

ANTHROPOLOGY 202

PEOPLES AND CULTURES: INTRODUCTION TO CULTURAL ANTHROPOLOGY

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MW 3:30-5:18
Smith Laboratory 2150
Office hours: R12-3 or by appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course provides a basic introduction to the field of cultural anthropology. Students will learn how cultural anthropologists describe and explain cross-cultural variation in human behavior across an extremely broad range of domains, including ecological, economic, social, political, religious, and medical systems. The principal ways in which cultural anthropologists explain and come to an understanding of such variation is through ethnographic fieldwork – intensive on-site studies – in societies around the world, including our own. Students will learn how to think as anthropologists by using ethnographic methods of observations and interviews to describe and explain cross-cultural variation in human behavior in a collaborative research project.

Anthropology 202 is a prerequisite for many upper division courses in the anthropology major. The course prepares students in understanding and applying an anthropological approach to the study of human behavior and describing and explaining fundamental concepts in cultural anthropology.

GEC STATEMENTS

This course satisfies two GEC requirements: **Social Science 1: Individuals and Groups** Expected Learning Outcomes and **Diversity 2: International Issues (Non-Western or Global)**.

The goal of **Social Science (1) Individuals and Groups** is that students learn about the systematic study of human behavior and cognition; of the structure of human societies, cultures, and institutions; and of the processes by which individuals, groups, and societies interact, communicate, and use human, natural, and economic resources. The **expected learning outcomes** are:

1. Students understand the theories and methods of social scientific inquiry as they are applied to the study of individuals and groups.
2. Students understand the behavior of individuals, differences and similarities in social and cultural contexts of human existence, and the processes by which groups function.
3. Students develop abilities to comprehend and assess individual and group values, and recognize their importance in social problem solving and policy-making.

The goal of **Diversity (2) International Issues (Non-Western or Global)** is to help students become educated, productive, and principled citizens of their nation in an increasingly globalized world. The **expected learning outcomes** are:

1. Students exhibit an understanding of some combination of political, economic, cultural, physical, social, and philosophical differences in or among the world's nations, peoples and cultures outside the U.S.
2. Students are able to describe, analyze and critically evaluate the roles of categories such as race, gender, class, ethnicity, national origin and religion as they relate to international/global institutions, issues, cultures and citizenship.
3. Students recognize the role of national and international diversity in shaping their own attitudes and values as global citizens.

READINGS

The following book is required readings. It is available through OSU bookstores or through online vendors. Additional required readings are made available through Carmen.

Dettwyler, K. A. (2011). Cultural anthropology & human experience: the feast of life. Long Grove (IL): Waveland Press.

All assigned readings are mandatory. You are expected to have read the assigned readings once or twice before you come to class. As you read, highlight, take notes, summarize, look up new words or concepts, and come with questions for me and/or your classmates. In short, be prepared to discuss the readings in class. I recommend you to go over the readings once more after class.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND EVALUATION

1. Attendance and participation: You are expected to be actively engaged in class; that is, coming to class prepared, paying attention, and contributing to discussions and problem solving, both by making comments and by facilitating other people's participation. Because it is difficult to do well in the course if sessions are missed *attendance at every class meeting is required*. Late arrival and early departure are considered poor participation; they are disruptive to others and make it likely to miss essential information. Please contact me if there is an emergency situation. If you are ill and must miss a class, you are responsible for getting the notes and assignment information from your classmates.

2. Quizzes. Throughout the course there will be six pop quizzes about the assigned readings for that particular day. The quizzes will focus on learning outcomes that are central to the course. The goal of the quizzes is to support your learning. The quiz with the lowest score will be dropped.

3. Research project: There will be three research assignments in which you will apply an anthropological approach to the study of human behavior in natural settings. You will individually collect observation and interview data for a collaborative research project; individually write two analytical reports (one about your observations and one about your interviews); discuss your results and analysis with other students in your group in class;

and with your group present the final analysis to the class. In all three assignments you have to demonstrate that you are using an anthropological approach. Detailed instructions will be provided in class and on Carmen.

4. Midterm exam: The midterm covers all the readings, lectures, and films shown in class. The exam consists of different types of questions, including multiple choice, true/false, and short answers. The midterm exam is on Wednesday February 1st.

5. Final exam: The final exam will test your ability to explain and apply the anthropological approach to the study of cross-cultural variation in human behavior and your ability to describe and explain of fundamental concepts in cultural anthropology. The exam is cumulative and covers all the readings, lectures, and films shown in class. The exam consists of different types of questions, including multiple choice, true/false, short answer, and one essay question. The final exam is on Monday March 12th.

Evaluation: Course responsibilities will be weighted in the following way:

1. Participation and attendance	15
2. Quizzes (5)	20
3. Research assignments (3)	
Observations	5
Interviews	5
Presentation	5
4. Midterm exam	20
5. Final exam	30
Total points	100

Final grades are based on the OSU Standard Scheme. A general guide to how you are doing is: A 93; A- 90-92; B+ 87-89; B 83-86; B- 80-82; C+ 77-79; C 73-76; C- 70-72; D+ 67-69; D 60-66; E< 60.

