

Anthropology 2

CULTURAL ANTHROPOLOGY

Spring 2020

Sec. 6132: T TH 1:30 pm to 3:00 pm, Classroom: 4246 Doyle Library

Instructor: Kent Wisniewski, Ph.D.

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Office: 1539A Emeritus Hall

Office Hours: MW 12:15 pm to 1:15 pm, TTH. 3 to 3:30 pm., or by appointment

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 – Nanda and Warms offer a brief, but detailed introduction to the core concepts of cultural anthropology, Knauff provides us with an ethnographic analysis of culture change within a small-scale society in Papua New Guinea, and Fadiman allows us to explore cultural difference in depth through a detailed case study. All the course texts are available at the SRJC campus bookstores. There are also required supplementary readings as listed on the course schedule. These readings are posted on the course Canvas Modules. You can access Canvas via your SRJC student portal by clicking on this link: [Canvas Login](#)..

Nanda & Warms	<i>Culture Counts (3rd Edition)</i>
Bruce Knauff	<i>The Gebusi (4th Edition)</i>
Anne Fadiman	<i>The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down</i>

Course Requirements:

Final grades will depend on full participation in classes, completion of papers and assignments as well as exams. This means that consistent attendance, completion of readings and class exercises, and a willingness to contribute to class discussions are all

part of achieving a good grade. The assignments for the course include two midterms and a final exam, several short, written assignments, and some in-class exercises. The requirements **total 1000 points** and break down as follows:

- 200 pts - Exam #1
- 200 pts - Exam #2
- 200 pts - Final Exam
- 150 pts - Analytical Essay on *The Gebusi*
- 120 pts - Two Reading Response Papers (60 points each)
- 100 pts.- Quote and Question Paper on *The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down*
- 30 pts - Class Participation (includes attendance (10 points) and actual participation in-class group discussions as indicated on the course schedule)

Grading: All assignments are graded on the following scale:

- 90-100% – A
- 80-89% – B
- 70-79% – C
- 60-69% – D
- 59% and below – F

Reading Response Papers

Every student is required to write two reading response papers by the end of the semester. I will assign each student a group number and the members of each group will turn in their response papers as listed on the course schedule until we cycle through each group twice. The response paper is a two-page (500 words) reaction to the assigned reading. These readings are listed in *italics* on the course schedule and are available on the course Canvas site. **All students must read each of these articles, but only the group of students indicated on the course schedule are required to write a response for any given week.**

Purpose of the Assignment: These assignments test your understanding of the reading, and may help to spark class discussion.

Content: Each paper should begin with a short discussion of a point in the reading you found especially interesting, provocative, dubious, inspirational, or flat-out wrong. In other words, as you read, note which parts of the material really make you respond in some way. Once you have described the issue in question, go on to evaluate the author's presentation of the issue and **to raise a question** for me, the class and / or the author of the selection. This evaluation and questioning process will take additional paragraphs.

Format Instructions: Papers will be submitted online via our course Canvas site (see the assignment links on the Canvas modules page). You may write directly into the dialogue box or cut and paste from a word document. Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns about this assignment.

Grading: Each response paper is worth 60 points. If you do the reading and follow the instructions for the assignment you will get full credit (60 points). If your response is

much too short and/or doesn't follow the instructions in other ways, but still engages with the reading you will receive partial credit (30 points). If your response gives me no sense that you read the selection, then you will receive no credit (0 points). I will accept late response papers up to one week after the due date, but they will only be eligible for a maximum of 30 points.

Analytical Essay on "The Gebusi": Each student is required to complete a 4 page analytical essay assignment on "The Gebusi" by Bruce Knaft. 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.

Quote and Question Paper on *The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down*: For this assignment you are to choose a quote from anywhere in the text that reflects an issue that you would like to discuss further. After choosing your quote, explain why you find it significant and produce a question that is rooted in your explanation. Your paper should be about 500 words. 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.

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.

NOTE: I will accept late Analytical Essays up to one week after the due date, but they will only be eligible to earn a maximum of 90% of the total points for the assignment.

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!**

Classroom Expectations and Policies

1. I do my best to treat the students in my classroom with respect and I expect them to do the same for me and their fellow classmates. Thus, using cell phones, text-messaging, reading newspapers, checking your email or performing other extraneous activities or disruptive behaviors (such as chatting with your neighbor or habitual tardiness) are not acceptable in class. **If you refuse to comply with these policies at any time, you may be asked to leave the class session.**

2. I do not share lecture notes or slide presentations, though you are certainly welcome to ask classmates for notes and I am happy to answer any questions about the notes you obtain during my office hours.

3. There are no make-up sessions for films. If you miss a film, you should ask a classmate for notes.

4. I do not give make-up exams unless there is a documented necessity for the absence.

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. Furthermore, it is SRJC policy that students with excessive absences be dropped from the course. Thus, it is my policy that any student who **exceeds three absences** (that are not excused) by our last class of Week Eight (Thursday 3/7) shall be dropped from the course. In addition, any student who reaches **seven overall absences** in the course will automatically earn a failing grade for 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.

