

## **ANTH 227: Cultural Identities Spring 2008**

**MW 4:00-5:15 pm, Fitzelle 310**

**Dr. Brian Haley**

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**Office Hours: MW 11:00 am-12:00 pm, and by appointment**

### ***COURSE DESCRIPTION:***

This course examines the major forms of cultural identity—totemism, ethnicity, race, and nationalism—from an anthropological perspective. We will examine how people create, maintain, and use cultural identities; how context influences the form and content of identities; and contemporary policy issues associated with the ethnic relations of transnational migration, nationalist movements, and the emergence of new postcolonial ethnic identities. The readings include theory and ethnographic case studies. The course includes several writing assignments. *Prerequisite:* ANTH 100.

### ***COURSE ATTRIBUTES:***

ANTH 227 counts toward Social Science (S2) credit in general education requirements. For Anthropology majors, the course is counted under Fields of Study: Cultural Anthropology.

### ***COURSE OBJECTIVES:***

The goal of ANTH 227 is to provide students with a cross-culturally valid understanding of the nature of ethnic, racial, and national identities.

### ***ACADEMIC HONESTY:***

All students are responsible for knowing and adhering to the College's policies on academic honesty. Any student found cheating will receive a failing grade and will be reported to the Student Conduct Committee for possible further action consistent with College policy, including possible dismissal from the College.

Please turn your cell phone off while you are in the classroom.

### ***ATTENDANCE POLICY***

Attendance will be taken each class because participation is part of your grade (see below), and you have to be in class to participate. Students should expect their grades to suffer if they are absent often. Please notify me if you expect to miss a class.

### ***REQUIRED READINGS:***

Eriksen, Thomas Hylland. 2002. *Ethnicity and Nationalism: Anthropological Perspectives*. Second edition. Pluto Press.

Various articles available in pdf format on the course's Angel site.

Consult the Reading Schedule below for the dates of particular readings. Lecture slides, handouts, study guides, and one assigned reading will be posted on the class Angel web site. All items (readings, copies of handouts, assignments, etc.) will be placed under Lessons.

## ***GRADING:***

This course is based on lectures, readings, films, and group discussions. Your final grade will be based on 3 short take-home assignments, 2 quizzes, 2 in-class essay exams, a final research essay, and class participation, distributed as follows:

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Assignment #1	5 percent
Assignment #2	5 percent
Quiz #1	10 percent
Exam #1	15 percent
Assignment #3	10 percent
Quiz #2	10 percent
Research paper	20 percent
Exam #2	15 percent
Class participation	10 percent

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Make-up exams will be given only under the most extenuating circumstances, with appropriate documentation. There is no extra-credit.

### Assignments:

The three assignments are small tasks to be completed outside the classroom. Assignment #1 requires you to collect popular opinion on cultural identities. Assignment #2 will have you looking at how various groups use the web to promote themselves. Assignment #3 is an annotated bibliography and one step toward completing the Research paper assignment.

### Quizzes & Exams:

Quizzes will mostly test on terminology, major facts, and associations (e.g., which group did what) from lectures, readings, and videos. These will be short answer format. The two Exams will be bluebook format in-class essay questions which will emphasize the readings and your ability to connect concepts to cases. I will give you study guides for both the Quizzes and Exams that will contain questions from which the actual quiz and exam questions will be drawn. Yes, you read that right: You'll have the questions in advance.

### Research Paper:

You will conduct library research and write a paper documenting your findings regarding some aspect of ethnicity or nationalism. This may be a paper exploring some aspect of the history of a particular group relevant to its identity. Alternatively, your paper might explore a particular topic on identity through a review of multiple cases, such as the various ways people mark or symbolize their ethnic or national identity, or the kinds of circumstances that foster ethnic violence. The paper will be typed, double-spaced, approximately 15 pages, in standard fonts (10-12 pt.) and margins (1 inch), and will include precise citation of sources. Two assignments are intended to move you along towards completing this part of your grade, by letting you search for interesting cases (Assignment #2), and compile an annotated bibliography for the paper (Assignment #3). You will need my advance approval of the paper topic.

