

ANT 101–Cultural Anthropology

Dr. Christina Beard-Moose

Office Hours: On-Line, Friday 9-10am

Monday through Thursday, 9-9:30 am

Tuesday and Thursday, 12:30-1:30 pm

Spring 2010

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Children at Play-Russia 1900



Rook over Stonehenge, 2006

Course Description:

This course explores basic themes such as anthropological theory, kinships, subsistence, political organization, religion, identity, globalization, race, and gender. We will discuss the main tools that anthropologists use to collect and analyze information about cultural institutions and cultural variation around the world. We will also consider the concept of culture, methods of ethnographic data collection, and anthropological theory.

Cultural anthropologists take holistic approach to the study of humankind. This means that we don't simply look at a single part of a society in order to address a particular research question. Instead, we examine the interrelationship among such institutions as politics, economics, kinship and family, and religion. There is general agreement among cultural anthropologists that recognitions of interconnectedness is a necessary precondition for developing an in-depth understanding of all social phenomenon. To understand these interrelationships, the anthropologist immerses himself or herself in the culture of study while striving to retain an outsider's analytical perspective.

Objectives:

- Know & discuss the central unifying concepts and principles of cultural anthropology.
- Demonstrate the cultural character of human experience, behavior, and thought as conditioned by the use of symbols to interpret and interact with the real world.
- Emphasize the importance of learning and social milieu for cultural transmission.
- Discuss the interrelatedness of cultural systems within societies.
- Describe and evaluate the techniques of ethnographic data collection and diffusion.

Required Textbooks:

Lenkeit, Roberta

2006 *Introducing Cultural Anthropology*, 3rd Edition. McGraw-Hill, NY

Endicott and Endicott

2007 *The Headman was a Woman*. Waveland Press, Long Grove, ILL.

!!!WARNING!!!WARNING!!!WARNING!!!WARNING!!!WARNING!!!WARNING!!!

By intention, this class may be hazardous to your current belief system, worldview, and understanding of the cosmos. There is undoubtedly something here that will offend someone. You should expect to be angry and perhaps even changed by the experience. Some of the materials used in this class may be especially difficult for some students. The graphic nature of these materials makes it essential that students be able and willing to conduct themselves with maturity.

!!!WARNING!!!WARNING!!!WARNING!!!WARNING!!!WARNING!!!WARNING!!!

Basic Student Responsibilities:

In addition to the usual expectations of attendance and preparation, you, the student, are expected to contribute to class discussion. Cultivating an anthropological awareness requires that you learn the basic elements of systematic and critical social science, rather than trusting and relying on ideological or common sense accounts of the world. Therefore, I expect you to think critically, interact with other students and ask questions. ALL questions asked in class are valid and deserve attention. Remember, you have something valuable to say and what you learn from this class will be in proportion to what you put into it!

Attendance and Class Participation:

Your presence is required in this class every scheduled meeting time. I take roll daily and I notice who participates in class discussion. **For college-wide policy, see catalog p. 68.** If you are shy, I urge you to come speak to me in private during office hours. My goal is to create an atmosphere that encourages questions, comments, new ideas at all times. Each day missed over the established allowance costs 4 points. (60 points total)

Daily Quizzes and Homework:

There will be a quiz for every chapter that we cover in the text, usually thirteen to fifteen. They will be either handed out the session before they are due or will be from the discussion questions for each chapter. You must read the chapter in order to complete the quiz. Most quizzes are to be done at home for the next class, however, occasionally, we will do quizzes in class together. So be sure to bring your book to class!!! Quizzes **CANNOT** be made up. However, I will only count the top ten quiz grades for the term. (100 points)

Exams:

There will be a total of three [3] exams for this class. Please see the class schedule on the last pages for the date of each exam. We will discuss the format of each exam prior to each one. (300 points)

Writing Assignments:

Your writing assignment for this class will consist of two (2) papers which we will discuss separately. You must access the details on my website: <http://drbeardmoose.com>. **Any type of plagiarism or cheating will be dealt with quickly and severely with an automatic F in the class. For college-wide policy, see catalog p. 69.** (100 points)

Grading:

I use a simple tally of points for the final grade. There are 560 points available. If you get:

504-560=A

476-503 =B+

448-475=B

420-447=C+

392-419 =C

364-393=D+

336-363=D

<335=F

Class Schedule:

- Week of 1/25 Introductions to each other and the course. . . What is Anthropology?
Chapter 1. Anthropology: What are its Subfields and Perspectives?
- Week of 2/1 Chapter 2. Culture: What makes us Strangers When we are away from home?
Film: "Shock of the Other"
- Week of 2/8 Chapter 3. Fieldwork: How are data gathered?
Film: "Margaret Mead and Samoa"
- Week of 2/15 Chapter 4. Language: Is this what makes us Human?
Film: "Tightrope of Power"
- Week of 2/22 Exam #1 Remember, Bring a Scantron and a #2 Pencil.
- Week of 3/1 Chapter 5. Subsistence Strategies and Resource Allocation I: Foragers
Film: "Baka: People of the Forest"
- Week of 3/8 Chapter 6. Subsistence Strategies and Resource Allocation II: Food Production
Film: "Masai Women"
- Week of 3/15 Chapter 7. Marriage, Family and Residence: What are the Possibilities?
- Week of 3/22 Chapter 8. Kinship and Descent: Are these the ties that bind?
Film: "Strange Relations"
- Week of 3/29 No Class – Spring Break
- Week of 4/5 Chapter 9. Gender and Sexuality: Nature or Nurture?
- Week of 4/12 Chapter 10. Political Order, Disorder, and Social Control: Who Decides?
Film: "Ongka's Big Moka"
- Week of 4/19 Exam #2 Remember, Bring a Scantron and a #2 Pencil.
- Week of 4/26 Chapter 11. Belief Systems: How do we explain the unexplainable?
Film: "Touching the Timeless"
- Week of 5/3 Chapter 12: Expressions: Is this art?
Film: "Cherokee Artisans: Basket-makers, Potters, and Woodcarvers"
- Week of 5/10 Chapter 13: Culture Change and Globalization: What have we learned?
- Week of 5/17 Film: "Cannibal Tours"
5/19 Last Day of Class: Pick up all materials and get your final grade.

Please keep in mind that any syllabus calendar is meant to guide us through the semester. However, there will be times that we may spend more time on one discussion topic and less on another and the class calendar will change accordingly. The dates for the exams are fixed and will not be moved as is the due date for the paper. Other than that, it is important to remain flexible to ensure the best possible use of class time and to ensure everyone's questions and concerns are answered at all times.