

Anthropology: Global Cultures
ANTH 2322 (003): UH 09: Fall 2012

Tuesday, Thursday: 2:00 – 3:20

Dr. Ritu G Khanduri

Dept. of Sociology and Anthropology
University of Texas at Arlington
khanduri@uta.edu

Office: UH 417
(O) 817-272-2661
Office Hours: Tue 12:50-1:50 pm &
by appointment

Course Objectives

The goal of this course is to introduce students to key anthropological concepts in order to develop a critical perspective of culture. Three central themes frame the selection of readings: Ethnographic Methods, Cultural Constructions of Reality, and Globalization. Readings focus on diverse geographical areas and will encourage students to develop an analytical approach to better understand other cultures as well as their own everyday practices and beliefs.

Course Format

The course format includes lectures, film screenings, discussions, debates, and team-based in-class exercises. Evaluation will be based on participation, quizzes, a mid-term exam and a final exam. In order to foster **active learning** and **Team-Based Learning** the class will be organized in teams. Details will be discussed in the introductory class.

Required Texts

Spradley and McCurdy eds. *Conformity and Conflict: Readings in Cultural Anthropology (13th Edition)*: ISBN-10: 0205645852

Caitrin Lynch. 2012. *Retirement on the Line: Age, Work, and Value in an American Factory*. Cornell Press. ISBN-10: 0801477786

Required texts are available at the UTA bookstore. *Supplementary and optional readings will be available electronically on the **course web site**.

Occasional Handouts on relevant topics and debates will be distributed in class.

Requirements and Evaluation

Grades in the course will be assigned according to the following scale:
100-90 = A 80-89 = B 70-79 = C 60-69 = D

Attendance in class is mandatory. You are allowed two unexcused absences during the semester. Any additional unexcused absences will result in the loss of two points for each absence from your final grade for the course. If you will be absent for religious holiday observance, sports activities, or other legitimate

reasons, please provide appropriate documentation and make sure I know ahead of time. You are responsible for acquiring class notes and handouts for missed classes.

Class participation is required and expected. We will have regular in-class discussions of course readings, films, and lectures, and all students are expected to contribute to these discussions by reading the assigned material by the due date. Participation counts for 10% of the overall course grade.

Evaluation

5 Team Quizzes = 50 points
Mid Term Exam = 20 points
Final Exam = 20 points
Participation = 10 points
Total = 100 points

Extra Credit based on team performance

Quizzes: Multiple-choice questions based on the course material, lectures, class discussions, and films.

The Final Essay will be a reflective response to a question based on assigned readings. This question will be posted on the course website in advance of the due date. Details will be discussed in class.

Extra Credit will be based on bonus points earned from team quizzes. The three highest scoring teams will earn bonus points for quizzes. Details will be discussed in the introductory class.

Assignments must be typed and submitted in class on the due date. Assignments will not be accepted electronically. **Late assignments** will not be accepted except in cases of legitimate, documented circumstances that prevent you from completing assignments. **Make up** Quizzes and exams will only be given in the event of a documented illness or emergency.

Team Based Learning (TBL) requires you to prepare and participate as a team on quizzes discussions, and in-class activities. In order to make TBL and performance more effective you will be asked for one anonymous peer feedback during the semester. Peer feedback will be considered for partially determining the individual grade for participation.

UTA Email and the course website will be used as a means of communication with students. If you are unable to access your email or course website then please contact UTA's OIT Help Desk at (817) 272-2208. You will be responsible for checking your **e-mail and course website** regularly for course-related announcements.

Feedback is an important part of any kind of learning. Without feedback on how well you understand the material it is more difficult for you to make significant progress. During this course you will give me feedback on your learning in informal and formal ways, such as anonymous feedback forms, assignments and exams. I want you to let me know when something we discuss is not clear. This kind of communication will enable me to provide additional information when needed or to explain a concept in different terms. In addition to feedback on your learning, I will be asking for feedback from you about how my teaching strategies are helping or hindering your learning. This kind of feedback is very important to me as I continually strive to be the best teacher I can be. This feedback will be gathered from anonymous surveys. I encourage you to respond to these surveys so that together we can create an effective teaching and learning environment. I believe Team Based Learning (TBL) to be an effective teaching/learning method. In the present context collaboration and professional learning skills are valued in every work place and TBL will help you develop these skills.

Office Hours are set for Tuesday from 12:50 to 1:50 and by appointment to discuss course-related questions or for any clarification. Students are welcome to meet with me during office hours.

Academic Integrity and Scholastic Honesty

All students enrolled in this course are expected to adhere to the UT Arlington Honor Code:

I pledge, on my honor, to uphold UT Arlington's tradition of academic integrity, a tradition that values hard work and honest effort in the pursuit of academic excellence.

I promise that I will submit only work that I personally create or contribute to group collaborations, and I will appropriately reference any work from other sources. I will follow the highest standards of integrity and uphold the spirit of the Honor Code.

Instructors may employ the Honor Code as they see fit in their courses, including (but not limited to) having students acknowledge the honor code as part of an examination or requiring students to incorporate the honor code into any work submitted. Per UT System *Regents' Rule* 50101, §2.2, suspected violations of university's standards for academic integrity (including the Honor Code) will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct. Violators will be disciplined in accordance with University policy, which may result in the student's suspension or expulsion from the University.

