

CULTURAL ANTHROPOLOGY

Summer 2019

Sec. 8964: Online

Instructor: Kent Wisniewski, Ph.D.

Instructor Contact

You can contact me directly through email or the Canvas message interface. I respond to emails within 2 business days (Monday through Friday).

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Physical Office Hours: by appointment only

To set up a phone appointment please send me an email with your phone number and preferred contact time and we will find a time that is convenient for both of us.

Syllabus

This syllabus is your guide to course requirements and policies. Please read the entire syllabus and keep on top of course announcements when posted. This course requires you to keep up with weekly assignments and readings and follow the course directions.

This course requires about three hours of work for each Unit in addition to reading the course texts. Each Unit may include video lectures with PowerPoint slides, supplementary readings, videos and websites. The summer semester requires you to work at an accelerated pace so get ready!

If this is your first time using Canvas or the first time you are using certain features, please click on the link below for a wealth of information about how to get started:

[How to use Canvas for Students](#)

Course Description

This course introduces the basic concepts, debates, and methods employed in the study of human societies. How do human beings organize and make sense of our environment, both physical and social? Why do some groups of people who live in far-distant parts of the world have similar beliefs and practices, and why do other groups who live nearly side-by-side have very divergent beliefs and practices? This is the subject matter of anthropology: human difference, among and within human societies, and human similarities. Anthropologists explore how culture shapes the various ways people cope with birth, sickness, death, sex, power, powerlessness, fear, joy, conflict and other experiences common to humans everywhere; we also study how people in turn shape culture. The process of trying to understand ways of life that can be very different than our own often induces cultural anthropologists to call our own lived experience into question. Cultural anthropology therefore invites us to reflect critically (meaning with curiosity and careful evaluation, not necessarily with criticism) on practices and beliefs we assume to be natural, obvious, logical or inevitable in our own day-to-day lives. In Anthropology 2 we will explore these and related issues through lectures, ethnographic films, discussions, reading, and writing.

Course Texts

The readings for the course are of various kinds and the two required texts are listed below and will appear in the course schedule by the authors' last names. All the course texts are available at the SRJC Bookstores.

Nanda & Warms *Culture Counts (3rd Edition)*

Bruce Knauff *The Gebusi (4th Edition)*

“Culture Counts” by Nanda & Warms is our main text for the course and we will be reading all chapters, but slightly out of order. **You will need this text immediately.**

“The Gebusi” by Bruce Knauff is an ethnography about a small-scale society who live in Papua New Guinea. You will read this text as we proceed through the semester and write an essay about it in response to several questions as our final assignment. **The chapters we read will be included in the unit quizzes.**

Supplemental Readings: There are also required supplementary readings as listed on the course schedule that will form the basis for discussions and some quiz questions. These readings are available in electronic form in the course Canvas Modules when required.

Course Requirements

Final grades will depend on full participation in weekly class activities including discussions, quizzes, timely completion of required essays.

With an online class you must pace yourself and keep up with weekly requirements to be successful!

A friendly warning:

If you are a procrastinator this may not be the best course delivery method for you.

The requirements **total 800 points** and break down as follows:

410 pts.: 7 Quizzes (6 weekly quizzes and the syllabus quiz)

240 pts.: 12 Graded Discussions (the introduction discussion is for extra credit)

150 pts.: Analytical Essay on *The Gebusi*

Grades will be based on the following scale:

A = 720 to 800

B = 640 to 719

C = 560 to 639

D = 480 to 559

F = 479 or below

Course Modules and Assignments

This course follows a modules format and each module will contain explicit instructions on what is required, when it is due, and where to find the necessary materials to complete the unit successfully. Reading and following the instructions carefully for each module and each assignment is fundamental to success in this course.

Quizzes and Final Exam

A short **quiz** comes at the end of each week. Each quiz will test you on all the material covered that week. If you miss a quiz, you will receive a score of zero for that quiz. Quizzes may not be taken late for any reason. When taking a quiz, you are on your honor and **you must not:**

- Share any information with anyone about the quiz.
- Take photos or recordings of the quiz
- Use course materials, notes or a textbook during a quiz.
- Take the quiz with another person

If you fail to follow these instructions, you may receive a zero for the quiz in question and a second violation may result in a failing grade for the course.

You will have one minute per question on all quizzes. Once you begin a quiz, you must finish it. All of the quizzes are timed, and it may be helpful to set a timer, so you can pace yourself.