Special notes from the instructor:

- If you are a student with a disability and need accommodations, you are welcome to meet with me to discuss arrangements for the accommodations.
- Except in cases of properly documented illness or personal emergency will late assignments be accepted; they will progressively lose value and will be evaluated and returned as time allows.
- I strive to make this a paper-less course. All assignments are to be submitted in the Carmen dropbox, not in hard copy or by email.
- I will use Carmen to post assignments and other information for the class (e.g., cancelled office hours, changes in reading assignments). Check it at regularly.
- Academic dishonesty of any kind will not be tolerated and reported to the Committee on Academic Misconduct.
- Please note that the schedule below is tentative and that the instructor reserves the right to make changes.

SCHEDULE AND TOPICS**WEEK 1: WHAT IS ANTHROPOLOGY****January 4: The concept of culture**

Dettwyler Chapter 1, Henrich et al. (2010)

WEEK 2: BASIC NEEDS**January 9: Food, shelter & stuff**

Dettwyler Chapter 2 (38-57), Van der Geest (2007)

January 11: Cultural ecology

Dettwyler Chapter 2 (57-73), Bohannan (1966)

WEEK 3: LOVE IS ALL WE NEED**January 16: MLK Day**

No readings

January 18: Sex, gender & sexual orientations

Dettwyler Chapter 3, Spradley (1980)

WEEK 4: GOOD HEALTH, FOOD AND SEX**January 23: Medical anthropology**

Dettwyler Chapter 4 (114-147), Miner (1953)

January 25: Reproductive anthropology

Dettwyler Chapter 4 (147-157), Schalet (2010)

☐ Research assignment due: observations

WEEK 5: ORGANIZING PEOPLE INTO GROUPS**January 30: Marriages and families**

Dettwyler Chapter 5 (160-177), Yuan and Mitchell (2000)

February 1: Kinship and descent

Dettwyler Chapter 5 (177-197), Wolf (1972)

☐ Midterm exam

WEEK 6: GETTING PEOPLE TO BEHAVE**February 6: Enculturation**

Dettwyler Chapter 6 (200-207), Keiser (2002)

February 8: Rules and politics

Dettwyler Chapter 6 (207-228), SM, Spradley (1979)

WEEK 7: ACHIEVING ECONOMIC GOALS

February 13: Markets, trade and exchange

Dettwyler Chapter 7 (230-255), The Onion (2010)

February 15: Interviews

Dettwyler Chapter 7

☐ Research assignment due: interviews

WEEK 8: MAKING SENSE OF THE WORLD

February 20: Religion

Dettwyler Chapter 8 (258-281)

February 22: Representing the other

Dettwyler Chapter 8 (281-289), McCurdy et al. (2005)

WEEK 9: THINGS WE DO FOR FUN

February 27: Sports and games

Dettwyler Chapter 9 (292-316)

February 29: Group presentations of research findings

Dettwyler Chapter 9 (316-330)

☐ Research assignment: presentations

WEEK 10: LIVING IN THE WORLD

March 5: Applied anthropology

Dettwyler (1994), Hewlett and Awola (2003)

March 7: Lessons for living

Dettwyler chapter 12, Small (2008)

FINALS WEEK

The final exam is on Monday March 12th from 3:30 to 5:18PM.

REQUIRED READING

Dettwyler, Katherine A. (1994). *Dancing skeletons: life and death in West Africa*. Pp.139-148. Long Grove (IL): Waveland.

Dettwyler, Katherine A. (2011). *Cultural anthropology & human experience: the feast of life*. Long Grove (IL): Waveland Press.

Henrich, Joseph, Steven J. Heine, and Ara Norenzayan. (2010). Most people are not WEIRD. *Nature* 466(1 July 2010):29.

Hewlett, B. S., & Amola, R. P. (2003). Cultural contexts of Ebola in Northern Uganda. *Emerging Infectious Diseases*, 9(10):1242-1249.

Keiser, R. L. (2002). The cultural construction of violence. In R. B. Morrison & C. R. Wilson (Eds.), *Ethnographic essays in cultural anthropology*. Pp. 138-156. Itasca (IL): F.E. Peacock.

Lareau, Annette. (2003). *Invisible Inequality: Social Class and Child Rearing in Black and White Families*. *American Sociological Review* 67(October):747-776.

McCurdy, D., Spradley, J. P., & Shandy, D. J. (2005). *The cultural experience: ethnography in complex society*. Pp. 83-96. Long Grove (IL): Waveland Press.

Miner, H. (1953). Body ritual among the Nacirema. *American anthropologist*, 58(3):503-7.

The Onion. (2010). *U.S. Economy Grinds To Halt As Nation Realizes Money Just A Symbolic, Mutually Shared Illusion*.

Schalet, A. (2010). Sex, love, and autonomy in the teenage sleepover. *Contexts*, 9(3):16-21.

Small, C. (2008). Applying Anthropology to Teaching Anthropology. *General Anthropology*, 15(1):1-4.

Spradley, James P. (1979). *The ethnographic interview*. New York: Wadsworth.

Spradley, James P. (1980). *Participant observation*. New York: Wadsworth.

van der Geest, Sjaak. (2007). Not knowing about defecation. In *On knowing and not knowing in the anthropology of medicine*. R. Littlewood, ed. Pp. 75-86. Walnut Creek: Left Coast Press.

Wolf, M. (2000). Uterine families and the women's community. In J. Spradley & D. W. McCurdy (Eds.), *Conformity and conflict: readings in cultural anthropology* pp. 203-209). Boston (MA): Allyn and Bacon.

Yuan, L., & Mitchell, S. (2000). Land of the walking marriage. *Natural History*, 109(9):58.