

ANTHROPOLOGY 620.01: HUNTER-GATHERERS

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Spring 2011
Hours of instruction: MW 10:30-12:18
Classroom: Smith Laboratory 1048

Office hours: R10-1 or by appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course provides an overview of anthropological studies of people who subsist primarily by hunting and gathering wild food. The focus is on how anthropologists study the diversity of forager societies using the theoretical approaches of cultural ecology, behavioral ecology, and political economy. We will critically examine the category of hunter-gatherers and learn how we can scientifically study and write about forager societies without recreating forager myths.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

You will learn how to scientifically study the diversity of forager societies and synthesize the results without recreating forager myths.

READINGS

The following books are required reading and available in the OSU Book Store or from online vendors like Amazon.com.

Balikci, Asen

1989 [1970] *The Netsilik Eskimo*. Prospect Heights (IL): Waveland Press.

Kelly, Robert L.

2007 *The foraging spectrum: diversity in hunter-gatherer lifeways*. Clinton Corners (NY): Eliot Werner Publications/Percheron Press (2nd edition)[or the first edition published by Smithsonian Institution Press in 1995].

Lee, Richard B.

2003 *The Dobe Ju/'Hoansi*. Belmont (CA): Thompson Wadsworth Learning (3rd edition).

Additional required and recommended readings are made available through Carmen and course reserves at the Science and Engineering Library.

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 and bring the readings to class. I also 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. Each week we will have at least one quiz about the assigned readings for that particular day. The quizzes will focus on critical concepts that are central to the course. You will be asked to describe and discuss these concepts. The goal of the quizzes is to support your learning.

3. Research paper: The main assignment for this class is a research paper in which you examine a theoretical question in a comparative study of three (or more) foraging societies (the Netsilik, Ju/'Hoansi, and a society of your choice). The research paper is divided in several smaller assignments over the course of the quarter that prepare you for writing a thorough and thoughtful research paper. The research paper is due before 12 PM (noon) on Wednesday June 8th on the Carmen dropbox.

i) Paper outline. The outline consists of a title, topic, research question, list of references, brief description of the foraging society of your choice, and an abstract of the paper. The outline should be no more than two pages long. You are encouraged to meet me during office hours to discuss your choice of topic before you submit your paper outline. The paper outline is due on Wednesday April 13th.

ii) Annotated bibliography. You will write an annotated bibliography for your research paper. The bibliography should contain at least five scholarly sources and two of those sources should concern the foraging society of your choice. The bibliography should follow the guidelines of the American Anthropological Association (AAA). The AAA guidelines and a model of an annotated bibliography are posted on Carmen. The annotated bibliography is due on Monday April 25th.

iii) Mini-conference with poster presentations. All students will present their paper in poster format at the end of the course in a mini-conference. Both presenters and audience will be evaluated. Audience members are expected to be engaged and make critical and constructive comments that help presenters to improve their paper. The mini-conference will be held on Wednesday June 1st.

iv) Final paper. The final paper should be about 15 pages long (double-spaced, one-inch margins) and follow the AAA (Chicago) style guide. You should cite appropriately and integrate course readings in your paper. The final paper is due before 12 PM (noon) on Wednesday June 8th in the Carmen dropbox.

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

1. Participation and attendance	10%
2. Quizzes	30%
3. Research Paper	
Paper outline	10%
Annotated bibliography	10%
Poster presentation	15%
Final paper	25%
Total	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:

- 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 (at least twice a week).
- If you are a student with a disability and need accommodations, you are welcome to meet with me to discuss arrangements for the accommodations.
- Academic dishonesty of any kind will not be tolerated and reported to the Committee on Academic Misconduct.

SCHEDULE AND TOPICS¹

WEEK 1: THE NETSILIK ESKIMO

March 28: Introduction

Introduction (Kelly 1995:1-37), Problems (Lee & Devore 1968:3-11)

March 30: Netsilik Adaptation

Introduction and subsistence (Balikci 1989:viii-xxiv, 1-90)

■ Writing Center Workshop

☼ Film: The Netsilik Eskimo (Brown & Balikci 1967)

WEEK 2: CULTURAL ECOLOGY

April 4: Cultural Ecology

Social structure (Balikci 1989:93-144), Cultural ecology (Steward 1955:36-42)

■ Nancy Courtney: Library Workshop

¹ Please note that this is a tentative schedule and that the instructor reserves the right to make changes.

