

ANTH 100 Introduction to Cultural Anthropology

Spring 2012

IRC 6

100-02 (CRN 68)

MWF 1-1:50pm

General Education Attribute: S2

Professor: Sallie Han

E-mail: hanss@oneonta.edu

Phone: 436-2715

Office: Fizzle 330A

Office hours: W 11-11:45am and 2-3:30pm, Th 10:30-11:15am and by appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Using a cross-cultural approach, this course provides an understanding of human behaviors and beliefs, kinship systems, world view, social organization, and economic and political systems. Focusing on both cultural diversity and universal values, this course provides an understanding of contemporary human problems and needs, and stimulates concern about change and continuity in the global society.

Credit: 3 s.h. No prerequisites.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Race and ethnicity, language and communication, kinship and reproduction, the environment, the economy, science, and religion – all of these issues of contemporary life are the topics of cultural anthropology. Based on systematic study, cultural anthropology provides means for appreciating the diversity and complexity of human experience. The purpose of this course is to provide an overview of the central concepts and concerns of this subfield of anthropology. Through lectures, class discussions, and activities that are based on reading assignments and films/videos, we will examine the ideas and practices of cultural anthropologists themselves as well as the ideas and practices of persons and people in various cultures and societies.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

ANTH 100 is a core course in the General Education program at SUNY Oneonta. Regular attendance and participation in class is *required*.

Your final grade for the course will be based on total cumulative points, broken down *approximately* as follows:

Exams (25 + 30 + 30 + 45)	130 points
Corrections (3 x 5 points)	15 points
Weekly quizzes on Angel (10 x 5 points)	50 points
Self ethnography	25 points
Class presentation	25 points
In-class exercises	10 points
TOTAL	255 points

Your final grade will be based on meeting all of the following requirements. *Failure to meet any one of the requirements can result in a failing grade.*

EXAMS (4)

Please note the dates of the exams (on the course schedule, below), as you will be **required** to take them as scheduled. There will be three in-class exams, plus the final exam. The format of the exams will include multiple-choice, short response, and / or short essay. Careful attention to the reading assignments and film and video screenings, and regular attendance and participation in class will contribute to your success on the exams.

If extenuated circumstances prevent a student from taking the exam, he or she must contact the instructor immediately (within 24 hours of the exam). Only students who present an official letter of excuse will be permitted a make-up exam for full credit, which will comprise of an essay of five pages, as directed by the instructor.

The schedule for final exams is issued by the College Registrar. The final exam cannot be rescheduled.

CORRECTIONS

As academic exercises, the exams are intended both to “test” and reinforce your comprehension of the content that we discuss in this class, and your ability to apply key concepts. To this end, you will be required to write corrections for any questions that you missed on each exam. Consult notes, readings, and lecture slides. On separate paper, include a short statement that explains both the correct answer *and* why your original answer was incorrect. Submit the corrections *with your original exam within 1 week after the exam is handed back*. **Note:** If your score on the exam is 90% or greater, you do not need to submit the corrections and will receive 5/5 for the assignment.

WEEKLY QUIZZES

Due at the start of class every Friday, you will be required to complete a short, multiple-choice quiz on Angel. The questions will draw from the reading assignments and / or films that we have viewed earlier that week. Given that the quizzes will be posted electronically for at least 48 hours, students should have more than enough opportunity to complete the assignment. Only students who present an official letter of excuse will be permitted a make-up quiz.

Students are advised that they should take their quizzes on a computer with reliable Internet access and a browser such as Explorer or Firefox. It is not advised that you take the quiz on a phone. Also note that Safari is not completely compatible with Angel.

CLASS PRESENTATION

At the start of each class, a team of two or three students will be responsible for presenting brief presentations (about 10 minutes) on the assigned reading. You will receive points for your performance as a team and as an individual.

The presentation should follow the template posted on Angel. It should include a brief summary of the central argument of the reading, a thoughtful intellectual reaction to the reading, and two or three questions for discussion.

