

Anthropology 2 Section: 0179
Introduction to Sociocultural Anthropology

Instructor

Kathleen Dill, PhD

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Class meets: Tues/Thurs, 1:30pm – 3:00pm

Location: 1588 Emeritus Hall

First Class: 8/20

Last Class: 12/12

Final Exam: 12/19, 1:00pm – 3:45pm

I. Course Description & Objectives

Sociocultural anthropology is one of the four subfields of the discipline of anthropology along with physical anthropology, archaeology, and anthropological linguistics. Sometimes referred to as cultural anthropology, this sub-discipline is dedicated to the study of human social and cultural diversity.

In this course, students will learn how anthropologists research and analyze social processes that: 1) shape different worldviews, religions and modes of communication; 2) produce systems that define the boundaries of class, race, ethnicity, gender, sexuality and other markers of difference; and 3) structure kinship relations, political economies and global power hierarchies.

Students will be introduced to anthropology's holistic analytical approach and the ethnographic research methodology, which taken together, makes anthropology unique among the social sciences. By the end of the course, students will have a working knowledge of the anthropological perspective and will have practiced their critical thinking, research, writing and presentation skills. The knowledge gained in this course will support students' further education and equip them to better understand and productively navigate an increasingly interconnected world.

Objectives: This course is designed for both majors and non-majors to:

- ✓ Learn about the history and evolution of the discipline of anthropology;
- ✓ Use anthropological concepts to think critically about the world in which we live;
- ✓ Develop social science research and writing skills

II. Course Plan

This is a reading and writing intensive, interactive course. Coursework consists of:

- 1) **Lectures** to introduce each week's themes and anthropological concepts;
- 2) **Articles** and three **texts** to demonstrate how anthropologists produce knowledge;
- 3) **Videos** to visually experience our some of our themes;
- 4) **Group discussion** to give you an opportunity to pose questions and work out ideas;
- 5) **Quizzes** to ensure that you are connecting with the concepts presented;
- 6) **Research paper** to learn how to conduct research and write it up;
- 7) **Exams:** midterm and final to test your knowledge.

III. Coursework Due Dates

- Quiz#1: In class on Thurs. Sept 5
- Research Paper Proposal: Uploaded to Canvas on Thurs. Sept. 26
- Quiz#2: In class on Thurs. Sept. 26
- Midterm Exam: In class on Thurs. Oct 24
- Research paper: electronic copy uploaded to Canvas on Mon. Dec 16
- Final Exam: in class on Thurs. Dec 19

IV. Required Texts

Texts are available at the SRJC bookstore and are also on reserve at the library:

- Lila Abu-Lughod, *Do Muslim Women Need Saving?* Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2013
- Sidney Mintz, *Sweetness and Power: The Place of Sugar in Modern History*, New York: Penguin Books, 1985
- Angela Stuesse, *Scratching Out a Living: Latinos, Race and Work in the Deep South*, Series in Public Anthropology, Oakland: University of California Press, 2016

Texts on Canvas:

- Clifford Geertz, *Thick Description: Towards an Interpretive Theory of Culture* in The Interpretation of Cultures, New York: Basic Books, 1973, pgs 3-30
- Rob Johnston, *The Question of Foreign Cultures: Combatting Ethnocentrism in Intelligence Analysis* in Analytic Culture in the US Intelligence Community: An Ethnographic Study, Washington, D.C.: Central Intelligence Agency, 2005
- Miriam Jordan, *ICE Arrests Hundreds in Mississippi Raids Targeting Immigrant Workers*, NY Times, August 7, 2019.

V. Course Work

Attendance 10%

Attendance is required. Absences without instructor permission or a doctor's note will result in point deductions for absence and zero points on missed quizzes.

Quizzes 15%

Two quizzes will draw from: 1) the concepts introduced and discussed in class, and 2) assigned articles and texts.

Final Exam 25%

Multiple choice, matching, true/false (bring a 100-question Scantron and pencil to class)

Mid-Term 25%

Multiple choice, matching, true/false (bring a 100-question Scantron and pencil to class)

Research Paper Proposal 5%

Guide posted to Canvas

Research Paper 20%

Guide posted to Canvas

VI. Class Policies Regarding Grades

I make a sincere effort to be fair, to recognize and give credit for improvement over the course of the semester, and to grade accordingly. Once assigned, I will not change student grades except in the case of a typo or mathematical error. If you believe that an error has been made in the grading of your work, see me during office hours or make an appointment within one week of receiving the graded assignment.

