

CULTURAL ANTHROPOLOGY

Spring 2021

Sections: 5971 and 6367 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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Office Hours: No Physical Office Hours for Spring 2021

To set up a phone appointment outside of physical office hours, 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 Module/Unit in addition to reading the course texts. Each Module/Unit may include video lectures with PowerPoint slides, supplementary readings, videos, and websites.

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

“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 Knaft is an ethnography about a small-scale society who live in Papua New Guinea. You will read this text in the first half of the semester and write an essay about it. **The chapters we read will be included in the unit quizzes.**

“The Spirit Catches You...” by Anne Fadiman allows us to look at a conflict of cultures here in the US. We will begin reading the book in the second half of the semester. You will write an essay about this text as well. **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 930 points** and break down as follows:

400 pts.: 14 Unit Quizzes

220 pts.: 11 required Discussions (and one extra credit discussion)

150 pts.: Reflective Final Exam

100 pts.: Analytical Essay on *The Gebusi*

60 pts.: Quote and Question Paper on *The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down*

Grades will be based on the following scale:

A = 90% and above

B = 80% to 89%

C = 70% to 79%

D = 60% to 69%

F = 59% or less

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 successful. 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** follows each unit. 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 90 seconds per question on all quizzes. Once you begin a quiz, you must finish it. The quizzes are timed, and it may be helpful to set a timer, so you can pace yourself.

Reflective Final Exam: The semester will conclude with a Reflective Final Exam that asks you to explore and discuss what you have learned in the course. It consists of three short essay questions you will choose from a list and is worth 150 points.

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. These discussions require two posts for full credit: 15 points for your original post and 5 points for responding to another student within 48 hours of the discussion due date. If absolutely necessary, you may make your original post after the due date, but not later than 48 hours after. In other words, all posts must be made before the discussion closes.

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 3-page analytical essay assignment on "The Gebusi" by Bruce Knauff. 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 100 points.

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 300 to 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. This assignment is worth 60 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.

NOTE: I will accept late 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!**

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 be 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 (W 1/20 to F 1/22) Course Introduction

Readings: Syllabus and How to use Canvas tutorials

Discussion: Introduce yourself

Lecture: What is Anthropology?

Unit 1 Quiz on the Syllabus

Week 2 (M 1/25 to F 1/29) What is Culture?

Readings: Nanda & Warms, Chap. 1 and *Kluckhohn, "Queer Customs"*

Lecture: What is Culture?

Discussion: "Queer Customs"

Unit 2 Quiz

Week 3 (M 2/1 to F 2/5) Brief History of Anthropology

Readings: Nanda & Warms, Chap. 2 and Knaft, Preface, Intro & Chap. 1

Lecture: "Brief History of Anthropology"

Watch video: "Off the Veranda"

Discussion: "Off the Veranda"

Unit #3 Quiz

Week 4 (M 2/8 to F 2/12) Doing Anthropology

Readings: Nanda & Warms, Chap. 3, Knaft, Chaps. 2-3, and

Cormier, "Kinship with Monkeys"

Lecture: "Doing Anthropology"

Discussion: “Kinship with Monkeys”

Unit #4: Quiz

Week 5 (M 2/15 to F 2/19) Language and Culture

Readings: Nanda & Warms, Chap. 4, Knauft, Chaps. 4-5 and Basso, “*To Give up on Words*”

Lecture: *Language and Culture*

Discussion: “*To Give up on Words*”

Unit #5 Quiz

Week 6 (M 2/22 to F 2/26) Religion and Ritual

Readings: Nanda & Warms, Chap. 11

Lecture: Religion and Ritual

No discussion

Quiz next week

Week 7 (M 3/1 to F 3/5) Symbol and Myth

Readings: Zolbrod: “Diné Bāhané”, Da Silva, Myth of Maniva, and Knauft, Chaps. 6-8

Lecture: *Symbol and Myth*

Discussion: *Myth of Maniva*

Unit #6 Quiz

Week 8 (M 3/8 to F 3/12) Marriage, Family, and Kinship

Readings: Nanda & Warms, Chap. 9, Knauft, Chaps. 9-11, and

Goldstein, “*When Brothers Share a Wife*”

Lecture: *Marriage, Family, and Kinship*

Discussion: “*When Brothers Share a Wife*”

Unit #7 Quiz

Week 9 (M 3/15 to F 3/19) Gebusi Week

Readings: Knauft, all remaining chapters

Lecture: Bruce Knauft on “The Gebusi”

Essay due on “The Gebusi” F 3/19

No quiz this week

Week 10 (M 3/22 to F 3/26) Spring Break! (No assignments or activities)

Week 11 (M 3/29 to F 4/2) Culture and Environment

Readings: Nanda & Warms, Chap. 5 and Fadiman, Chaps. 1-3

Lecture: Culture and Environment

No discussion this week

Unit #8 Quiz

Week 12 (M 4/5 to F 4/9) Economy and Exchange

Readings: Nanda & Warms, Chap. 6, Fadiman, Chaps. 4-5 and

Lee: “Eating Christmas in the Kalahari”

Lecture: Economy and Exchange

Discussion “Eating Christmas in the Kalahari”

Unit #9 Quiz

Week 13 (M 4/12 to F 4/16) Political Organization Film: “Ongka’s Big Moka”

Readings: Nanda & Warms, Chap. 7 and Fadiman, Chaps. 6-8

Lecture: “Political Organization”

Watch video: “Ongka’s Big Moka”

Discussion: “Ongka’s Big Moka”

Unit #10 Quiz

Week 14 (M 4/19 to F 4/23) Caste, Class, Race, and Ethnicity

Readings: Nanda & Warms, Chap. 8 and *Marks, "Black, White, Other"*

Lecture: "Caste, Class, Race and Ethnicity

Discussion: "Black, White, Other"

Unit #11 Quiz

Week 15 (M 4/26 to F 4/30) Gender and Sexuality

Readings: Nanda & Warms, Chap. 10, Fadiman, Chaps. 9-11

Lecture: Gender and Sexuality

Watch Video: Women's Kingdom

Discussion: Women's Kingdom

Unit #12 Quiz

Week 16 (M 5/3 to F 5/7) Creative Expression

Readings: Nanda & Warms, Chap. 13 and Fadiman, Chaps. 12-15

Lecture: Creative Expression

Discussion: on Creative Expression

Unit #13 Quiz

Week 17 (M 5/10 to F 5/14) Colonialism and Globalization

Readings: Nanda & Warms, Chaps. 14 and 15 and

Corbett, "Can the Cellphone Help End Global Poverty?"

Lecture: Colonialism and Globalization

Discussion: "Can the Cellphone Help End Global Poverty?"

Unit # 14 Quiz

Week 18 (M 5/17 to F 5/21) Shamanism and “The Spirit Catches You”

Readings due: Fadiman, all remaining chapters

Lecture: Shamanism

Assignment: Quote and Question Paper on “The Spirit...”

Unit # 15 Quiz for Extra Credit Only

Final Exam Week (M 5/24 to F 5/28): Reflective Final Exam Due by Friday 5/28 at 11:59 pm