Academic integrity and scholastic honesty is expected of all students and applies to all assignments, quizzes, and exams in this course. In the case of the team based assignments collaborative work is expected but the standards of integrity and honesty still apply. Please read all of the information in: <http://www.uta.edu/studentaffairs/judicialaffairs/aiwhatconstitutes.html>

Accommodations for Persons with Documented Disabilities

As a faculty member, I am required by law to provide "reasonable accommodations" to students with disabilities, so as not to discriminate on the basis of that disability. Student responsibility primarily rests with informing faculty of their need for accommodation and in providing authorized documentation through designated administrative channels. Information regarding specific diagnostic criteria and policies for obtaining academic accommodations can be found at www.uta.edu/disability. Also, you may visit the Office for Students with Disabilities in University Hall room 102 or call them at (817) 272- 3364.

***Class Etiquette:** Please switch off your cell phones and electronic gadgets in class. Laptops may only be used for taking notes. Professional conduct in class and email is required. No late entries or early exits without Dr. Khanduri's prior permission. Unprofessional conduct will affect your participation grade.

Week 1: Aug 20: Introduction

Thursday

- Introduction and overview of the course

Week 2: Aug 27: Culture and Ethnography

Tuesday

- Bohannon, Shakespeare in the Bush
- R. B. Lee, Eating Christmas in the Kalahari

Thursday

- Horace Miner, Body Ritual Among the Nacirema
- **Team Quiz 1**

Week 3: Sept 3: Ethnography: Methods, Ethics, and Politics of Studying Culture

Tuesday

- George Gmelch, Nice Girls Don't Talk to Rastas
- Claire E. Stark. Fieldwork on Prostitution in the Era of AIDS

Thursday

- Debate 1: 'Should anthropologists work to eliminate the practice of female circumcision?'

Week 4: Sept 10: Social and Cultural constructions of Reality

Tuesday

- Sarah Boxer, Manipulating Meaning: The Military Name Game
- Deborah Tannen, Conversation Style: Talking on the Job
- Jennifer Boehlke, Kinds of Talk: Juicing Clients in Tattoo World

Thursday

- **Team Quiz 2**

Week 5: Sept 17: Symbols and Rituals

Tuesday

- Jill Dubisch, Run for the Wall
- George Gmelch, Baseball Magic

Thursday

- Film screening: *Tibetan Sand Mandala* by John N. Campbell (2010)

Week 6: Sept 24

Progress

Tuesday

- Richard Lee, The Hunters: Scarce Resources in the Kalahari
- Richard Nelson, Eskimo Science

Thursday

- Film screening: *N!ai – Story of a !Kung Woman* by John Marshall & A. Miesmer (1984)

Week 7: Oct 1: Identity: Kinship and Family I

Tuesday: Patterns of Family Relations

- Nancy Scheper-Hughes, Mother's Love: Death Without Weeping

Thursday

- Clifford Geertz, 'Life without Fathers or Husbands'
- Melvyn C. Goldstein, Polyandry: When Brothers Take a Wife
- **Team Quiz 3**

Week 8: Oct 8: Identity: Kinship and Family II

Tuesday

- Margery Wolf, Uterine Families in Spradley and McCurdy Chpt.19

Thursday

- Debate 2: ‘Is it natural for adopted children to want to find out about their Birth parents?’*

Week 9: Oct 15: Social Hierarchy: Race, Gender and Class

Tuesday

- Jeffrey M. Fish, Mixed Blood
- Lila Abu-Lughod, Do Muslim Women Really Need Saving?*

Thursday

- **Mid-Term**

Week 10: Oct 22: Identity: Commodity and Consumption

Tuesday

- Film screening: *Cheerleader* by Kimberlee Bassford (2003)
- Philippe Bourgois, Poverty at Work and the Crack Alternative

Thursday

- Dianna Shandy and Karine Moe, Heading Home: Women, Work and Identity

Week 11: Oct 29: Identity: Commodity and Consumption

Tuesday

- Ritu G. Khanduri, Some Things about Gandhi. In *Contemporary South Asia*, Vol. 20, No. 3 (2012), pp. 303-325*
- Daniel Miller, Persons and Blue Jeans—Beyond Fetishism. In *Etnofoor*, Vol. 3, No. 1, FETISHISM (1990), pp. 97-111*

Thursday

- **Team Quiz 4**

Week 12: Nov 5: Globalization

Tuesday

- Nancy Scheper Hughes, “The Global Traffic in Human Organs”: A Report Presented to the House Subcommittee on International Operations and Human Rights, United States Congress on June 27, 2001.*

Thursday

- Dianne Shandy, The Road to Refugee Resettlement
- Ian Condry, Japanese Hip Hop

Week 13: Nov 12: Gender, Economy and Globalization

Tuesday

- Barbara Ehrenreich and Arlie R. Hochschild, *Global Women in the New Economy*
- Film Screening: *Life and Debt* by Stephanie Black (2001)

Thursday

- **Team Quiz 5**

Week 14: Nov 19: Cultural Routes, Media and Globalization

Tuesday

- Caitrin Lynch, **Retirement on the Line**: <http://retirementontheline.net/>

Thursday

- THANKSGIVING HOLIDAYS

Week 15: Nov 26: Ethnography

Tuesday

- Caitrin Lynch, **Retirement on the Line**

Thursday

- Team Discussion

Week 16: Dec 3: Ethnography

Tuesday

- Caitrin Lynch, **Retirement on the Line**
- Team Discussion

Week 17: Dec 10

- Final Exam: Tuesday, December 11. Time: **2:00 - 4:30**. Venue: UH 09
- Take-Home Essay Due In Class**