VII. Canvas

Students are required to use Canvas. The [syllabus](#), some [required texts](#), a list of [class videos](#) (with their URLs), as well as [research paper](#) and [proposal writing guides](#) are available on Canvas. Students may contact me directly through Canvas. I may use Canvas Announcements to communicate with individual students, remind the class of upcoming events or announce any changes to the syllabus.

VIII. Course Grading Scale

Grade A: The student attends class regularly and participates. Thoughtful and concise comments during class and responses to exams and quizzes provide strong evidence of careful reading and note taking resulting in a high-level of understanding of the material. The student's research paper makes excellent use of empirical and theoretical material and provides exceptionally well-structured arguments.

Grade B: The student attends class regularly and participates. Comments during class and responses to quizzes and exams provide strong evidence that the student read and understood the material and/or has reached out to the instructor for help in understanding it more thoroughly. The research paper makes use of empirical and theoretical material and is well structured and well written.

Grade C: The student attends class regularly. Comments during class and responses to quizzes and exams provide evidence that the student read and understood some or most of the material and/or reached out to the instructor for help in understanding it. The research paper and presentation is acceptable and shows a basic grasp of the material. The work would benefit from increased organization and/or improved writing.

Grade D: The student does not attend class regularly. Infrequent comments during class, poor responses on exams and/or missed quizzes demonstrate that the student has not read and/or understand the coursework and has not reached out for help with the material. The research paper may have been submitted and some relevant points may have been made. However, problems of poor poor research methods and/or poorly structured and/or written work prevents it from being classified as average.

Grade F: The student does not attend class regularly. Infrequent comments during class, poor responses and/or missed quizzes demonstrate that the student has not read most of the material and has not reached out for help from the instructor. The research paper does not pass because it was not structured properly, is poorly written, or plagiarized.

Sociocultural Anthropology: Part I

The first half of this course introduces the basic concepts used in Anthropology. Instead of a textbook, I use short lectures and in-class videos/films. Students are required to read, take reading notes and prepare to discuss the assigned texts in class.

Tues. Aug 20: Introductions: Course, Classmates, and Instructor

- Introductions: How did we all come to be in this classroom today?
- Course Outline: The Game Plan
- In-class video: What is Anthropology, Part I (10 min)

Thurs. Aug 22: What is Anthropology?

What are the four fields of anthropology? What does each sub-discipline study? What are some of the questions each sub-discipline hopes to explore and illuminate? Who are some of the scholars and researchers that have shaped American anthropology?

- Reading Due: Abu-Lughod, Introduction, pgs. 1-26
- Video: What is Anthropology, Part II (10 min)
- Video: Do Muslim Women Need Saving? / Abu-Lughod / Harvard (3min)

Tues. Aug 27: What is Ethnographic Fieldwork?

Why have anthropologists moved from a “positivist” to a “reflexive” approach to fieldwork? What does the “dialectic of fieldwork” mean? Can anthropologists move past it? How does fieldwork affect the people studied and researcher? How is anthropological knowledge produced?

- Reading Due: Reading Due: Reading Due: Abu-Lughod, Chpt. 1, pgs. 27-53
- Video: Doing Anthropology at Three Fieldwork Sites / MIT (9min):
- Video: What Islam Really Says About Women/ TedTalk / Alaa Murabit (12 min)
- Video: American Muslims: Fact vs. Fiction (11min)

Thurs. Aug 29: What is Society / What is Culture?

What constitutes society? How do anthropologists define culture? What role has culture played in human evolution? How do anthropologists identify key aspects of a foreign group's culture? What is thick description? What does open-ended knowledge mean?

- Reading Due: Geertz, pgs. 3-13 (Parts I – III)
- Video: Geertz: The Interpretation of Culture - Balinese Cockfight (10 min)

Tues. Sept 3:

Franz Boas (1858-1942) the “Father of American Anthropology.” His contributions to physical, cultural, archaeological and linguist anthropology were vast and his opposition to racism as well as the rising tide of US nationalism inspired a new generation of scholars. He was, as the eminent anthropologist Claude Levi-Strauss remarked, “...one of the very last intellectual giants that the 19th century produced and probably will not be produced anymore.”

- No Reading Due
- Film: Franz Boas: Shackles of Tradition / (53min)

Thurs. Sept 5: What is Ethnocentrism? / What is Cultural Relativity?

How does ethnocentrism shape and limit our understanding of the world? How can “cultural relativity” improve our understanding of controversial cultural practices?

- Reading Due: Johnston, pgs. 1-8
- Video: Cultural Relativism / Anthropologist Jeanette Moreland (14 min)
- Quiz #1: Covers 8/20-9/5

Tues. Sept 10: Kinship / Where Do Our Relatives Come from and Why Do They Matter?

