

ANTH 227: Cultural Identities Fall 2010

TuTh 4:00-5:15 pm, HIRC 8

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Office Hours: Tu noon-1:00, W noon-1:00 pm, and by appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course examines the major forms of cultural identity—ethnicity, race, nationalism—from an anthropological perspective. Explores how people create, maintain, and use cultural identities, how social context shapes their form and content, and how form and content support social relationships. Students will explore case studies and theoretical perspectives, and write a paper based on library research.

Prerequisite: Sophomore standing.

COURSE ATTRIBUTES:

ANTH 227 counts toward Social Science (S2) General Education credit. For Anthropology majors, the course counts as an Elective in the major.

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.

POLICIES:

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.

Cell phones must be turned off while you are in the classroom.

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.

Emergency Evacuation/Shelter-in-Place Procedures: In the event of an emergency evacuation (i.e., fire or other emergency), assemble in the lawn area between Fine Arts and Fitzelle Hall so that all persons can be accounted for and further instructions can be given. Complete details of the College's emergency evacuation, shelter-in-place and other emergency procedures can be found at <http://www.oneonta.edu/security/>.

REQUIRED READINGS:

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

Various readings 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 take-home assignments, 2 quizzes, 2 in-class essay exams, a final research essay, and class participation, distributed as follows:

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

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 to be completed outside the classroom. Assignment #1 requires you to collect popular opinion on cultural identities. Assignment #2 will ask you to analyze some of the readings in a short paper. Assignment #3 is a précis and 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 at least some questions in advance.

Research Paper:

You will conduct library research and write a paper documenting your findings regarding some aspect of ethnicity or nationalism. I will provide a list of appropriate topics for these papers and you will choose a particular group with which to pursue one of the provided research topics. The paper will be typed, double-spaced, approximately 12 pages, in standard fonts (11-12 pt.) and margins (1 inch), and will include precise citation of sources. Assignment 3 is intended to move you along towards completing this part of your grade, by requiring you to write a précis and compile an annotated bibliography for the paper. 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, Aug. 26: Course Introduction

Week 2, Aug. 31 & Sept. 2: What are ethnic groups, races, & nationalities? (I)

- Aug. 31: Assignment 1 due
- Sept. 2: Manning Nash: “Core Elements of Ethnicity”

Week 3, Sept. 7 & 9: What are ethnic groups, races, & nationalities? (II)

- Sept. 7: Eriksen: Chap. 1: What is ethnicity?
- Sept. 9: Clifford Geertz: “Primordial Ties”

Week 4, Sept. 14 & 16: Ethnicity as Social Classification

- Sept. 14: Eriksen: Chap. 2: Ethnic Classification: Us and Them
- Sept. 16: Donald Brown: “Are Ethnicity and Ethnocentrism Natural?”

Week 5, Sept. 21 & 23: The Barthian Revolution

- Sept. 21: Fredrik Barth: “Ethnic Groups and Boundaries”
Eriksen: Chap. 3: The Social Organization of Cultural Distinctiveness
- Sept. 23: Gunnar Haaland: “Economic Determinants in Ethnic Processes”

Week 6, Sept. 28 & 30:

- Sept. 28: Eriksen: Chap. 4: Ethnic Identity and Ideology
Quiz 1
Assignment 2 due
- Sept. 30: BREAK—No Class

Week 7, Oct. 5 & 7: Ethnogenesis I

- Oct. 5: William Sturtevant: “Creek Into Seminole”
Eriksen: Chap. 5: Ethnicity in history
- Oct. 7: Charlotte Linde: “The Acquisition of a Speaker by a Story: How History Becomes Memory and Identity”

Week 8, Oct. 12 & 14: Ethnogenesis II

- Oct. 12: Patricia Albers: “Changing Patterns of Ethnicity in the Northeastern Plains, 1780-1870”
- Oct. 14 Exam 1

Week 9, Oct. 19 & 21: The Local Negotiation of Identity

- Oct. 19: Brian Haley: “We want our town back!” and “The Delictum Vineyards scandal and its aftermath”
- Oct. 21 Martin Sokefeld: “Debating Self, Identity, and Culture in Anthropology”

Week 10, Oct. 26 & 28: Nationalism

- Oct. 26: Eriksen: Chap. 6: Nationalism
Benedict Anderson: “The Imagined Community”
Mar. 19 Michael Dietler: “Our Ancestors the Gauls”
Assignment 3

Week 11, Nov. 2 & 4: The Invention of Tradition

- Nov. 2: Richard Handler & Jocelyn Linnekin: “Tradition, Genuine or Spurious”
Nov. 4:

Week 12, Nov. 9 & 11: Minorities and the State

- Nov. 9: Eriksen: Chap. 7: Minorities and the state
Ruth Mandel: “Ethnicity and Identity among Migrant Guestworkers in West Berlin”
Nov. 11 Quiz 2

Week 13, Nov. 16 & 18: The Politics of Identity

- Nov. 16: Eriksen: Chap. 8: Identity politics, culture and rights
Nov. 18: Brian Haley & Larry Wilcoxon: “How Spaniards Became Chumash, and Other Tales of Ethnogenesis”

Week 14, Nov. 25 & 27: Break—No Class

Week 15, Nov. 30 & Dec. 2: The Experience of Identity

- Nov. 30: Marjorie Esman: “Festivals, Change, and Unity: The Celebration of Ethnic Identity among Louisiana Cajuns”
Dec. 2: Laura Lewis: “Blacks, Black Indians, Afromexicans: The Dynamics of Race, Nation and Identity in a Mexican *Moreno* Community”

Week 16, Dec. 7 & 9: The Futures of Ethnicity and Nationalism

- Dec. 7: Eriksen: Chap. 9: The non-ethnic
Research papers due
Dec. 9

Week 17, Dec. 14: Final Exam, 11:00 am-1:15 pm

ALL MATERIAL IN THIS SYLLABUS IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE.