

## Cultural Anthropology

Anthropology 001  
University of California, Riverside  
Spring 2009  
Bourns Hall (Engineering) B118  
MWF 12:10-1:00 PM  
Course website - access via <http://ilearn.ucr.edu>

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Office Hours: Friday 1:30-2:30

### Course Overview

This course is designed to introduce students to the methods, theories, and concepts of cultural anthropology. Drawing on ethnographic materials from all parts of the world we will investigate how people define themselves and others, make sense of their world, and organize their lives. We will look at past and contemporary ways that anthropologists have thought about culture, and use anthropological perspectives to examine the ways in which the concept of culture is used by a variety of people and groups.

The goals of this course are 1) to furnish an overview of cultural anthropology, its historical and theoretical developments, and its present scope of inquiry; 2) to expose students to a wide range of ethnographic writing; 3) to examine the relationships between cultural diversity and relationships of power and inequality; 4) to encourage critical thinking and help students develop skills in analytical thinking.

### Requirements and Policies

*Read this syllabus.* Understand the policies stated here. If anything is unclear, contact me for clarification. Always bring your syllabus to class in case changes are announced. Check it frequently to be sure you are aware of upcoming assignments and due dates. The syllabus is subject to change. I will announce all changes in class and post an updated version on the course iLearn site.

*Attend class.* Attendance at lecture and sections is required, and absences will be taken into account in determining the participation component of your grade (see below). If you expect to miss class due to an athletic event or other commitment please let me know at least a week in advance. If you miss class it is your responsibility to get notes, find out about any announcements, etc.

*Participate in sections.* This class is large, but weekly sections provide opportunities for dialogue and discussion. The more members of the class contribute and are actively engaged in the discussions, the better the class will be. Questions and comments are always welcome in lecture as well.

*Clickers.* Clickers are required for this class, and are available at the UCR campus bookstore.

*Do the readings listed prior to class.* For example, you should read the selections listed from the *Very Short Introduction* for Wednesday, April 1. The readings be necessary for adequate engagement in lecture and participation in section.

*Bring your texts to class.* I will frequently refer to specific pages and passages from the readings, and expect you to be ready to do the same. Some of the readings will be fairly easy, but others will be difficult—lectures and sections will provide the opportunity to work through challenging texts and build your comprehension and understanding of what you've read.

*In the classroom:* Please turn off all cell phones. Laptops are acceptable but I expect you to use them responsibly—that is, only for purposes related to the class. You are welcome to eat and drink as long as you

are not disturbing others. Please think about the environment: use recyclable or reusable containers, and clean up after yourself.

*Satisfactory / No-credit.* Students in good academic standing (2.00 GPA or above) may take courses not required in their majors on S/NC grading basis. You have until the end of the eighth week of instruction to decide about grading status. Full details are at <http://chassstudentaffairs.ucr.edu/academicstanding/options.html>.

*Withdrawal.* I hope that you won't withdraw! But if you do so after the second week of classes, a "W" will appear on your transcript, indicating withdrawal from the course. Students are allowed to withdraw until the sixth week of instruction.

*Disability Accommodations.* If you may need accommodation for any sort of disability, please make an appointment to see me or come to my office hours. You should also arrange with the Services for Students with Disabilities Office (<http://specialservices.ucr.edu/>) to provide appropriate documentation.

*Academic Integrity.* You should be familiar with UCR's regulations on academic honesty and plagiarism (available from <http://conduct.ucr.edu/Policies/Academic+Integrity+Policy+and+Procedures.htm>); any instance of cheating or plagiarism—including the possession or use of more than one's own clicker—will be punished with a failing grade for the course and will be referred to the University administration for further disciplinary action.

## **Required Texts**

John Monaghan and Peter Just, *Social and Cultural Anthropology: A Very Short Introduction*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2000.

Bruce Knauft, *The Gebusi: Lives Transformed in a Rainforest World*. Boston: McGraw-Hill, 2008 (3rd edition).

Eve Darian-Smith, *New Capitalists: Law, Politics, and Identity Surrounding Casino Gambling on Native American Land*. Belmont, CA: Thomson/Wadsworth, 2004.

All other readings will be available on the course iLearn site. It's up to you whether you print them out; however, you should always bring them to class and have them available, either on paper or in electronic form.

Monaghan and Just's book does not contain a glossary but there are several useful glossaries of anthropological terms available on-line:

[http://higherred.mcgraw-hill.com/sites/0072500506/student\\_view0/glossary.html](http://higherred.mcgraw-hill.com/sites/0072500506/student_view0/glossary.html)

<http://oregonstate.edu/cla/anthropology/links-resources/glossary>

## **Evaluation**

Section and Attendance: 20%

Short Essays: 2 x 10%

Midterm: 30%

Final: 30%

There will be no possibilities for extra credit or makeup work.

