

GLOBAL CULTURES
AN 2322 Section 001-1ec(82133)
FALL 2012; M.W.F. 10-10:50; 9 University Hall
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Office Hours: M.3-4, W. 11-12, F. 1-2, or by appointment

Class Contact _____

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COURSE GOALS AND OBJECTIVES:

By the end of this course, you will be able to do the following:

- Define basic anthropological concepts and apply them to everyday life.
- Identify, discuss and compare different cultural customs related to the family, economy, politics and religion.
- Describe theories developed by anthropologists that study human behavior.
- Observe cultural interactions and conduct ethnographic interviews in a culturally respectful way, and summarize findings clearly and effectively in written form.
- Question commonly held assumptions about what is “normal” or “natural” in human experience.
- Discuss the way anthropology has been used to work on contemporary problems.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Cultural anthropology is a social science that provides a comprehensive understanding of human diversity. This course is designed to introduce students to the methods, theories and concepts of cultural anthropology. Primary attention will be given to the concept of culture as an analytical tool and to the research methods of ethnographic fieldwork. Drawing on material from all parts of the world, including primarily India, southern Africa and Eastern Europe, we will study – among other things – family systems, economic and political change, kinship, and cross-cultural concepts of self, religion, and gender. One of the primary goals of the course is to get students to question commonly held assumptions about what is “normal” or “natural” in human experience. Another goal is to provide students with a perspective of the human condition that is global in scope while remaining sensitive to local manifestations of cultural diversity.

PREREQUISITES: none

TEXTS: There are three required textbooks for this course, including one textbook, one edited volume, and one ethnography:

Kottak, Conrad (2012) *Mirror for Humanity: A Concise Introduction to Cultural Anthropology*, 8th edition, McGraw Hill. (Referred to as Kottak in Readings)

Popenoe, Barbara (2003) *Feeding Desires: Fatness, Beauty and Sexuality Among a Saharan People*. Routledge. (Referred to as Popenoe in Readings)

Spradley, James and David McCurdy. (2011), *Conformity and Conflict: Readings in Cultural Anthropology*, 14th edition, Pearson Education. (Referred to as CC in Readings)

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Grades for this class are based on a midterm examination, one debate project (?), class attendance/participation, an ethnographic project, a kinship project and a final examination. A final grade will be assigned on the basis of your total percentage scores at the end of the course.

Each person must stage a debate on a topic of his or her choice. You will do this as a group of three or four students. The debate will take approximately one hour of class time, and you must situate the debate for the class, and discuss the two main opposing sides. Then you must stage a debate amongst yourselves for the class, and then lead discussion about the issues at hand.

The exams will test you on empirical material drawn from course lectures, readings and films. The midterms and final exam will be comprised of short answers.

Students are expected to participate in class. Obviously class participation requires coming to class prepared. Class participation can take various forms including asking questions during class; participating in class or group discussions; visiting the professor during office hours to discuss class-related topics or assignments; and attending each class.

If students are not completing the reading requirements by class, reading journals will be required on a weekly basis. The grades for these journals will be part of the participation grades.

Active Participation:	10 %
Ethnographic Project:	30 %
Kinship Project:	10 %
Midterm Exam:	20 %
Final Exam:	30 %

SCHEDULE

Midterm:

Final Examination:

GRADING SCALE:	90 – 100 : A
	80 - 89 : B
	70 - 79 : C
	60 - 69 : D
	59 and below: F

CLASS POLICIES

Laptops: I do not allow laptops in class. They are not necessary for taking notes, and they detract from one's own and other students' attention.

Cell phones The use of cell phones in class has gotten completely out of control. You must remove your cell phone from the top of your desk, and if I so much as see you glance at it during class, I will ask you to leave. If it rings or buzzes, you will also be asked to leave.

Late Work I do not grant extensions for students to turn in late work except under extenuating circumstances with a documented excuse. Assignments must be turned in at the

beginning of class on the due date. If it is turned in at the end, it will be marked late. Any assignment that is turned in late will be marked down one grade for each day that it is late (from an A to an A-).