☼ Film: The Netsilik Eskimo (Brown & Balikci 1967)

April 6: Maladaptation

Social tensions (Balikci 1989:147-193), Maladaptation (Edgerton 1992:46-61)

☼ Film: Yesterday, today the Netsilik Eskimo (Blais & Balikci 1971)

WEEK 3: BEHAVIORAL ECOLOGY

April 11: Behavioral Ecology

Environment and evolution (Kelly 1995:39-64)

April 13: Optimal Foraging

Foraging and subsistence (Kelly 1995:65-110)

▶ Paper outline is due

WEEK 4: GENDER

April 18: Gender relations

Men, women and foraging (Kelly 1995:261-292), status (Hayden 1986:449-474)

April 20: Hunting strategies in the forest

Women subsistence strategies (Bailey & Aunger 1989:273-297)

WEEK 5: EXCHANGE

April 25: Sharing

Christmas (Lee 2003:207-212), Sharing (Kelly 1995:161-181)

▶ Annotated bibliography is due

April 27: Land Tenure

Land tenure (Kelly 1995:181-203), Always ask (Myers 1982:173-196)

WEEK 6: EGALITARIAN AND INEGALITARIAN SOCIETIES

May 2: Egalitarian societies

Egalitarian societies (Woodburn 1982:431-451; Kelly 1995:293-302)

May 4: Inegalitarian societies

Inegalitarian societies (Kelly 1995:302-331), Complexity (Keeley 1988:373-411)

WEEK 7: THE DOBE JU/'HOANSI

May 9: The original affluent society?

Social structure (Lee 2003:1-118)

☼ Film: A Far Country (Marshall 2002)

May 11: The Kalahari Debate

Perspectives (Lee 2003:213-227), Pastoralism (Denbow & Wilmsen 1986:1509-15)

WEEK 8: FORAGERS AND THE OUTSIDE WORLD

May 16: The Ju/'hoansi today

Social Change (Lee 2003:151-192), future (Wiessner 2003:149-159)

☼ Film: End of the Road (Marshall 2002)

May 18: Conservation

Conservancies (Weaver & Skyer 2005:89-104), Kalahari Family (Gordon 2003:102-113)

☼ Film: Death by Myth (Marshall 2002)

WEEK 9: LESSONS LEARNED

May 23: Representing forager societies

Lessons (Lee 2003:193-200)

May 25: Studying forager societies

Prehistory (Kelly 1995:333-344)

WEEK 10: MINI-CONFERENCE

May 30: MEMORIAL DAY

No class

June 1: Poster presentations

▶ Poster presentations at mini-conference

FINALS WEEK

▶ The final paper is due before 12 PM (noon) on Wednesday June 8th in the Carmen dropbox.

Required readings

- Bailey, F.G., and R.J. Aunger
1989 Net hunters vs. archers: variation in women's subsistence strategies in the Ituri Forest. *Human Ecology* 17:273-297.
- Balikci, Asen
1989 [1970] *The Netsilik Eskimo*. Prospect Heights (IL): Waveland Press.
- Denbow, James R., and Edwin N. Wilmsen
1986 Advent and Course of Pastoralism in the Kalahari. *Science* 234(4782):1509-1516.
- Edgerton, Robert B.
1992 Maladaptation. *In Sick societies: challenging the myth of primitive harmony*. Pp. 46-74. New York: The Free Press.
- Gordon, Robert J.
2003 Introduction: A Kalahari family. *Visual Anthropology Review* 19(1-2):102-113.
- Hayden, B., et al.
1986 Ecological determinants of women's status among hunter/gatherers. *Human Evolution* 1(5):449-474.
- Keeley, Lawrence H.
1988 Hunter-gatherer economic complexity and "population pressure": a cross-cultural analysis. *Journal of Anthropological Archaeology* 7:373-411.
- Kelly, Robert L.
2007 *The foraging spectrum: diversity in hunter-gatherer lifeways*. Clinton Corners (NY): Eliot Werner Publications/Percheron Press (2nd edition)[or the first edition published by Smithsonian Institution Press in 1995].
- Lee, Richard B.
2003 *The Dobe Ju/'Hoansi*. Belmont (CA): Thompson Wadsworth Learning (3rd edition).
- Lee, Richard B., and Irven DeVore
1968 Problems in the study of hunters and gatherers. *In Man the Hunter*. R.B. Lee, I. DeVore, and J. Nash, eds. Pp. 1-11. Chicago: Aldine Publishing Company.
- Myers, Fred R.
1982 Always ask: Resource use and land ownership among Pintupi Aborigines of the Australian Western desert. *In Resource managers: North American and Australian hunter-gatherers*. N.M. Williams and E.S. Hunn, eds. Pp. 173-195. Boulder (CO): Westview Press.
- Steward, Julian
1955 The concept and methods of cultural ecology. *In The theory of culture change*. Pp. 30-42. Urbana (IL): University of Illinois.
- Weaver, Larrye Chris, and Patricia Skyer
2005 Conservancies: Integrating Wildlife Land-Use Options into the Livelihood, Development and Conservation Strategies of Namibian Communities. *In Conservation and Development Interventions at the Wildlife/Livestock Interface: Implications for Wildlife, Livestock and Human Health*. S.A. Osofsky, ed. Gland (Switzerland): IUCN.
- Wiessner, Polly
2003 Owners of the future? Calories, cash, casualties and self-sufficiency in the Nyae Nyae area between 1966 and 2003. *Visual Anthropology Review* 19(1-2):149-159.
- Woodburn, James
1982 Egalitarian Societies. *Man* 17(3):431-451.