ANTH 227: Cultural Identities
Syllabus
A program of study

MWF 1:00–1:50 pm, PSCI 237
Fall 2017
Dr. Brian Haley
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Office Hours: M 2:00-2:50, TR 1:00 – 2:15, and by appointment (drop-ins welcome)

COURSE DESCRIPTION & LEARNING OUTCOMES:

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.

ANTH 227 is a Liberal Arts course that counts toward Social Science (SS3 or S2) General Education credit. For Anthropology majors, the course counts as an Elective in the major. The Social Science General Education requirement states that students will demonstrate an understanding of the methods scientists use to explore social phenomena, including observation, hypothesis development, measurement and data collection, experimentation, evaluation of evidence, and employment of mathematical and interpretive analysis; and knowledge of major concepts, models and issues of at least one discipline in the social sciences.

POLICIES:

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.

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.

Emergency Evacuation Procedures: In the event of a fire alarm or evacuation announcement, you are directed to assemble outside in the President’s Garden area (in front of the Library), and away from roads and walkways used by emergency vehicles. In the event of a prolonged building evacuation, you are directed to reassemble in Chase Gymnasium so that all persons can be accounted for. 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:


All other assigned readings are available in pdf format on the course’s Blackboard 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 Blackboard web site. All items (readings, copies of handouts, assignments, etc.) will be placed under Lessons.

GRADING:

This course is based on lectures, readings, videos, and group discussions. Your final grade will be based on 3 in–class essay exams, 4 written take–home assignments, and class participation, distributed as follows:

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<td>Assignment</td>
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<td>Class participation</td>
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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 four assignments are to be completed outside the classroom. Assignment #1 requires you to collect popular opinion on cultural identities. Assignment #24 are short essays.

**Exams:** Exams will test on terminology, major facts, and associations (e.g., which group did what) from lectures, readings, and videos plus bluebook format in–class essay questions. You will receive 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. You are allowed to bring a single 8.5 x 11 inch sheet of notes to the exam.

**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 expected to finish the assigned readings by the end of the week shown and to contribute to class discussions.
READING AND EXAM SCHEDULE:

Readings should be completed before Friday’s class in the week shown, unless otherwise directed.

Week 1, Aug. 28-Sep. 1: Course Introduction
Read: Thomas H. Eriksen: “What is Ethnicity?” from Ethnicity & Nationalism, 3e
Sep. 1: Assignment 1 due

Week 2, Sep. 4: Holiday—No Classes

Week 2, Sep. 6-8: Basic Anthropological Model of Ethnicity
Read: Fredrik Barth: “Introduction” from Ethnic Groups and Boundaries

Week 3, Sep. 11-5: Pluralism
Read: Michael Moerman: “Ethnic Identification in a Complex Civilization: Who are the Lue?”
Gunnar Haaland: “Economic Determinants in Ethnic Processes”
H.S. Morris: “The Plural Society”

Week 4, Sep. 18-22: Social Constructivism
Read: Brian Haley & Larry Wilcoxon: “How Spaniards Became Chumash, and Other Tales of Ethnogenesis”
Sturm: Chap. 1: Opening

Week 5, Sep. 25-29: Primordialism and Ethnocentrism
Read: Donald Brown: “Are Ethnicity and Ethnocentrism Natural?”
Sturm: Chap. 2: What Lies Beneath: Hidden Histories and Racial Ghosts
Sep. 25: Assignment 2 due
Sep. 29: Exam 1

Week 6, Oct. 2-6: Self, Category, and Institution
Read: *Reading TBA*
Sturm: Chap. 3: Racial Choices and the Specter of Whiteness

Week 7, Oct. 9: Holiday—No Classes

Read: Richard Jenkins: “Ideologies of Identification” from Rethinking Ethnicity, 2e
Sturm: Chap. 4: Racial Conversion and Cherokee Neotribalism

Week 8, Oct. 16-20: Ethnicity and Class
Read: Brian Haley: “‘We want our town back!’—Practicing Exclusion”
Sturm: Chap. 5: Shifting Race, Shifting Status: Citizen Cherokees on “Wannabes”
Oct. 20: Assignment 3 due

Week 9, Oct. 23-27: The Cultural Stuff
Read: Richard Handler & Jocelyn Linnekin: “Tradition, Genuine or Spurious”
Sturm: Chap. 6: Documenting Descent and Other Measures of Tribal Belonging

Week 10, Oct. 30-Nov. 3: Violence, Language, Politics
Read: Ruth Mandel: “Ethnicity and Identity among Migrant Guestworkers in West Berlin”
Sturm: Chap. 7: States of Sovereignty: Tribal Recognition and the Quest for Political Rights
Nov. 3: Exam 2

This is not a contract. All material in this syllabus is subject to change at my discretion.
Week 11, Nov. 6-10: Nations and Nationalisms
Read: Benedict Anderson: “The Imagined Community”
      Michael Dietler: “Our Ancestors the Gauls’: Archaeology, Ethnic Nationalism, and the Manipulation of Celtic Identity in Modern Europe”
      Sturm: Chap. 8: Closing

Week 12, Nov. 13-17: Ethnogenesis
Read: Patricia Albers: “Changing Patterns of Ethnicity in the Northeastern Plains, 1780–1870”
      Charlotte Linde: “The Acquisition of a Speaker by a Story: How History Becomes Memory and Identity”

Week 13, Nov. 20: Ethnogenesis, cont.
Nov. 22-24: Holiday—No Classes
Read: No readings
Nov. 20: Assignment 4

Week 14, Nov. 27-Dec. 1: The Multicultural State?
Read: Laura Lewis: “Blacks, Black Indians, Afromexicans: The Dynamics of Race, Nation and Identity in a Mexican Moreno Community”
      Bonnie Urcioli: “The compromised pragmatics of diversity”

Week 15, Dec. 4-8: Ethnicity and DNA
      Various news clippings

Week 16, Dec. 11 & 14: Wrap–up & Final Exam
No readings
Dec. 14: Exam 3 (Final exam), 2:00 – 4:30 pm