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.

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 on the course Canvas site. I reserve the right to adjust the course schedule as necessary, but will notify all students if I do.

Week 1 Course Introduction / What is Anthropology?

T 1/14 Course Introduction

TH 1/16 Readings due: Nanda & Warms, Chap. 1

Week 2 What is Culture?

T 1/21 *Faculty Development Day* (no class meeting)

TH 1/23 Readings due: Kluckhohn, "*Queer Customs*"

Response paper #1 due Group 1 on Kluckhohn, "Queer Customs"

Week 3 Film: First Contact / Brief History of Anthropology

T 1/28 Readings due: Knaft, Preface, Intro & Chap. 1

TH 1/30 Readings due: Nanda & Warms, Chap. 2

Week 4 Doing Anthropology

T 2/4 Readings due: Nanda & Warms, Chap. 3 and Knaft, Chaps. 2-3

TH 2/6 Readings due: Cormier, "*Kinship with Monkeys*"

Response paper #1 due Group 2

Week 5 Language and Culture / Faculty PDA Day

T 2/11 Readings due: Nanda & Warms, Chap. 4

TH 2/13 Faculty PDA Day (no classes or activities)

Week 6 Language and Culture / Exam #1

T 2/18 Readings due: Knaft, Chaps. 4-5 and Basso, "*To Give up on Words*"

Response paper #1 due Group 3

TH 2/20 **Exam #1** (bring a bluebook and scantron form to class)

Week 7 Religion and Ritual

T 2/25 Readings due: Nanda & Warms, Chap. 11 and Knaft, Chaps. 6-8

TH 2/27 Readings due: Zolbrod, "*Diné Bahañè*"

Response Paper #1 due Group 4

Week 8 Symbol and Myth

T 3/3 Readings due: Knaft, Chaps. 9-11 and Da Silva, "*Myth of Maniva*"

Response Paper #1 due Group 5

TH 3/5 Readings due: Knaft, all remaining chapters

Week 9 Marriage, Family, and Kinship

T 3/10 Readings due: Nanda & Warms, Chap. 9 and Goldstein, *"When Brothers Share a Wife"*

Response paper #1 due Group 6

TH 3/12 No readings due

Analytical Essay on "The Gebusi" due on Canvas by 11:59 pm on Thursday 3/12

Week 10 Spring Break! (No class meetings)

T 3/17

TH 3/19

Week 11 Culture and Environment / Economy and Exchange

T 3/24 Readings due: Nanda & Warms, Chap. 5 and Lee: *"Eating Christmas in the Kalahari"*

Response paper #2 due Group 1

TH 3/26 Readings due: Nanda & Warms, Chap. 6

Week 12 Film: "Ongka's Big Moka" / Exam #2

T 3/31 No readings due

TH 4/2 **Exam #2** (Bring a bluebook and scantron to class)

Week 13 Political Organization / Caste, Class, Race, and Ethnicity

T 4/7 Readings due: Nanda & Warms, Chap. 7 and Gibbs: *"The Kpelle Moot"*

Response paper #2 due Group 2

TH 4/9 Readings due: Readings due: Nanda & Warms, Chap. 8 and Fadiman, Chaps. 1-5

Week 14 Caste, Class, Race, and Ethnicity / Gender and Sexuality

T 4/14 Readings due: Marks, *"Black, White, Other"*

Response paper #2 due Group 3

TH 4/16 Readings due: Nanda & Warms, Chap. 10 and Fadiman, Chaps. 6-8

Week 15 Creative Expression / Colonialism

T 4/21 Readings due: Nanda & Warms, Chap. 12

TH 4/23 Readings due: Nanda & Warms, Chap. 13 and Fadiman, Chaps. 9-11

Week 16 Globalization / Anthropological Approaches to Violence

T 4/28 Readings due: Nanda & Warms, Chap. 14 and Corbett, *"Can the Cellphone Help End Global Poverty?"*

Response paper #2 due Group 4

TH 4/30 Readings due: Fadiman, Chaps. 12-15 and Whitehead, *"Terrorism, Ethnic Conflict, and the Culture of Violence"*

Response paper #2 due Group 5

Week 17 Shamanism, Science and Healing / Discussion of “The Spirit...”

T 5/5 Readings due: *Reichel-Dolmatoff, "Shamanism and the Art of the Eastern Tukanoan Indians"*

Response paper #2 due Group 6

TH 5/7 Readings due: Fadiman, all remaining chapters

Quote and Question Paper on “The Spirit...” due on Canvas by 1:30 pm, TH 5/7

Group Discussion on “The Spirit...” (10 points)

Week 18 Film: “The Split Horn” / Course Conclusion

T 5/12 No readings due

TH 5/14

Final Exam: Thursday, May 21st at 1 pm.