A sign-up sheet will be circulated in class. Please note the date for which you will be presenting as well as the names of the student or students on your presentation team. You are responsible for being in touch with your team. Contact information for your team will be available through Angel.

Due to the nature of the assignment, there is *no make-up* for a missed presentation. However, a student who presents official documentation for his or her absence due to an emergency can seek permission to complete an alternate assignment for partial credit.

SELF ETHNOGRAPHY

You will be required to write one short paper of 5 full pages based on anthropological research methods, which we will discuss in class. Instructions for the fieldwork assignment will be discussed in detail in advance of the due date.

IN-CLASS EXERCISES

A number of class meetings will be devoted to completing or discussing oral and written exercises that put into practice the concepts that you will be learning. Instructions will be discussed in class. A make-up for full credit will be permitted for students who present official documentation for their absences. Partial credit will be allowed in other cases. All make-up work must be submitted within 1 week of returning to class.

OPTIONAL RESPONSE PAPERS

The experience of learning does not begin and end in the classroom. During the semester, I will announce lectures, presentations, and other events on topics of relevance to cultural anthropology. You are encouraged to attend these or other scholarly events on campus. As an incentive, you can earn points to “replace” a maximum of 2 quizzes (5 points each) by attending a lecture or presentation, then writing a response of 1 full page (in 12-point standard font, with regular margins). In order to receive full credit for the assignment, your response paper should include the following:

- The speaker’s name and the title and topic of his or her lecture or presentation
- A brief discussion of the speaker’s central argument and or main points and what evidence he or she presents (e.g., the film or text that he or she is analyzing, or his or her experiences in the field).
- Most important, discussion of the topic’s relevance to anthropology (e.g., the connections between the speaker’s main points and material that we have considered in class).

The response paper is due 1 week after the event. Please e-mail it with the following subject line: Your Last Name ANTH 100 EXTRA CREDIT.

COURSE POLICIES & PROCEDURES

ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION

As noted above, regular attendance and participation in class is required. Although there are legitimate reasons for being absent from class (e.g., sickness), missing three or more classes, for whatever reasons, will lower one’s course grade, and may result in failure.

It is the student’s responsibility to inform the professor about the absence prior to or immediately after its occurrence. If you anticipate missing class because you are a student-athlete, you must identify yourself to the professor early in the course.

Remember also that students are responsible for all of the material covered in class. Make-ups for full credit will be permitted only for officially documented (“excused”) absences, such as conferences or competitions. Make-ups for partial credit will be permitted for other absences.

STUDENTS DIAGNOSED WITH A DISABILITY

All individuals who are diagnosed with a disability are protected under the Americans with Disabilities Act, and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. As such, you may be entitled to certain accommodations within this class. If you are diagnosed with a disability, please make an appointment to meet with Student Disability Services (SDS), 209 Alumni Hall, ext. 2137. All students with the necessary supporting documentation will be provided appropriate

accommodations as determined by the SDS Office. It is entirely your responsibility to contact SDS and concurrently supply me with your accommodation plan, which will inform me exactly what accommodations you are entitled to. You will only receive accommodations once you provide me with an SDS accommodation plan. Any previously recorded grades will not be changed.

SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS

Please note that special considerations such as extensions on deadlines will be permitted only with official documentation. If special circumstances arise that prevent the regular and timely completion of assignments, it is the student's responsibility to communicate them with the instructor. Please do so as soon as possible.

ENVIRONMENT FOR LEARNING

This is a reading and discussion-intensive class. Students are expected to come to class prepared to discuss readings. Although it is not necessary for you to bring all of your books to every meeting of this class, you are required to bring your reading assignment.

Creating an environment for learning conducive to learning involves community effort. Individually, we will conduct ourselves in a manner that is respectful, considerate, and courteous of each other. Students are expected to arrive on time for class, and the professor is expected to end on time. Students are expected to refrain from conversation not directly relevant to the material at hand and from the use of cellular phones, iPods, etc., during classes. If you wish to use a laptop during class, you must receive the instructor's permission.