Discussions

Many of the course units include a discussion based on the unit topic and may include supplementary readings or films. For these discussions, you will respond to a short series of questions and then respond to other students' posts for a possible total of 20 points per discussion.

Purpose of the Assignment:

These assignments test your understanding of the course material for the week and allow you to explore these topics in more depth by responding to other students' posts and perspectives.

See the Canvas guide:

[How do I reply to a discussion as a student? \(Links to an external site.\)](#)

Netiquette:

When posting on discussion boards:

- Be kind and respectful to others;
- Use full sentences;
- Avoid jargon and acronyms; and
- Use language that supports others.

As a measure of insurance, it is a good idea to save all your discussion posts on your computer.

Rarely, student posts are not submitted properly and are then lost if not already saved separately.

Analytical Essay on “The Gebusi”

Each student is required to complete a 4-page analytical essay assignment on “The Gebusi” by Bruce Knauft. For this assignment, you will respond to a series of questions about the text in essay form. The specific instructions are posted as an assignment on our Canvas site. To turn in the assignment, you will upload your paper on Canvas as a **Word** document or **PDF** file. Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns. This assignment is worth 150 points.

Due Dates and Grading for Each Assignment

The due dates and times for each writing assignment are clearly listed on the course schedule on the Canvas site. Papers will be graded on how well the instructions are followed in both **TOPIC** and **FORMAT** as indicated by the assignment prompt. Failure to follow instructions will result in a lower or failing grade.

Plagiarism

Plagiarism will not be tolerated!

Your work must be your own!

- You will not use or copy other students' work, nor do you offer your work to another student.
- You will not copy authors' statements and use them as your own. What you write must be in your own words.
- Plagiarism will result in a **failing grade!**

Announcements

I use the Announcements on Canvas as an important communication tool for this course. Please check the Announcements page frequently and / or set up your Canvas notification preferences to alert you to new announcements so you do not miss any important communications from me.

Classroom Expectations and Policies

Students at SRJC are required to abide by the SRJC Conduct Standards. Violation of the standards have serious consequences including possible dismissal from class or from the college. Please visit the [Student Contact Policies \(Policy 8.2.8\)](#) page for complete information.

Academic Honesty

Students are expected to abide by the code of ethics established by SRJC which states, *"Academic dishonesty is regarded as any act of deception, benign or malicious in nature, in the completion of any academic exercise. Examples of academic dishonesty include cheating, plagiarism, impersonation, misrepresentation of idea or fact for the purpose of defrauding, use of unauthorized aids or devices, falsifying attendance records, violation of testing protocol, inappropriate course assignment collaboration, and any other acts that are prohibited by the instructor of record."*

Students caught doing any of the above will receive a failing grade for the affected assignment or exam. Any further violations of this policy will result in a failing grade for the course.

Attendance

At SRJC it is expected that students will attend every class session and be on time for the courses in which they are enrolled. For face-to-face classes, students who do not attend the initial class meeting may be dropped by the instructor. For, online classes, students who do not log on to Canvas and initiate participation by 11:59 pm Pacific Time of the first day of class may be dropped by the instructor. If you decide this class is not for you, it is your responsibility to officially drop it. SRJC policy states that instructors may drop students whose absences exceed 10% of the total hours of class time (for online courses the computer records your activity). If you fall behind and start missing assignments in this course contact me as soon as possible to see if it is possible to avoid being dropped from the course.

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

Please provide the Authorization for Academic Accommodations letter from the DRD to me as soon as possible if you need a disability-related accommodation for this class.

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Explain how culture functions by describing variations in cultural traditions (including social structures, systems of value, notions of identity, power structures, and spiritual beliefs) using appropriate anthropological terminology.
2. Compare and contrast historical and contemporary approaches to anthropological study, including the professional ethical obligations of anthropologists using contemporary methods to study human groups today.
3. Analyze the economic, political, and sociocultural forces of globalization and evaluate how they are reshaping various cultures today.

Course Schedule

The readings that are listed on the schedule in italics and with titles in parentheses (such as *Kluckhohn: "Queer Customs"*) are available in electronic format in the Canvas Modules. I reserve the right to adjust the course schedule as necessary and will notify all students if I do.

