

# ANTH 100 INTRODUCTION TO CULTURAL ANTHROPOLOGY

Fall 2009  
HIRC 7  
ANTH 100-01 MWF 11-11:50am  
ANTH 100-02 MWF 12-12:50pm

Professor: Sallie Han  
Office: Fitzelle 330A

E-mail: [hanss@oneonta.edu](mailto:hanss@oneonta.edu) Phone: 436-2715  
Office hours: M 1-2:30pm, T 12-1pm, W 1-2:30pm & 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 (LA, S2)

## **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**

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

Fieldwork assignments (2)	25 points
Class presentation	20 points
Quizzes	30 points
In-class exercises	15 points
Exams (3)	75 points
Final exam	40 points
<b>Total =</b>	<b>205 points</b>

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.

## **FIELDWORK ASSIGNMENTS**

You will be required to write two short papers 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 dates:

## **CLASS PRESENTATION**

At the start of each class, a team of two or three students will be responsible for presenting brief presentations (about 5 minutes) on the assigned reading. You will receive one grade for your performance in class from the instructor, and one for teamwork (including an assessment from your

partner or partners). The presentations 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. Detailed instructions and criteria for the evaluation of your presentation will be distributed separately.

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. Contact information for your team will be available through Angel.

## **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 for that week. If a student misses a quiz and wishes to take it for full credit, it is his or her responsibility to arrange a make-up within 1 week of the date on which the quiz was given.

## **IN-CLASS EXERCISES**

A number of class meetings will be devoted to completing oral and written exercises that put into practice the concepts that you will be learning. Instructions will be discussed in class.

## **EXAMS**

There will be three in-class exams, and a final exam. The format of the exams will include multiple-choice, fill-in-the-blank, and short response. 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. Careful attention to the reading assignments and film and video screenings, regular attendance in class, and participation in discussion will contribute to your success on the exams.

If extenuated circumstances prevent a student from taking an exam, you may be permitted one opportunity to “make up” the exam by writing an essay of five pages (typed and double-spaced), as assigned by the instructor. You must present official documentation.

## **OPTIONAL RESPONSE PAPERS (EXTRA CREDIT)**

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 additional points for this class by attending a lecture or presentation, then writing a response of 1-2 pages (in 12-point standard font, with regular margins). In your paper, you should:

- Introduce, briefly, the speaker’s central argument or main points.
- Describe, again briefly, the speaker’s evidence (e.g., the film or text that he or she is analyzing, or his or her experiences in the field).
- Conclude with a 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. You can submit a maximum of 3 response papers, which will be worth 3 points each. *PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS WILL BE THE ONLY OPPORTUNITY FOR “EXTRA CREDIT” IN THIS CLASS.*

## **COURSE PROCEDURES & POLICIES**

### **ATTENDANCE POLICY**

Regular attendance in class is *required*. Indeed, failure to attend class regularly can result in a failing grade for the class. If there are special circumstances to explain a pattern of absence, then it is the student’s responsibility to report these to the instructor promptly, and to present official documentation. Also, please be reminded that absence does not exempt students from responsibility for all of the material covered in class, and that there are no extra credit or make-up assignments.

### **ANGEL**

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

## **E-MAIL**

When you are e-mailing Dr. Han, please use only the following information in the subject line:  
Your Last Name Anth 100

## **PARTICIPATION AND CONDUCT**

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 class, **you are required to bring your reading assignment (textbook, reader, ethnography, or hard copy of PDF).**

Students are expected to conduct themselves in a manner that is respectful, considerate, and courteous of their classmates and their professor.

## **ENVIRONMENT FOR LEARNING**

Creating an environment for learning conducive to learning involves community effort. **If you wish to use a laptop during class, you must receive the instructor's permission.** Students are expected to refrain from using cellular phones, iPods, etc., during classes. Otherwise, you will be asked to leave the classroom.

## **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 will result in a failing grade for 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](http://www.aaanet.org).

## **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.

**All material on this syllabus is subject to change.**

## REQUIRED TEXTS \*

John Omohundro, *Thinking Like an Anthropologist (TLA)*

Aaron Podolefsky and Peter Brown, *Applying Cultural Anthropology: An Introductory Reader (ACA)*

Anne Fadiman, *The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down (Spirit)*

Additional readings will be posted on Angel.

**\* You will be expected to bring the reading assignment to the class meetings, i.e., your TLA textbook, the ACA reader, the ethnography, or a hard copy of readings posted on Angel.**