How do anthropologists define and categorize different marriage practices? What is the connection between marriage and economic exchange?

- Reading Due: Abu-Lughod, Chpt. 2, pgs. 54-80
- Video: Making a Kinship Chart / Jessica Bodoh-Creed (4min)

Thurs. Sept 12: Gender Identity and Sexuality

How are gender identities and sexual practices understood differently across cultures? How are norms established? What does gender fluidity mean? What does heteronormativity mean? What does cisgender mean? Why have some cultures demonized human diversity?

- Reading Due: Abu-Lughod, Chpt. 3, pgs. 81-112
- Video: Sex, gender & sexuality in Indonesia / Anthropologist Nicholas Herriman (15min)

Tues. Sept 17: Race and Ethnicity

Who invented the idea of race? Is race a biological or sociological category? What does ethnicity mean? What are identity politics?

- Reading Due: Abu-Lughod, Chpt. 4, pgs. 143-172
- Film: PBS, The Talk: Race in America / Part I (1hr)

Thurs. Sept 19: Race and Ethnicity (continued)

- Reading Due: Abu-Lughod, Chpt. 5, pgs. 173-200
- Film: PBS, The Talk: Race in America / Part II (50min)

Tues. Sept 24: What can anthropology tell us about religion and worldview?

What is a worldview? How are religion and social organization related? Why do men control organized religion? Are women in charge of witchcraft? What are some of the social functions of witchcraft? How are worldviews used as an instrument of power?

- Reading Due: Abu-Lughod, Chpt. 6, pgs. 201-228
- Video: American Muslims: Facts vs. Fiction (11min)

Thurs. Sept. 26: Feminism and Anthropology

What is feminism? Who is Gloria Steinem? Who is Kimberlé Crenshaw? What does intersectionality mean?

- No Reading Due
- Research Paper Proposal Due (Guide on Canvas)
- Video: The Urgency of Intersectionality / Kimberlé Crenshaw (20min)
- Quiz #2: Covers content from 9/10-9/26

Tues. Oct 1: Political Organization

What are the characteristics of a band, tribe, chiefdom, nation and state? What does sovereignty mean? What is multiculturalism?

- Reading Due: Mintz, Introduction, pgs. xiii-xxviii
- Video: Band, Tribe, Chiefdom, State (5min)
- Video: Alan Sens, UBC: The State (8min)
- Video: FL Pass Program, State vs. Nation (2min)
- Video: P.S. In Theory: Nationalism (4min)
- Video: Sarah Silverman, The Rise of Nationalism in the US (8min)

Thurs. Oct 3: Class & Caste / How do people make a living?

What are “subsistence strategies”? How are goods distributed and exchanged in different societies? How are labor, modes of production and conflict related?

- Reading Due: Mintz, Chpt. 1, pgs. 3-18
- Video: Political Theory: Adam Smith (7min)
- Video: Political Theory: Karl Marx (5min)
- Video: Minnesota Spring: Max Weber’s View of Class (2min)
- Video: Darma Speaks: Caste & Hinduism Explained (20min)

Tues. Oct 8: Modern Political Economies: Capitalism, Socialism, Fascism

- Reading Due: Mintz, Chpt. 2, pgs. 19-73
- Video: History of Ideas: Capitalism (12min)
- Video: Now This World: Socialism (4min)
- Video: Now This World: Fascism (4min)

Thurs. Oct 10: Anthropology and Colonialism: Part I

What is the relationship between capitalism, colonialism and the origins of ethnography? What did early anthropologists study, and who benefitted from the knowledge they produced?

- Reading Due: Mintz, Chpt. 3, pgs. 74-150
- Video: Alan Sens, UBC: Imperialism (7min)

Tues. Oct 15: Inequality: Globalization, Neoliberalism, Dependency Theory

How do scholars explain global inequality? What are the social impacts of inequality?

- Reading Due: Mintz, Chpt. 4, pgs. 151-186
- Video: Alan Sens, UBC: Dependency Theory (9min)
- Video: PBS, The News Hour: Globalization & Inequality /The Elephant Curve (6min)
- Video: TED, Richard Wilkinson, How Economic Inequality Harms Societies (16min)

Thurs. Oct 17: Hegemony & Habitus / How are culture and power connected?

How do anthropologists study power? What is “coercion”? What is “hegemony”? What is “biopower” and “governmentality”? What is meant by “human agency” and “resistance”?

