

Cultural Anthropology

Anthropology 001
University of California, Riverside
Winter 2010
CHASS Interdisciplinary Bldg. (INTN) 1020
MWF 1:10-2:00 PM
Course website - access via <http://ilearn.ucr.edu>

Derick A. Fay, Ph.D.
Derick.Fay@ucr.edu
Watkins 1314
Office Hours: M & F 2:15-3

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 essential for success in the course. 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.

Do the readings listed prior to class. For example, you should read the selections listed from the *Very Short Introduction* for Wednesday, January 6. 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: Show respect for your fellow students. Do not engage in conversations or other behavior that will interfere with others' learning. 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 February 12, 2010 (Friday of week six).

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/learnPolicies/Pages/AcademicIntegrity.aspx>); any instance of cheating or plagiarism will be referred to the University administration for further disciplinary action. If you have questions about how to cite or quote material, ask me or your section leader for assistance.

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 (second or third edition).

Jon Holtzman, *Nuer Journeys, Nuer Lives: Sudanese Refugees in Minnesota*. Boston: Allyn & Bacon (first or second edition)

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

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 you can refer to the glossary for another introductory anthropology textbook, available on-line:

http://highered.mcgraw-hill.com/sites/0072500506/student_view0/glossary.html

Evaluation

There are 1000 points total for the course, allocated as follows:

Section	200 points	
Quizzes	50 points x 2 (100 points total)	Dates will not be announced in advance
Tests	225 points x 2 (450 points total)	Weds. Jan. 27 and Weds. Feb. 17
Final Paper	250 points	3 PM on Thurs. March 18.
		This is a firm deadline: no late papers accepted.

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

Quizzes - the quizzes will be short and will consist of 4-6 questions based on the course material from the prior three classes. The dates will not be announced in advance.

Tests - the tests will consist of multiple choice and short answers. The second test only covers material after the first test (i.e. it is not cumulative).

Final Paper - the final paper for this course will allow you to get experience in cultural anthropological research through writing a paper that combines an original ethnographic report with cross-cultural comparison. The paper will require roughly five to ten hours of original fieldwork (interviewing, observation, etc.) and should be six to eight pages long. Full details on this assignment will be provided in a separate handout later in the term.

Class Schedule

Abbreviations: VSI = Very Short Introduction

Fieldwork, Ethnography and Culture

Week One

- Mon 1/4** Introduction to the course and syllabus
- Weds 1/6** VSI pp. 1-12
In-class video: *The Kayapo*
- Fri 1/8** Turner, T. "Representing, resisting, rethinking: historical transformations of Kayapo culture and anthropological consciousness" (iLearn)
VSI pp. 131-136

Week Two

- Mon 1/11** VSI Chapter 1 (pp. 13-33)
Richard Lee, "Eating Christmas in the Kalahari" (iLearn)
- Weds 1/13** Bronislaw Malinowski, "Introduction" from *Argonauts of the Western Pacific* (iLearn)
L. Abu-Lughod, "Fieldwork of a Dutiful Daughter" (iLearn)
In-class video: *Off the Verandah* (first half)
- Fri 1/15** Laura Bohannan, "Shakespeare in the Bush" (iLearn)
Philippe Bourgois, "Understanding Inner-City Poverty" (iLearn)
VSI pp. 49-52

Week Three

- Mon 1/18** **No Class - Martin Luther King, Jr. Day**
- Weds 1/20** Gebusi: "Entry," "Introduction," "Chapter 1: Friends in the Forest", "Chapter 2: Rhythms of Survival"
VSI pp. 34-48
- Fri 1/22** Paul Nadasdy, "It's Not Really Knowledge" (iLearn)

Week Four

- Mon 1/25** Gebusi: "Chapter Three: Lives of Death"
George Gmelch, "Baseball Magic" (iLearn)
VSI ch. 7
- Weds 1/27** **TEST**

Kinship, Marriage and Gender

Fri 1/29 Gebusi: “Chapter Four: Getting Along with Kin and Killers”, “Chapter Five: Spirits, Sex and Celebration”, Gebusi: “Chapter Six: Ultimate Splendor”

Week Five

Mon 2/1 VSI ch. 4, pp. 137-143
Goldstein, M. C., “When Brothers Share a Wife” (iLearn)

Weds 2/3 Gebusi: “Chapter Seven: Reentry”, Gebusi: “Chapter Eight: Yuway's Sacred Decision”
In-class video: *Maasai Women*

Fri 2/5 Gebusi: “Chapter Ten: Mysterious Romance, Marital Choice”
Emily Martin, “The Egg and the Sperm” (iLearn)

Globalization and Anthropology

Week Six

Mon 2/8 Bestor, T. C., “How Sushi Went Global”
VSI ch. 6
Gebusi: “Chapter Nine: Pennies and Peanuts, Rugby and Radios”

Weds 2/10 “Chapter Eleven: Sayu’s Dance and After” and remaining chapters
In-class video: *Life and Debt* (part one)

Fri 2/12 Bruner, E., “The Masai and the Lion King: authenticity, nationalism, and globalization in African Tourism” (iLearn)
In-class video: *Life and Debt* (part two)

Week Seven

Mon 2/15 **No Class - Presidents Day**

Weds 2/17 **TEST**

Difference, Identity and Representation

Fri 2/19 VSI ch. 5, pp. 62-70
P. Wade, “Race and Ethnicity in Latin America” (iLearn)
In-class video: *Race: the Power of an Illusion*

Week Eight

Mon 2/22 Catherine Lutz and Jane Collins. “Reading National Geographic” (iLearn)

Weds 2/24 Horace Miner, “Body Ritual among the Nacirema” (iLearn)
Holtzman, “Nuer Journeys: War, Flight and Resettlement”
in-class videos:
Strange Beliefs (excerpts)
The Nuer (part one)

Fri 2/26 Evans-Pritchard, “Interest in Cattle” (iLearn)
Evans-Pritchard, “Time and Space” (iLearn)

Week Nine

Mon 3/1

Holtzman, "3: The Birth of a Community"
Hutchinson, "Prologue" (iLearn)

Weds 3/3

Hutchinson, "The Cattle of Money" (iLearn)
Holtzman, "4: Jobs, Welfare, College and Cars"
in-class video: *Lost Boys of Sudan* (part one)

Fri 3/5

Holtzman, pp. 71-95
additional reading TBA

Week Ten

Mon 3/8

Holtzman, pp. 96-106
Kusserow, "Dehomogenizing American Individualism" (iLearn)

Weds 3/10

in-class video: *Lost Boys of Sudan* (part two)

Fri 3/12

Holtzman, ch. 6-7
additional reading TBA

Final Paper due 3 PM on March 18. This is a firm deadline and no late papers will be accepted.