Attendance Policy I do not allow for absences in this class, since this class is discussion based it is imperative that you are here. I will allow for up to two excused absences, which must have documentation from a doctor or another professor if you must leave for sports. Please do not ask me to leave class early, and if you do, you will be marked absent.

Expectations for Out-of-Class Study Students should expect to spend nine hours reading, studying, and completing class assignments per week.

Make-up Exams You may only miss an examination if you are seriously ill (given a doctor's note), or other dire circumstances. Please know that make-up examinations are usually more difficult, and you must schedule it with me immediately upon missing an exam.

Drop Policy Students may drop classes through self-service in MyMav from the beginning of the registration period. After the late registration period, students must see an advisor in the University Advising Center. Drops can continue through a point two-thirds of the way through the semester. It is the student's responsibility to officially withdraw if they do not plan to attend after registering. **Students will not be automatically dropped for non-attendance.** Repayment of certain types of financial aid administered through the University may be required as the result of dropping classes or withdrawing. For more information, contact the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships (HYPERLINK "<http://www.uta.edu/ses/fao>")

Academic Integrity 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. All class assignments must be pledged.

Americans with Disabilities Act The University of Texas at Arlington is on record as being committed to both the spirit and letter of all federal equal opportunity legislation, including the *Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)*. All instructors at UT Arlington are required by law to provide "reasonable accommodations" to students with disabilities, so as not to discriminate on the basis of that disability. Any student requiring an accommodation for this course must provide the instructor with official documentation in the form of a letter certified by the staff in the Office for Students with Disabilities, University Hall 102. Only those students who have officially documented a need for an accommodation will have their request honored. Information regarding diagnostic criteria and policies for obtaining disability-based academic accommodations can be found at HYPERLINK "<http://www.uta.edu/disability>" www.uta.edu/disability or by calling the Office for Students with Disabilities at (817) 272-3364.

Student Support Services: UT Arlington provides a variety of resources and programs designed to help students develop academic skills, deal with personal situations, and better understand concepts and information related to their courses. Resources include tutoring, major-based learning centers, developmental education, advising and mentoring, personal counseling, and federally funded programs. For individualized referrals, students may visit the reception desk

at University College (Ransom Hall), call the Maverick Resource Hotline at 817-272-6107, send a message to HYPERLINK "mailto:resources@uta.edu" resources@uta.edu, or view the information at HYPERLINK "http://www.uta.edu/resources" www.uta.edu/resources.

Electronic Communication: When you email me, please make sure to follow email etiquette. Your email should include a greeting that is much more than “hey” but rather Hello Professor, etc. You should think about the grammar and spelling of your email, and then have a closing statement. UT Arlington has adopted MavMail as its official means to communicate with students about important deadlines and events, as well as to transact university-related business regarding financial aid, tuition, grades, graduation, etc. All students are assigned a MavMail account and are responsible for checking the inbox regularly. There is no additional charge to students for using this account, which remains active even after graduation. Information about activating and using MavMail is available at HYPERLINK "http://www.uta.edu/oit/cs/email/mavmail.php" <http://www.uta.edu/oit/cs/email/mavmail.php>.

Student Feedback Survey: At the end of each term, students enrolled in classes categorized as lecture, seminar, or laboratory shall be directed to complete a Student Feedback Survey (SFS). Instructions on how to access the SFS for this course will be sent directly to each student through MavMail approximately 10 days before the end of the term. Each student’s feedback enters the SFS database anonymously and is aggregated with that of other students enrolled in the course. UT Arlington’s effort to solicit, gather, tabulate, and publish student feedback is required by state law; students are strongly urged to participate. For more information, visit HYPERLINK "http://www.uta.edu/sfs" <http://www.uta.edu/sfs>.

Final Review Week: A period of five class days prior to the first day of final examinations in the long sessions shall be designated as Final Review Week. The purpose of this week is to allow students sufficient time to prepare for final examinations. During this week, there shall be no scheduled activities such as required field trips or performances; and no instructor shall assign any themes, research problems or exercises of similar scope that have a completion date during or following this week *unless specified in the class syllabus*. During Final Review Week, an instructor shall not give any examinations constituting 10% or more of the final grade, except makeup tests and laboratory examinations. In addition, no instructor shall give any portion of the final examination during Final Review Week. During this week, classes are held as scheduled. In addition, instructors are not required to limit content to topics that have been previously covered; they may introduce new concepts as appropriate.