- Reading Due: Mintz, Chpt. 5, pgs. 187-214
- Video: 10-Minute Philosophy, Cultural Hegemony, Gramsci & Bourdieu (13min)
- Video: Mercator vs. Peters Projection World Map, West Wing clip (4min)

Tues. Oct 22: In class Midterm Review

- No Reading Due

Thurs. Oct 24: In class Midterm Exam

- No Reading Due

Sociocultural Anthropology: Part II

At this point, we begin reading the ethnography, *Scratching Out a Living: Latinos, Race and Work in the Deep South*. As you read and take notes, use the concepts we have learned in the first part of this course to contextualize and understand the text:

- | | |
|----------------------------------|---------------------|
| ❖ Culture | ❖ Capitalism |
| ❖ Ethnocentrism | ❖ Globalization |
| ❖ Cultural relativism | ❖ Neoliberalism |
| ❖ Class, race, gender, ethnicity | ❖ Dependency theory |

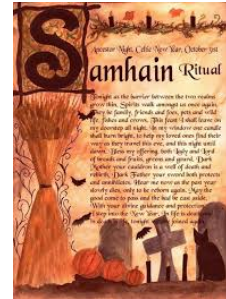
Tues. Oct 29:

Southern Fried: Globalization & Immigrant Transformations

- Reading Due: Stuesse, Chpt. 1, pgs. 1-24

Happy Halloween!

Halloween's pre-Christian roots lie in the ancient Celtic festival of Samhain (pronounced sow-in). The Celts celebrated the New Year on November 1st and believed that on Oct 31st the boundary between the worlds of the living and the dead became blurred. Halloween traditions evolved with Roman conquerors (Feralia & Pomona) and again with the advent of Christianity (All Hallows Eve).



Thurs. Oct 31:

Dixie Chicken: Racial Segregation, Poultry Integration, & the Making of the "New" South in Central Mississippi

- Reading Due: Stuesse, Chpt. 2, pgs. 25-43

Tues. Nov 5:

The Caged Bird Sings for Freedom: Black Struggles for Civil and Labor Rights, 1950-1980

- Reading Due: Stuesse, Chpt. 3, pgs. 44-67
- Film: Spies of Mississippi (1hr 38min)

Thurs. Nov 7:

To Get to the Other Side: The Hispanic Project and the Rise of the Nuevo South

- Reading Due: Stuesse, Chpt. 4, pgs. 68-92

Holiday: Monday, November 11th is Veteran's Day

What is the difference between Memorial and Veteran's Day?

Memorial Day honors the men and women who died while serving in the military.

Veterans Day recognizes all who have served in the Armed Forces.



Tues. Nov 12: NO CLASS – PDA

Thurs. Nov 14:

Pecking Order: Latino Newcomers, Receptions, and Racial Hierarchies

- Reading Due: Stuesse, Chpt. 5, pgs. 93-119

Tues. Nov 19:

A Bone to Pick: Labor Control and the Painful Work of Chicken Processing

- Reading Due: Stuesse, Chpt. 6, pgs. 120-146

Thurs. Nov 21:

Sticking Our Necks Out: Challenges to Union and Workers' Center Organizing

- Reading Due: Stuesse, Chpt. 7, pgs. 147-167

Tues. Nov 26:

Walking on Eggshells: Illegality, Employer Sanctions, and Disposable Workers

- Reading Due: Stuesse, Chpt.8, pgs. 168-188

Thurs. Nov 28

NO CLASS – THANKSGIVING

Pilgrims and Puritans emigrating from England in the 1620s and 1630s carried the tradition of “Days of Fasting” and “Days of Thanksgiving” with them to New England.



What is the American myth concerning Thanksgiving and Native Americans?

What do you know about America's first immigrants and Native American nations?

Can we recognize the genocide & oppression of Native Americans and celebrate Thanksgiving?

Tues. Dec 3

Class Discussion / Research Paper Progress

- No Reading Due

Thurs. Dec 5:

Plucked: Labor Contractors and Immigrant Exclusion

- Reading Due: Stuesse, Chpt. 9, pgs. 189-206

Tues. Dec 10:

Flying Upwind: Toward a New Southern Solidarity

- Reading Due: Stuesse, Chpt.10, pgs. 207-226

Thurs. Dec 12:

Home to Roost: Reflections on Activist Research

- Reading Due: Stuesse, Postscript pgs. 227-247

Mon. Dec 16: NO CLASS: Research Paper Due – Upload to Canvas

Thurs. Dec 19:

IN CLASS Final Exam: 1:00pm – 3:45pm

*Congratulations on completing this course!
I hope you enjoyed learning about sociocultural anthropology.*