Please note the following passage from the Student Code of Conduct:

Instructors have a responsibility to maintain an effective learning situation in their classrooms and to deal promptly with any disruptions that interfere with the learning situation. The instructor is in charge of his/her classroom. If he/she feels that a student is interfering with the right of other students to profit from attendance in that classroom or if he/she feels that he/she is being unreasonably hindered in the presentation of subject matter, the instructor has every right to eject the offending student from the class and/or notify the Student Development Office of the student's behavior.

The Student Code of Conduct can be accessed at <http://www.oneonta.edu/development/studevel.asp>.

ACADEMIC HONESTY

In order to meet the requirements of this class, it is expected that all of your written work, including take-home writing assignments and in-class essay exams, will represent your own honest, individual, and original efforts to engage with the material in this class. Please be careful with your written work. Dishonesty of any kind (e.g., "copying" or "borrowing") will not be tolerated, and may result in a failing grade for the assignment and / or the class.

You will be expected to cite your sources properly and include a list of references. You may prepare your citations in any standard style used in scholarly writing (e.g., MLA, APA), but please be sure to use it consistently and correctly. For example, the style guideline for American Anthropologist is available at www.aaanet.org.

ANGEL

All students will be expected to use the Angel site for this class. Announcements, instructions for written assignments, presentation notes, and readings will be available on Angel. You also will submit written assignments on Angel unless noted otherwise.

EMERGENCY EVACUATION PROCEDURES

In the event of an emergency requiring evacuation from HIRC 6, ***please evacuate to Fine Arts Building so that College officials can account for you.*** Please review the College's Emergency Evacuation Procedures and Shelter-in-Place Procedures at the following web link: <http://www.oneonta.edu/security>. All students are also encouraged to register for NY Alert for immediate notification of campus emergencies on or near the campus.

REQUIRED TEXTS

Alma Gottlieb, *The Afterlife Is Where We Come From* (Afterlife)
Lisa Gezon and Conrad Kottak, *Culture* (Culture)

In addition, a number of the reading assignments will be available as PDFs on the Angel site for this class. You will be required to print hard copies of the PDFs and bring them to class in order to discuss them. Note that PDFs will be posted 1 week prior to the date that the reading assignment will be discussed in class, and remain posted until 1 week after the date. At that point, the PDF will be removed from Angel. It is the student's responsibility to download and print a hard copy of the reading to bring to class. Please check the reading schedule.

Periodically, there will be an unannounced book check at the start of class. *Points will be subtracted each time you fail to bring your readings.*

Course schedule

Date	Reading assignment due in class	Topics for discussion /Concepts
W 1/25	Introductions	
Part I. Foundations of Cultural Anthropology		
F 1/27	What is cultural anthropology? <i>Assignment: Culture Matters.</i> Browse news and / or other popular media sources on the Web <i>from the last 12 months</i> and bring to class one example of an issue concerning culture and / or anthropology. Write a brief summary and analysis (no fewer than 125 words and no more than 150 words), focusing especially on why you think this issue is interesting, important, or even necessary to understand <i>and / or</i> what questions you have about the issue. <i>You must include information on the source of your media example, including url.</i> Note: Please bring a hard copy of the assignment, which will be collected in class (5 points). <i>No Angel quiz</i>	
M 1/30	Culture, Chapter 1 What Is Anthropology: Pages 1-6, 12-17	Anthropology; four fields: archaeology, biological or physical, cultural, and linguistic; holism History of anthropology: armchair anthropology
W 2/1	Culture, Chapter 3 Ethics and Methods	Naturalistic versus experimental science Ethnography, fieldwork, participant-observation
F 2/3	Chagnon, "Doing Fieldwork among the Yanomamo" (PDF) Video: "Doing Anthropology"	Research methods: Census, survey, genealogical method, participant-observation
M 2/6	Study guide for "The Ax Fight" Film: "The Ax Fight"	

