

ANTH2202H: Peoples and Cultures – An Introduction to Cultural Anthropology

Instructor:	Dr. Nick Kawa	Office Phone: (614) 292-2391
Email:	kawa.5@osu.edu	Office Hours: 10:00-12:00 PM Tu., Th.
Office:	Smith Lab 4030	Web support: carmen.osu.edu

COURSE MEETING TIME(S):

Time: 2:20-3:40 PM Place: Enarson 017

REQUIRED TEXTS:

Goldstein, Donna M. 2003. *Laughter Out of Place: Race, Class, Violence, and Sexuality in a Rio Shantytown*. Berkeley: University of California Press.

Holmes, Seth M. 2013. *Fresh Fruit, Broken Bodies: Migrant Farmworkers in the United States*. Berkeley: University of California Press.

***Additional readings will be made available on Carmen (Canvas).

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES:

The purpose of this course is to provide a broad introduction to cultural anthropology. In the most general sense, cultural anthropology is the study of contemporary human cultures and their variation. At the start of the course, we will explore both popular and anthropological conceptions of culture, discussing some of its strengths and weaknesses as a concept. We will then examine different theoretical approaches and methods that cultural anthropologists employ when studying human groups. From there, we will turn our focus to many themes of relevance for understanding contemporary humanity and its variation including race, ethnicity, gender, health, language, social organization, and religion. Lastly, we will consider how globalization and human-induced environmental changes are challenging the way we study people and cultures today.

By the end of the course, each student should be able to:

1. Define “culture” and discuss some of its strengths and weaknesses as a concept.
2. Employ some of the basic methods used by cultural anthropologists and discuss ethical concerns inherent to anthropological research.
3. Identify ways that different aspects of culture – social, economic, political, and religious – relate to one another in an integrated system.
4. Draw comparisons between different cultures from a holistic perspective.
5. Recognize one’s own cultural biases and beliefs previously taken for granted.
6. Use anthropological concepts to ask new questions about humanity and the world more broadly.

BREAKDOWN OF GRADING:

Attendance (25 points)

Regular attendance is expected of all students. Participation in class discussions is also strongly encouraged. This not only contributes to the intellectual environment of the classroom, but it also facilitates individual learning as well.

Pop Quizzes and Assignments (5 x 10 points)

Five small quizzes or assignments related to course readings and lecture materials will be administered during semester. Be sure to read the chapters or articles assigned here in the syllabus BEFORE the start of class.

Show & Tell Presentation (10 points)

Each student will present an object that embodies a personal connection to a culture or subculture of which they feel part. Students will be asked to discuss the individual story behind the object as well as what the object might teach us about the ways humans develop meaningful attachments to other people and the world around them. A sign-up sheet will be distributed the first week of class to assign individual presentation dates.

Show & Tell Final Essay (15 points)

This personal essay will expand upon the in-class presentation described above. This will also serve as an opportunity to explore central concepts from the course and relate them to the objects students presented. More details regarding this personal essay will be provided in class.

Exams (2 x 50 points)

The midterm and final exams will consist of multiple choice, short answer, and short essay questions that frame key concepts and themes described in the course. These exams require students to synthesize readings and expound upon the anthropological insights presented in class.

TOTAL: 200 points

COURSE GRADING SCALE:

100- 92.0%	A
91.9-90.0%	A-
89.9-88.0%	B+
87.9-82.0%	B
81.9-80.0%	B-
79.9-78.0%	C+
77.9-72.0%	C
71.9-70.0%	C-
69.9-68.0%	D+
69.9-62.0%	D
61.9-60.0%	D-
<60.0%	F

ACADEMIC HONESTY

Your work must be your original work. If you use someone else's ideas, either paraphrasing or quoting directly, you must cite the source. If caught cheating, you will be given an automatic '0' for the assignment. Cheating and plagiarism are serious offenses that could lead to an automatic failing grade in the course.