## Important Dates

First Short Essay: Monday, April 13, in iLearn via SafeAssign AND at next section meeting  
Second Short Essay: Wednesday May 20, in iLearn via SafeAssign AND at next section meeting  
Midterm: Monday, May 4: in class  
Final Exam: Friday June 12: 11:30AM-2:30 PM

## Class Schedule

Abbreviations: VSI = Very Short Introduction; NC = New Capitalists

### Week One - Anthropology and Ethnographic Fieldwork

- Mon 3/30** Introduction to the course and syllabus
- Weds 4/1** VSI pp. 1-25  
In-class video: *Off the Verandah* (first half)
- Fri 4/3** Bronislaw Malinowski, "Introduction" from *Argonauts of the Western Pacific* (iLearn)  
Richard Lee, "Eating Christmas in the Kalahari" (iLearn)  
**Fieldwork Short Essay Assigned**

### Week Two - Fieldwork and Cross-Cultural Encounters

- Mon 4/6** In-class video: *The Kayapo*  
VSI pp. 25-33, 49-52
- Weds 4/8** Turner, T. "Representing, resisting, rethinking: historical transformations of Kayapo culture and anthropological consciousness" (iLearn)  
Laura Bohannan, "Shakespeare in the Bush" (iLearn)
- Fri 4/10** L. Abu-Lughod, "Fieldwork of a Dutiful Daughter" (iLearn)  
Philippe Bourgois, "Understanding Inner-City Poverty" (iLearn)

### Week Three - Culture, Language and Classification

- Mon 4/13** Gebusi: "Entry," "Introduction," "Chapter 1: Friends in the Forest"  
VSI pp. 34-48  
**Fieldwork Short Essay Due**
- Weds 4/15** Edelman, B. "'Rats are people, too!': rat-human relations re-rated" (iLearn)  
VSI pp. 137-143  
Fausto-Stirling, A. "The Five Sexes: Why Male and Female Are Not Enough" (iLearn)  
In-class video: *First Contact*
- Fri 4/17** Fredrik Barth, "Towards a Richer Description and Analysis of Cultural Phenomena" (iLearn)

### Week Four - Culture, Livelihoods and the Environment

- Mon 4/20** E.E. Evans-Pritchard, "Interest in Cattle" (iLearn)  
J. Igoe, "A Clash of Two Conservation Models" (iLearn)

- Weds 4/22** M. Sahlins, “The Original Affluent Society” (iLearn)  
In-class video: “The Chinampas”
- Fri 4/24** Gebusi: “Rhythms of Survival”

### **Week Five - Kinship and Marriage**

- Mon 4/27** VSI ch. 4  
Goldstein, M. C., “When Brothers Share a Wife” (iLearn)
- Weds 4/29** Gebusi: “Getting Along with Kin and Killers”  
In-class video: *Maasai Women*
- Fri 5/1** Gebusi: “Spirits, Sex and Celebration”  
Gebusi: “Mysterious Romance, Marital Choice”  
**Midterm Review**

### **Week Six - Economic Globalization and Anthropology**

- Mon 5/4** **Midterm**
- Weds 5/6** VSI ch. 6  
Jane Schneider, “World Markets: Anthropological Perspectives” (iLearn)  
Gebusi: “Reentry”
- Fri 5/8** Gebusi: “Pennies and Peanuts, Rugby and Radios”  
Bestor, T. C., “How Sushi Went Global”

### **Week Seven - The Politics of Representation**

- Mon 5/11** Catherine Lutz and Jane Collins. “Reading National Geographic” (iLearn)  
**Representation Short Essay Assigned**
- Weds 5/13** Horace Miner, “Body Ritual among the Nacirema” (iLearn)  
NC1: “Enduring Western Stereotypes of Native Americans”  
In-class videos: *The Gods Must Be Crazy, N!ai* (excerpts)
- Fri 5/15** P. Wade, “Race and Ethnicity in Latin America” (iLearn)  
T. Biolsi, “Race Technologies” (iLearn)

### **Week Eight - Religion and Rites of Passage**

- Mon 5/18** VSI ch. 7  
Gebusi: “Lives of Death”  
George Gmelch, “Baseball Magic” (iLearn)
- Weds 5/20** Gebusi: “Ultimate Splendor”  
**Representation Short Essay Due**
- Fri 5/22** Gebusi: “Yuway's Sacred Decision”  
Gebusi: “Sayu's Dance and After”

## **Week Nine - The Politics of Indigenous Sovereignty in California and Beyond**

- Mon 5/25** No Class - Memorial Day
- Weds 5/27** VSI ch. 5  
NC: Introduction  
NC2: Law and the Management of Indigenous Peoples
- Fri 5/29** NC3: History of Indian Gaming  
NC4: The Chumash Indian Casino Expansion Project

## **Week Ten - Studying Up**

- Mon 6/1** NC5: Rich Indians, New Capitalists, pp. 107-110  
Edward Bruner, "The Masai and the Lion King: authenticity, nationalism, and globalization in African Tourism" (www)
- Weds 6/3** Emily Martin, "The Egg and the Sperm" (www)  
Celia Lowe, "Making the Monkey: How the Togeian Macaque Went from 'New Form' to 'Endemic Species' in Indonesians' Conservation Biology" (www)
- Fri 6/5** Gebusi: Gebusi 2008-end

### **REVIEW FOR FINAL**

**Final Exam:** June 12, 2009, 11:30AM-2:30 PM