	<i>Angel quiz due</i>	
W 2/8	Afterlife, Preface and Chapter 1	<i>Discussion of presentations</i>
F 2/10	Culture, Chapter 2 Culture	The concept of culture Characteristics of culture: Shared, learned, habitual, adaptive, symbolic, all-encompassing
M 2/13	Miner, "Body Ritual among the Nacirema" (PDF) <i>Angel quiz due</i>	Ethnocentrism, cultural relativism
W 2/15	Small, "Boredom: A Sinful, Puzzling, Modern Thing" http://www.livescience.com/4621-boredom-sinful-puzzling-modern.html Musharbash, "Boredom, Time and Modernity: An Example from Aboriginal Australia" (PDF)	<i>Discussion of self ethnography</i>
F 2/17	Afterlife, Chapter 2	
M 2/20	1st EXAM	
W 2/22	Culture, Chapter 1 What Is Anthropology: Pages 6-12 Chapter 12 Ethnicity and Race: Pages 225-234 Video: "Race: The Power of an Illusion, Part 1 The Difference between Us" <i>Angel quiz due</i>	The concept of race Biological versus social race; human biological variation; genetics and race; concordance The concept of race versus the concept of culture
F 2/24	Goodman, "Three Questions about Race, Human Biological Variation and Racism" (PDF)	<i>Presentation 1</i>
M 2/27	Sauer, "Forensic Anthropology and the Concept of Race" (PDF) <i>Angel quiz due</i>	<i>Presentation 2</i>
W 2/29	Simmons, "Racial Enculturation and Lived Experience" (PDF)	<i>Presentation 3</i>
F 3/2	Pollock, "Everyday Antiracism in Education" (PDF) <i>Angel quiz due</i>	<i>Presentation 4</i>
M 3/5	Culture, Chapter 6 Making a Living Self ethnography due at the start of class	
W 3/7	Afterlife, Chapter 3	<i>Presentation 5</i>
F 3/9	Film: "Ongka's Big Moka" <i>Angel quiz due</i>	Livelihood; processes of economic activity: production, distribution, consumption
M 3/12	Cronk, "Strings Attached" (PDF)	<i>Presentation 6</i> Distribution: gifts, exchanges
W 3/14	2nd EXAM	
F 3/16	Film: "Masai Women" <i>No Angel quiz</i>	
	BREAK	
M 3/26	Culture, Chapter 8 Families, Kinship, and Marriage	
W 3/28	Afterlife, Chapter 4	<i>Presentation 7</i>

F 3/30	Video: "The Masai Today" <i>Online exercise (5 points)</i> <i>Angel quiz due</i>	
M 4/2	Afterlife, Chapter 5	<i>Presentation 8</i>
W 4/4	Culture, Chapter 9 Gender	
F 4/6	Kratz, "Circumcision, Pluralism, and Dilemmas of Cultural Relativism" (PDF) <i>Angel quiz due</i>	<i>Presentation 9</i>
M 4/9	Afterlife, Chapter 6	<i>Presentation 10</i>
W 4/11	Culture, Chapter 10 Religion	
F 4/13	Gmelch, "Baseball Magic" (PDF) <i>Angel quiz due</i>	<i>Presentation 11</i>
M 4/16	3rd EXAM	
W 4/18	Culture, Chapter 11 The World System and Colonialism	World systems theory: Core, semi-periphery and periphery Colonialism, post-colonialism First, Second and Third World
F 4/20	Afterlife, Chapter 7 <i>Angel quiz due</i>	<i>Presentation 12</i>
M 4/23	Afterlife, Chapter 8	<i>Presentation 13</i>
W 4/25	Afterlife, Chapter 9	<i>Presentation 14</i>
F 4/27	Afterlife, Chapter 10 <i>Angel quiz due</i>	<i>Presentation 15</i>
M 4/30	Afterlife, Chapter 11	
W 5/2	Culture, Chapter 13 Anthropology's Role in a Globalizing World	
F 5/4	Film: "Advertising Missionaries" <i>Angel quiz due</i>	Globalization, indigenization
M 5/7	In-class review	
F 5/11	FINAL EXAM for 100-02 2-4:30pm	

All material on this syllabus is subject to change.