## COURSE SCHEDULE

DATE	TOPIC FOR DISCUSSION READING / ASSIGNMENT DUE ACTIVITY	CONCEPTS TO KNOW
W 8-26	Introductions	
F 8-28	<b>What is cultural anthropology?</b> TLA Introduction <i>No quiz</i>	Anthropology, four fields, history of the discipline
M 8-31	<b>Methods and ethics of cultural anthropology</b> TLA Chapter 2 ("How Do I Learn about Culture?") Video: "Doing Anthropology"	Ethnography, fieldwork, immersion, participant- observation
W 9-2	Napoleon Chagnon, "Doing Fieldwork among the Yanomamo" (Angel)	Culture shock, research methods
F 9-4	Richard Lee, "Eating Christmas in the Kalahari" (ACA) <i>Angel quiz due at the start of class</i>	Informants, rapport
M 9-7	Study guide for "The Ax Fight" (Angel) <i>In-class exercise on film: "The Ax Fight"</i>	Interpretation
W 9-9	Horace Miner, "Body Ritual among the Nacirema" (ACA) <i>Discussion of 1<sup>st</sup> fieldwork assignment</i>	Cultural relativism, ethnocentrism
F 9-11	David Rohde, "Army Enlists Anthropology in War Zones" (ACA) <i>Angel quiz due at the start of class</i>	
M 9-14	Robert Morais, "Conflict and Confluence in Advertising Meetings" (ACA) <i>In-class review for 1<sup>st</sup> exam</i>	Applied anthropology
W 9-16	<b>1<sup>st</sup> exam</b>	
F 9-18	<b>Explaining difference among people: The concept of culture</b> Bruce Bower, "Slumber's Unexplored Landscape" (ACA) Eugene Cooper, "Chinese Table Manners: You Are <i>How</i> You Eat" (ACA) <i>No quiz</i>	Culture, holism
M 9-21	TLA Chapter 1 ("What Is Culture?") Laura Bohannon, "Shakespeare in the Bush" (ACA) <b>1<sup>st</sup> fieldwork assignment due</b>	Characteristics of culture, enculturation
W 9-23	Keith Basso, "To Give up on Words: Silence in Western Apache Culture" (ACA)	Sociolinguistics
F 9-25	"Race: Are We So Different": Human Variation (Link on Angel) <i>In-class assignment on film: "Race – The Power of an Illusion"</i> <i>Angel quiz due at the start of class</i>	Concepts of "race," human biological variation, social construction

BREAK		
W 9-30	Jared Diamond, "Race without Color" (ACA)	Concordance
F 10-2	American Anthropological Association, Official Statement on "Race" (ACA) Norman Sauer, "Forensic Anthropology and the Concept of Race: If Races Don't Exist, Why Are Forensic Anthropologists So Good at Identifying Them?" (Angel) <i>Angel quiz due at the start of class</i>	Forensic anthropology
M 10-5	Will Roscoe, "Strange Country This: An Introduction to North American Gender Diversity" (ACA)	Sex / gender
W 10-7	Meredith Small, "How Many Fathers Are Best for a Child?" (ACA) <i>In-class review for 2<sup>nd</sup> exam</i>	Nature / culture
F 10-9	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> exam</b> <i>No quiz</i>	
M 10-12	<b>Livelihoods and lives in a changing world</b> TLA Chapter 3 ("What is the Context for This Practice or Idea?") <i>In-class exercise on film: "Ongka's Big Moka"</i>	Economic activities, principles of exchange, social organization
W 10-14	Lee Cronk, "Strings Attached" (ACA)	Gifts
F 10-16	Aaron Podolefsky, "Contemporary Warfare in the New Guinea Highlands" (ACA) <i>Angel quiz due at the start of class</i>	
M 10-19	TLA Chapter 4 ("Do Other Societies Also Do Something Like This?") <i>In-class exercise on film: "Masai Women"</i>	Comparative method, cross-cultural analysis, emic and etic
W 10-21	Melvyn Goldstein, "When Brothers Share a Wife" (ACA) Linda Stone, "Gay Marriage and Anthropology" (ACA)	Marriage
F 10-23	Sidney Shuler and Syed Hashemi, "Family Planning Outreach and Credit Programs in Rural Bangladesh" (ACA) <i>Angel quiz due at the start of class</i>	Globalization, development
M 10-26	Daniel Jordan Smith, "Cell Phones, Sharing, and Social Status in an African Society" (ACA) <i>Discussion of 2<sup>nd</sup> fieldwork assignment</i>	Indigenization
W 10-28	Bridget Anderson, "Just Another Job? The Commodification of Domestic Labor" (ACA)	Commodification
F 10-30	Richard Reed, "Two Rights Make a Wrong: Indigenous Peoples Versus Environmental Protection Agencies" (ACA) <i>Angel quiz due at the start of class</i>	
M 11-2	TLA Chapter 5 ("What Was This Practice or Idea Like in the Past?") <i>In-class exercise on film: "Advertising Missionaries"</i>	
W 11-4	John Bodley, "The Price of Progress" (ACA) <b>2<sup>nd</sup> fieldwork assignment due</b> <i>In-class review for 3<sup>rd</sup> exam</i>	
F 11-6	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> exam</b> <i>No quiz</i>	
M 11-9	<b>The rewards and challenges of knowing another culture</b> Spirit, Chapters 1-3	
W 11-11	Spirit, Chapters 4-5	
F 11-13	TLA Chapter 10 Spirit, Chapter 6 <i>Angel quiz due at the start of class.</i>	
M 11-16	Spirit, Chapters 7-8	
W 11-18	Spirit, Chapters 9-10	

F 11-20	Spirit, Chapter 11 <i>In-class exercise on film: "Split Horn: The Life of a Hmong Shaman in America"</i> <i>Angel quiz due at the start of class.</i>	
BREAK		
M 11-30	TLA Chapter 11 Spirit, Chapter 12	
W 12-2	Spirit, Chapters 13-14	
F 12-4	Spirit, Chapters 15-16 <i>In-class exercise on film: "aka Don Bonus"</i> <i>Angel quiz due at the start of class.</i>	
M 12-7	Spirit, Chapters 17-19	
W 12-9	IN-CLASS REVIEW	
M 12-14	<b>ANTH 100-02 (MWF 12-12:50pm) FINAL AT 2PM</b>	
W 12-16	<b>ANTH 100-01 (MWF 11-11:50am) FINAL AT 2PM</b>	