

**Introduction to Cultural Anthropology**  
**ANTH 211**  
**Fall 2004**

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Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday 10:00am – 11:30am or by appointment

Course Description:

Cultural Anthropology is the comparative study of society, culture, and human diversity. The discipline focuses on the various ways that peoples' lives are shaped by social relations, history, political economy, and cultural images such as the media. In this course we will tell the story of anthropology by exploring the discipline's history through its own texts, as well present a survey of the different theoretical approaches that anthropologists have taken in their studies of various cultures and societies. The course will introduce students to the areas of inquiry of cultural anthropology: family and social organization, religion, beliefs and rituals, conflict, social control, exchange and transactions, social suffering and healing, globalization, transformations of citizenship, alterations in local worlds, individual agency and social structure, and other topics. This course will also introduce students to ethnographic fieldwork methods and to the practice of anthropology.

Requirements and Grading:

Students will be required to have the completed the required readings by their assigned date and be ready to discuss them in the class session. Students should endeavor to critically engage the readings for class discussion, papers, and exams.

-- Class participation:	10%
-- Short Paper (due Oct. 7)	15%
-- Midterm Exam (due Oct. 21)	25%
-- Short Paper (due Nov. 16)	15%
-- Final Exam	35%

Academic Integrity Statement:

From the UMBC Website (<http://www.umbc.edu/integrity/faculty.html>, accessed August 25, 2004:

*“By enrolling in this course, each student assumes the responsibilities of an active participant in UMBC's scholarly community in which everyone's academic work and behavior are held to the highest standards of honesty. Cheating, fabrication, plagiarism, and helping others to commit these acts are all forms of academic dishonesty, and they*

*are wrong. Academic misconduct could result in disciplinary action that may include, but is not limited to, suspension or dismissal. To read the full Student Academic Conduct Policy, consult the UMBC Student Handbook, the Faculty Handbook, or the UMBC Policies section of the UMBC.”*

#### Course Materials

Assigned articles and book chapters will be placed on reserve and can also be downloaded using the Albin O. Kuhn library electronic reserve. The following books will be available for purchase at the university bookstore, and will be on reserve at Albin O. Kuhn library.

Foley, Douglas E. 1990. *Learning Capitalist Culture: Deep in the Heart of Tejas*. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press.

Petryna, Adriana. 2002. *Life Exposed: Biological Citizens after Chernobyl*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.

Scheper-Hughes, Nancy. 2001. *Saints, Scholars and Schizophrenics*. Berkeley: University of California Press.

Shostak, Marjorie. 2000 (1981). *Nisa: The Life and Words of a !Kung Woman*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press.

Stack, Carol. 1997. *All Our Kin*. New York: Basic Books.

#### Recommended Text ON RESERVE

Kottak, Conrad Phillip. 1996. *Mirror for Humanity: A Concise Introduction to Cultural Anthropology*. New York: McGraw Hill.

Week One  
Thursday September 2, 2004

**What is Anthropology?**

Malinowski, Bronislaw. *Argonauts of the Western Pacific*. Waveland Press, 1984., pp: 1 – 25; 49 – 80. ON RESERVE

Williams, Raymond. 1983. “Culture” and “Society.” In *Keywords: A Vocabulary of Culture and Society*. New York: Oxford University Press. ON RESERVE

Recommended

Kottak, Conrad Phillip. 1996. “Exploring Cultural Diversity .” *Mirror for Humanity: A Concise Introduction to Cultural Anthropology*. New York: McGraw Hill, pp: 1 – 19.

Week Two  
Tuesday September 7, 2004; Thursday September 9, 2004

**Culture and “Cultural Relativism”**

Benedict, Ruth. 1989. “The Individual and the Pattern of Culture.” Boston: Houghton Mifflin, pp: 251 – 278 ON RESERVE

Geertz, Clifford. 1973. “Thick Description.” *Interpretation of Cultures*. New York: Basic Books, pp: 3 – 32 ON RESERVE

Geertz, Clifford. 1973. “Notes on a Balinese Cockfight.” *Interpretation of Cultures*. New York: Basic Books, pp: 412 – 455. ON RESERVE

Foucault, Michel. 1980. “Two Lectures.” *Power/Knowledge: Selected Interviews and Other Writings, 1972 – 1977*. New York: Pantheon Books, pp: 80 – 84. ON RESERVE

Recommended

Kottak, Conrad Phillip. 1996. “Culture.” *Mirror for Humanity: A Concise Introduction to Cultural Anthropology*. New York: McGraw Hill, pp: 20 – 36

Week Three  
Tuesday September 14, 2004; Thursday September 16, 2004

**CLASS CANCELED**

Week Four  
Tuesday September 21, 2004; Thursday September 23, 2004

## **Ethnography and Life History**

Shostak, Marjorie. 1981. *Nisa: The Life and Words of a !Kung Woman*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press. Chps: 1 – 4 (pp: 1 – 114)

