ANTHROPOLOGY 620.01: HUNTER-GATHERERS

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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

Kelly, Robert L.

Lee, Richard B.

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:

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<tr>
<th>Component</th>
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<tr>
<td>1. Participation and attendance</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. Quizzes</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<td>3. Research Paper</td>
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<td>Paper outline</td>
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<td>Annotated bibliography</td>
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<td>Poster presentation</td>
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<td>Final paper</td>
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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
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

Balikci, Asen

Denbow, James R., and Edwin N. Wilmsen

Edgerton, Robert B.

Gordon, Robert J.

Hayden, B., et al.

Keeley, Lawrence H.

Kelly, Robert L.

Lee, Richard B.

Lee, Richard B., and Irven DeVore

Myers, Fred R.

Steward, Julian

Weaver, Larrye Chris, and Patricia Skyer

Wiessner, Polly

Woodburn, James