Week 1 (M 6/17 to F 6/21) / Units 1, 2, and 3
UNIT 1: Course Introduction
Readings: Syllabus and How to use Canvas tutorials
Discussion: Introduce yourself
Lecture: What is Anthropology?
<i>Quiz #1 on the Syllabus</i>
UNIT 2: What is Culture?
Readings: Nanda & Warms, Chap. 1 and <i>Kluckhohn, "Queer Customs"</i>
Lecture: <i>What is Culture?</i>
Discussion: <i>"Queer Customs"</i>
UNIT 3: Brief History of Anthropology
Readings: Nanda & Warms, Chap. 2 and Knauff, Preface, Intro & Chap. 1
Lecture: "Brief History of Anthropology"
Watch video: "Off the Veranda"
Discussion: "Off the Veranda"
<i>Quiz # 2 on Units 2 and 3</i>
Week 2 (M 6/24 to F 6/28)/ Units 4 and 5
UNIT 4: Doing Anthropology

Readings: Nanda & Warms, Chap. 3, Knauft, Chap. 2, and Cormier, "Kinship with Monkeys"
Lecture: "Doing Anthropology"
Discussion: "Kinship with Monkeys"
UNIT 5: Language and Culture
Readings: Nanda & Warms, Chap. 4, Knauft, Chap. 3 and Basso, "To Give up on Words"
Lecture: <i>Language and Culture</i>
Discussion: "To Give up on Words"
Quiz #3 on Units 4 and 5
Week 3 (M 7/1 to F 7/5) Units 6 and 7
UNIT 6 Part 1: Religion and Ritual
Readings: Nanda & Warms, Chap. 11 and Knauft, Chap. 4
Lecture: Religion and Ritual
No discussion
UNIT 6 Part 2: Symbol and Myth
Readings: Zolbrod: "Diné Bâhané", Da Silva, Myth of Maniva, and Knauft, Chap. 5
Lecture: <i>Symbol and Myth</i>
Discussion: "Diné Bâhané" and <i>Myth of Maniva</i>
UNIT 7: Marriage, Family, and Kinship
Readings: Nanda & Warms, Chap. 9, Knauft, Chap.6, and Goldstein, "When Brothers Share a Wife"
2 Brief Lectures: "Marriage and Family", and "Kinship and Descent"
Discussion: "When Brothers Share a Wife"
Quiz #4 on Units 6 and 7
Week 4 (M 7/8 to F 7/12) Units 8, 9, and 10
UNIT 8: Culture and Environment
Readings: Nanda & Warms, Chap. 5 and Knauft, Chap. 7
Lecture: Culture and Environment
No discussion for this Unit
UNIT 9: Economy and Exchange
Readings: Nanda & Warms, Chap. 6, and Lee: "Eating Christmas in the Kalahari"
Lecture: <i>Economy and Exchange</i>
Discussion "Eating Christmas in the Kalahari"
UNIT 10: Political Organization
Readings: Nanda & Warms, Chap. 7 and Knauft, Chap. 8
Lecture: "Political Organization"
Watch video: "Ongka's Big Moka"
Discussion: "Ongka's Big Moka"
Quiz #5 on Units 8, 9, and 10

Week 5 (M 7/15 to F 7/19) Units 11 and 12
UNIT 11: Caste, Class, Race, and Ethnicity
Readings: Nanda & Warms, Chap. 8 and Marks, " <i>Black, White, Other</i> "
Lecture: "Caste, Class, Race and Ethnicity"
Discussion: "Black, White, Other"
UNIT 12: Gender and Sexuality
Readings: Nanda & Warms, Chap. 10, and Knauff, Chaps. 9 and 10
Lecture: Gender and Sexuality
Watch Video: Women's Kingdom
Discussion: Women's Kingdom
Quiz #6 on Units 11 and 12
Week 6 (M 7/22 to F 7/26) Units 13 and 14
UNIT 13: Creative Expression
Readings: Nanda & Warms, Chap. 13 and Knauff, all remaining chapters
Lecture: Creative Expression
Discussion: on Creative Expression
UNIT 14: Colonialism and Globalization
Readings: Nanda & Warms, Chap. 15 and Corbett, "Can the Cellphone Help End Global Poverty?"
Lecture: <i>Colonialism and Globalization</i>
Discussion: " <i>Can the Cellphone Help End Global Poverty</i> "
Quiz #7 on Units 13 and 14
Analytical Essay on the Gebusi due Saturday 7/27 by 11:59 pm (just before Midnight)