Gordon, Robert. *The Bushman Myth...* Boulder, CO: Westview, pp: 157 – 220; 255 – 267 ON RESERVE

Week Five

Tuesday September 28, 2004; Thursday September 30, 2004

## **Ritual, Identity and the Body**

Shostak, Marjorie. 1981. *Nisa: The Life and Words of a !Kung Woman*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press. Chps: 5 - 13 (pp: 115 – 273)

Recommended

Kottak, Conrad Phillip. 1996. "Religion." *Mirror for Humanity: A Concise Introduction to Cultural Anthropology*. New York: McGraw Hill, pp: 109 – 133

Week Six

Tuesday October 5, 2004; Thursday October 7, 2004

PAPER ONE DUE

## **Kinship and the Family**

Stack, Carol. 1997. *All Our Kin*. New York: Basic Books (Chps Introduction - 4)

Lewis, Oscar. "Culture of Poverty" ON RESERVE

Talcott Parsons ON RESERVE

Recommended

Kottak, Conrad Phillip. 1996. "Families, Kinship and Marriage." *Mirror for Humanity: A Concise Introduction to Cultural Anthropology*. New York: McGraw Hill, pp: 20 – 36

Week Seven

Tuesday October 12, 2004; Thursday October 14, 2004

## **Kinship and the Family**

Stack, Carol. 1997. *All Our Kin*. New York: Basic Books (Chps 5 - Conclusion)

Levi-Strauss, Claude. "The Family" ON RESERVE

Week Eight  
Tuesday October 19, 2004; Thursday October 21, 2004  
MIDTERM DUE

**Healing and Sickness**

Scheper-Hughes, Nancy and Margaret Lock. 1987. "Mindful body: a Prolegomenon to Future Work in Medical Anthropology." In: *Medical Anthropology Quarterly*. v. 1, no. 1. pp: 6-41 ON RESERVE

Scheper-Hughes, Nancy. 2001. *Saints, Scholars and Schizophrenics*. Chps: Intro – 3

Week Nine  
Tuesday October 26, 2004; Thursday October 28, 2004

**Healing and Sickness**

Scheper-Hughes, Nancy. 2001. *Saints, Scholars and Schizophrenics*. Chps: 4 – 6

Week Ten  
Tuesday November 2, 2004; Thursday November 4, 2004

**Social Suffering**

Petryna, Adriana. 2002. *Life Exposed: Biological Citizens after Chernobyl*. Princeton: Princeton University Press. Chps: 1 – 4

Kleinman, Arthur, Veena Das and Margaret Lock. 1997. "Introduction." *Social Suffering*. Berkeley: University of California Press. ON RESERVE

Week Eleven  
Tuesday November 9, 2004; Thursday November 11, 2004

**Social Suffering**

Petryna, Adriana. 2002. *Life Exposed: Biological Citizens after Chernobyl*. Princeton: Princeton University Press. Chps: 5 – 8

Das, Veena. 1996. "Suffering, Legitimacy, and Healing: The Bhopal Case." *Critical Events: An Anthropological Perspective on Contemporary India*. New Dehli: Oxford University Press. ON RESERVE

Week Twelve  
Tuesday November 16, 2004; Thursday November 18, 2004  
Thursday Class Cancelled November 18, 2004

AAA Meetings, San Francisco, CA  
PAPER TWO DUE

**Globalization**

Foley, Douglas E. 1990. *Learning Capitalist Culture: Deep in the Heart of Tejas*. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press. (Chps: 1 - ?)

Marcus, George and Michael Fischer. 1986. "Taking Account of World Historical Political Economy..." pp: 77 – 110. ON RESERVE

Week Thirteen  
Tuesday November 23, 2004; Thursday Thanksgiving

**Globalization**

Foley, Douglas E. 1990. *Learning Capitalist Culture: Deep in the Heart of Tejas*. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press. (Chps: ? - ?)

Appadurai, Arjun. 1996. *Modernity at Large...* pp: 27 – 65 ON RESERVE

Week Fourteen  
Tuesday November 30, 2004; Thursday December 2, 2004

**Experimental Anthropology and the Question of Culture**

Scheper-Hughes, Nancy, 2001. *Saints, Scholars and Schizophrenics*. pp: 2 – 58; 296 – 328.

Week Fifteen  
Tuesday December 7, 2004; Thursday December 9, 2004

**Conclusion and Review**

Geertz, Clifford. 2000. *World in Pieces: Culture and Politics at the End of the Century.* Available Light: *Anthropological Reflections on Philosophical Topics*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press. ON RESERVE