Participation:

Questions, discussion, relevant outside contributions (e.g., news items, personal experience, observations, and opinions, etc.) are all encouraged; in short, anything you do to contribute to the overall learning of the class will improve your grade. You are to read the assigned materials by the dates shown and to contribute to class discussions.

**READING AND EXAM SCHEDULE:**

Readings should be completed by the date shown.

**Week 1, Jan. 16: Course Introduction**

**Week 2, Jan. 21 & 23: What are ethnicity, race, & nation? (I)**

- Jan. 21: Assignment 1 due
- Jan. 23: Manning Nash: “Core Elements of Ethnicity”

**Week 3, Jan. 28 & 30: What are ethnicity, race, & nation? (II)**

- Jan. 28: Eriksen: Chap. 1: What is ethnicity?

**Week 4, Feb. 4 & 6: Ethnicity as a Form of Classification**

- Feb. 4: Eriksen: Chap. 2: Ethnic Classification: Us and Them  
Donald Brown: “Are Ethnicity and Ethnocentrism Natural?”  
Assignment 2, part 1 due
- Feb. 6: Clifford Geertz: “Primordial Ties”  
Assignment 2, part 2 due

**Week 5, Feb. 11 & 13: Primordialism versus Instrumentalism**

- Feb. 11: Eriksen: Chap. 3: The Social Organization of Cultural Distinctiveness
- Feb. 13: Fredrik Barth: “Ethnic Groups and Boundaries”  
Gunnar Haaland: “Economic Determinants in Ethnic Processes”  
Quiz 1

**Week 6, Feb. 18 & 20: BREAK—No Class**

**Week 7, Feb. 25 & 27: Ethnogenesis I**

- Feb. 25: Eriksen: Chap. 4: Ethnic Identity and Ideology  
Patricia Albers: “Changing Patterns of Ethnicity in the Northeastern Plains, 1780-1870”

**Week 8, Mar. 3 & 5: Ethnogenesis II**

- Mar. 3: Eriksen: Chap. 5: Ethnicity in history  
Brian Haley: “The Case of the Three Baltazars” and “How Spaniards Became Chumash, and Other Tales of Ethnogenesis”
- Mar. 5: Exam 1

**Week 9, Mar. 10 & 12: The Negotiation of Identity at the Local Level**

- Mar. 10: Brian Haley: “We want our town back!” and “The Delictum Vineyards scandal and its aftermath”

**Week 10, Mar. 17 & 19: Nationalism I**

- Mar. 17: Eriksen: Chap. 6: Nationalism  
Benedict Anderson: “The Imagined Community”  
Mar. 19 Assignment 3

**Week 11, Mar. 24 & 26: BREAK—No Class**

**Week 12, Mar. 31 & Apr. 2: Nationalism II**

- Mar. 31: Virginia Dominguez: “The Politics of Heritage in Contemporary Israel”  
Michael Dietler: “Our Ancestors the Gauls”

**Week 13, Apr. 7 & 9: Minorities and the State**

- Apr. 7: Eriksen: Chap. 7: Minorities and the state  
Hugh Trevor-Roper: “The Invention of Tradition: The Highland Tradition of Scotland”  
Apr. 9 Quiz 2

**Week 14, Apr. 14 & 16: The Politics of Identity**

- Apr. 14: Eriksen: Chap. 8: Identity politics, culture and rights  
Brian Haley: “Immigration and Indigenization in the Mexican Diaspora in the Southwestern United States”

**Week 15, Apr. 21 & 23: Identity research in archaeology and biological anthropology**

*There are no assigned readings this week. Use the time to write your research papers.*

**Week 16, Apr. 28 & 30: Are Ethnicity and Nationalism Good or Bad?**

- Apr. 28: **Research papers due**  
Apr. 30 Eric Hobsbawm: “Ethnic Nationalism in the Late Twentieth Century”  
John Hutchinson: “Ethnicity and Multiculturalism in Immigrant Societies”

**Week 17, May 5 & 7: The Futures of Ethnicity and Nationalism**

- May 5: Eriksen: Chap. 9: The non-ethnic  
May 7: **STUDY DAY—No Class**

**Week 18, May 12: Final Exam, 4:00 pm**

**ALL MATERIAL IN THIS SYLLABUS IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE.**