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WEEKLY SCHEDULE

WEEK ONE

F. 8/24 **Introduction**
Reading: Popenoe Prologue

WEEK TWO

M. 8/27 **What is Anthropology?**
Reading: Kottak Ch. 1

W. 8/29 **The Beginning of a Field**
Reading: Popenoe Ch. 1

F. 8/31 **The Culture Concept**
Reading: Kottak Ch. 2, CC #1, #31

WEEK THREE

M. 9/3 Labor Day NO Classes

W. 9/5 **Fieldwork**
Reading: Kottak 3, CC #2

F. 9/7 **Ethics**
Reading: CC #3

WEEK FOUR

M. 9/10 **Problems with Fieldwork**
Reading: CC #4

W. 9/12 **American Anthropology**
Reading: Popenoe Ch. 2

F. 9/14 **Mead versus Freeman**
Film: "Margaret Mead and Samoa"

WEEK FIVE

M. 9/17 **Importance of History**
Readings: Popenoe Ch. 3

W. 9/19 **Language and Communication**
Readings: Kottak Ch. 4, CC #6

F. 9/21 **Gender and Communication**
Readings: CC #8

WEEK SIX

M. 9/24 **Sociolinguistics**
Readings: CC #7

W. 9/26 **Myths and Religion**
Readings: Kottak 9

F. 9/28 **Magic**
Film: "Trobriand Cricket"
Readings: CC #29

WEEK SEVEN

M. 10/1 **Ritual and Sport**
Readings: CC #30

W. 10/3 **Islam**
Readings: CC #23

F. 10/5 **Kinship**
Readings: Kottak Ch. 7, CC#5

WEEK EIGHT

M. 10/8 **Families and Marriage**
Readings: Popenoe Ch. 4, CC #17, 18

W. 10/10 **Gender**
Readings: Kottak Ch. 8, CC # 19, 20

F. 10/12 **Gender and Sexuality**
Readings: CC #22

WEEK NINE

M. 10/15 Midterm Exam

W. 10/17 **Making a Living**
Readings: Kottak Ch. 5, Popenoe Ch. 5

F. 10/19 **Work and Business**
Readings: CC #12, 13, 14

WEEK TEN

M. 10/22 **Modes of Exchange**
Readings: Popenoe Ch. 6, CC #9

W. 10/24 **Cultural Change**
Film: "N!ai"
Readings: Popenoe Ch. 7

F. 10/26 **Political Systems**
Readings: Kottak Ch. 6, CC #21, 26

WEEK ELEVEN

M. 10/29 **Conflict, Law and Culture**
Readings: CC #25, 27

W. 10/31 **Writing Workshop**

F. 11/2 **Trobriand Islanders**
Film: "Ongka's Big Moka"

WEEK TWELVE

M. 11/5 **Medical Anthropology**
Readings: CC #28, 37

W. 11/7 **Aging**
Readings: TBA

F. 11/9 **Ethnicity and Race**
Readings: Kottak 11, CC #24

WEEK THIRTEEN

M. 11/12 **Modern World System**
Readings: Kottak Ch. 10, CC # 15, 16

11/14 NO CLASS--Professor at the AAA's

11/16 NO CLASS -- Professor at the AAA's

WEEK FOURTEEN

M. 11/19 **Globalization**
Readings: CC #32, Popenoe Ch. 9

W. 11/21 **Cultural Exchange and Survival**
Readings: CC #33

F. 11/23 HAPPY THANKSGIVING

WEEK FIFTEEN

M. 11/26 **Applying Anthropology**
Readings: CC #38, 39, 40

W. 11/28 FINAL PRESENTATIONS

F. 11/30 FINAL PRESENTATIONS

WEEK SIXTEEN

M12/3 FINAL PRESENTATIONS

W. 12/5 FINAL PRESENTATIONS