SPECIAL CLASSROOM ACCOMODATION

If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, if you have emergency medical information to share with me, or if you need special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please make an appointment with me as soon as possible. My office location and hours at the top of this syllabus.

CALENDAR:

Week 1 (Aug. 22 & 24) Course Introduction: Studying Ourselves

(Tu.): What is anthropology (and why study it?)

Readings: None

(Th.): What is culture?

Readings: Goldstein - Introduction

Week 2 (Aug. 29 & 31) Making Sense of Culture

(Tu.): Theorizing culture

Readings: Goldstein Ch. 1

(Th.) Do other species have culture?

Readings: TBD

Week 3 (Sept. 5 & 7) Researching Culture

(Tu.) Research methods and fieldwork

Readings: Goldstein Ch. 2

(Th.): Ethics and anthropological research

Readings: Goldstein Ch. 3

Week 4 (Sept. 12 & 14) Race and Ethnicity

(Tu.): Biological diversity and race

Readings: Goldstein Ch. 4

(Th.): Ethnicity and identity

Readings: Goldstein Ch. 5

Week 5 (Sept. 19 & 21) Reproduction, Sex, and Gender

(Tu.): Human reproduction

Readings: Goldstein 6

(Th.): Sexuality and gender

Readings: Goldstein 7; “When did girls start wearing pink?” reading (Carmen)

Week 6 (Sept. 26 & 28) Making Kin

(Tu.): Kin and Kinship

Readings: M. Goldstein “When Brothers Take a Wife”

(Th.): Love and Marriage

Readings: Miller and Slater “The Internet and Relationships”; The Economist “The Singletons”

Week 7 (Oct. 3 & 5) Making a Living (Part 1)

(Tu.): **EXAM 1**

(Th.): From Hunter-Gatherers to Industrial Farmers

Readings: Holmes Ch. 1

Week 8 (Oct. 10 & 12) Making a Living (Part 2)

(Tu.) Consumption and Exchange

Readings: Holmes Ch. 2

(Th.): **FALL BREAK – NO CLASS**

Readings: Holmes Ch. 3

Week 9 (Oct. 17 & 19) Health and Healing

(Tu.): Disease, Illness, and Culture-bound Syndromes

Readings: Holmes Ch. 4

(Th.): Healing Practices and Specialists

Readings: Holmes Ch. 5

Week 10 (Oct. 24 & 26) Political and Legal Systems

(Tu.) Politics and Power

Readings: Holmes Ch. 6

(Th.): Law and Culture

Readings: Holmes Ch. 7

Week 11 (Oct. 31 & Nov. 2) Language and Communication

(Tu.): Language and Culture

Readings: Preston “They Speak Really Bad English Down South”

(Th.): Sociolinguistics

Readings: Basso “Silence in Western Apache Culture”

Week 12 (Nov. 7 & 9) Art and Expressive Culture

(Tu.): The Internet, Social Media, and Online Expression

Readings: The Anthropology of YouTube (video – watch online)

(Th.): The Social Functions of Art and Sport

Readings: Geertz “Deep Play: Notes on a Balinese Cockfight”

Week 13 (Nov. 14 & 16) Ritual and Religion

(Tu.): Culture and Religious Life

Readings: TBD

(Th.): Green Religion

Readings: Darlington reading

Week 14 (Nov. 21 & 24) Globalization and the Anthropocene

(Tu.): Globalization and the Anthropocene

Readings: Steffen et al. reading

(Th.): Thanksgiving Holiday – NO CLASS

Week 15 (Nov. 29 & Dec. 1) Humanity’s Future on Earth

(Tu.): Guest Lecture – AAA meeting

Readings: TBD

(Th.): Guest Lecture – AAA meeting

Readings: TBD

Week 16 (Dec. 6) Final Review

(Tu.): Review session

Final Exam: Friday, Dec. 8th 4:00-5:45 PM