objects "speak?" How is art a form of nonverbal communication? In what ways does it differ from verbal dialogue? What is the relationship between art and power?*

11/16 **Exam 3**

### Week Fourteen: The Politics of Representation

11/21 **MEET ON ZOOM: <https://fandm.zoom.us/my/bridget.guarasci>**

Film: "Paris is Burning." 1990. Directed by Jennie Livingston. Criterion Collection. 1 hour, 17 minutes.



## 11/23 Thanksgiving Break

### Week Fifteen: Gallery Presentations

11/28 Presentation Workshop

11/30 Student Presentations of Ethnography









### Week Sixteen: Gallery Presentations

12/5 Student Presentations of Ethnography






12/7 Student Presentations of Ethnography

12/12 Final Ethnography Review Due

## Course Summary:

Date	Details	Due
Wed Sep 21, 2022	 <a href="#">Exam 1</a> ( <a href="https://fandm.instructure.com/courses/17789/assignments/175017">https://fandm.instructure.com/courses/17789/assignments/175017</a> )	due by 11am
Tue Oct 4, 2022	 <a href="#">Quiz One - American Tongues</a> ( <a href="https://fandm.instructure.com/courses/17789/assignments/179156">https://fandm.instructure.com/courses/17789/assignments/179156</a> )	due by 11:59pm
Wed Oct 19, 2022	 <a href="#">Exam 2</a> ( <a href="https://fandm.instructure.com/courses/17789/assignments/175018">https://fandm.instructure.com/courses/17789/assignments/175018</a> )	due by 11am
Wed Oct 26, 2022	 <a href="#">Quiz 2</a> ( <a href="https://fandm.instructure.com/courses/17789/assignments/180757">https://fandm.instructure.com/courses/17789/assignments/180757</a> )	due by 11am
Mon Nov 7, 2022	 <a href="#">Exam 3</a> ( <a href="https://fandm.instructure.com/courses/17789/assignments/177498">https://fandm.instructure.com/courses/17789/assignments/177498</a> )	due by 11am
Mon Nov 28, 2022	 <a href="#">Ethnography Group Presentation</a> ( <a href="https://fandm.instructure.com/courses/17789/assignments/178407">https://fandm.instructure.com/courses/17789/assignments/178407</a> )	due by 11am
Wed Dec 14, 2022	 <a href="#">Ethnography Book Review</a> ( <a href="https://fandm.instructure.com/courses/17789/assignments/178463">https://fandm.instructure.com/courses/17789/assignments/178463</a> )	due by 7am
	 <a href="#">Book Review Example</a> ( <a href="https://fandm.instructure.com/courses/17789/assignments/180737">https://fandm.instructure.com/courses/17789/assignments/180737</a> )	



Date	Details	Due
	<div><div></div><div><a href="#"><u>Dates + Students Assigned to Ethnographies</u></a> (<a href="https://fandm.instructure.com/courses/17789/assignments/178632">https://fandm.instructure.com/courses/17789/assignments/178632</a>)</div></div>	
	<div><div></div><div><a href="#"><u>Exam 1 Review Sheet</u></a> (<a href="https://fandm.instructure.com/courses/17789/assignments/178470">https://fandm.instructure.com/courses/17789/assignments/178470</a>)</div></div>	
	<div><div></div><div><a href="#"><u>Exam 2 Review Sheet</u></a> (<a href="https://fandm.instructure.com/courses/17789/assignments/179744">https://fandm.instructure.com/courses/17789/assignments/179744</a>)</div></div>	
	<div><div></div><div><a href="#"><u>Exam 3 Review Sheet</u></a> (<a href="https://fandm.instructure.com/courses/17789/assignments/180829">https://fandm.instructure.com/courses/17789/assignments/180829</a>)</div></div>	
	<div><div></div><div><a href="#"><u>Participation</u></a> (<a href="https://fandm.instructure.com/courses/17789/assignments/175019">https://fandm.instructure.com/courses/17789/assignments/175019</a>)</div></div>	