

Ant 100- 00 (Day)
Cultural Anthropology
Fall 2008

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SYLLABUS

Description: This is an introductory course in cultural anthropology. You will read about the major topical areas of the field, as well as two ethnographies of non-Western people: the Dobe Ju/'hoansi people of southern Africa and the Bakairi of Brazil. The ethnographies illustrate important points about human ecology, family, gender, religion, and world view. The goals of the course are to familiarize you with human diversity and to help you understand globalization and its impact on non-Western societies. Format: lecture and discussion. 3-credit course.

Books

Conrad Kottak – **Mirror for Humanity**, 6th edition
Richard Lee – **The Dobe Ju/'hoansi**, 3rd edition
Debra Picchi – **The Bakairi Indians of Brazil**, 2nd edition
Selected reserve materials

Grading and Requirements

Midterm Exam	25%	(Oct 7)
Final Exam	35%	(Final exam period)
Research Report*	25%	(Nov. 25)
Participation (attendance and class presentation**)	15%	
	100%	

Student Code of Behavior: You are bound by *Community Standards for Academic Conduct* in the Student Handbook. The specific rules are below. I thank you in advance.

1. **Exam Policy:** Exams are governed by the Honor Code. If you observe an infraction, please report it to me. Do not miss an exam; there are no make-ups unless there are *truly exceptional circumstances, as determined by me*. You must not leave the exam room until you are done. Cell phones etc must be turned off and stored away during the exam.
2. **Papers:** Evidence of plagiarism will net a zero on the assignment and an “F” in the course. Plagiarism includes borrowing, in whole or part, from any source without proper citation. Late penalties on papers apply – usually 10 points per day.
3. **Attendance:** You are expected to attend all classes, and arriving late (unless excused) amounts to an absence. Sending me an email or one from the Student Affairs’ office about an absence is a welcome courtesy, but it *does not automatically lead* to an excused absence. Unexcused absences will lower your grade by as much as a letter grade.
4. **Classroom Protocol:** I can see clearly what is going on, so please observe basic rules of civility: arrive on time, turn off phone, do not talk or eat in class. The class is only slightly over an hour, so kindly do not get up and leave while the class is in session. Please do not bring laptops to class.
5. **Email:** Kindly use email as a formal mode of communication (i.e. like a business letter) with the appropriate parts, correct spelling, and polite language.

* **Research report.** See topics on separate sheet.

The paper should be typed, double-spaced, and in *12-point* font with normal margins and spacing. Length should be 8-10 pages, *excluding* the references and title page. See above about plagiarism.

Style and grammar: The references section should follow any of the standard formats as APA or MLA. Web sources should include, where possible, author and title in addition to URL and your date of visit. Points are deducted for poor style and organization, incorrect grammar, and typos.

**** Participation grade:** It is based on three things: regular attendance, classroom engagement, and one class presentation, which is as follows: a report done with a small group on a chapter in one of the case studies. Write down your points for the presentation. You have 5-8 minutes for your report. Do not miss the scheduled presentation of your work; if something serious keeps you away, email your material to someone in your group and let me know about your absence.

Learning Objectives:

Becoming aware of cultures that are very different from your own.

One of the theoretical goals of the course is to introduce the social science perspective on society.

Throughout the course, issues of race, gender, class, and ethnicity have a prominent place.

Discussions of ethnographies are a natural place for considering people's tendencies to make racial and ethnic attributions.

Outcomes and Means of Assessment:

Understand key concepts in cultural anthropology: culture, evolution, ethnocentrism, cultural relativism, gender, class, race, ethnicity, etc. Assessed by exams.

Understand some degree of human variation with respect to family and kinship, subsistence, politics, law, and religion. Assessed by exams.

Become aware of impact of globalization on small societies. Assessed by exams and paper.

Use productive research strategies and write a research paper on a cultural group. Assessed by report.

Schedule. (*Please read material before class.*)

Week 1

Aug 26 Introduction to course and four fields. **Read:** Kottak, chapter 1.

Aug 28 Doing ethnographic research. **Read:** Kottak chapter 2 & chapters on research methods by Bernard (from *Research Methods in Anthropology*) on reserve in library

Week 2

Sept 2 Ethical issues in fieldwork. Doing ethnography and IRB restrictions.

Read: Re-read sections on ethics in Kottak chapter 2

Sept 4 Biological and cultural evolution: importance of both for humans.

Video: *Nanook of the North*

Week 3

Sept 9 Core concepts: culture and society; ethnocentrism, cultural relativism.

Read: Kottak chapter 3.

Sept 11 Language – features of language and speech. **Read:** Kottak chapter 4.

Week 4

Sept 16 **Begin first case study:** The *Dobe Ju*. I will introduce book after which student groups' reports begin. Each report should be about 5-8 minutes. Presenters should use notes; don't read from book. **Read:** *Dobe Ju/' hoansi*

Sept 18 Two group reports on assigned chapters. **Read:** *Dobe Ju/' hoansi*
Video: *The Hunters* (portion of video)

Week 5

Sept 23 The *Dobe Ju*. Group reports continue. **Read:** complete *Dobe Ju/' hoansi*

Sept 25 Complete discussion of *Dobe Ju*.

Week 6

Sept 30 Types of subsistence systems: foraging, horticultural, pastoral, and agrarian.
Read: Kottak chapter 5

Oct 2 Reciprocity and redistribution. **Read:** Kottak chapter 5.
Video: *Affluenza* (2nd edition, 2005)

Week 7

Oct 7 **Midterm Exam** (Do not miss exam. There are no make-ups)

Oct 11 Gender roles, gender inequality. **Read:** Kottak chapter 8

Week 8

Oct 14 Fall break

Oct 16 Domestic groups: marriage. **Read:** Kottak chapter 7

Week 9

Oct 21 Domestic groups: kinship and descent

Oct 23 **Video:** *China's Lost Girls* (my copy)

Week 10

Oct 28 **Begin second case study:** The *Bakairi*.
I will introduce the group, reviewing chapters 1-3. Groups begin reporting after my introduction. **Read:** *Bakairi Indians of Brazil*. chapters 1-5.

Oct 30 Group report on chapter 6-8 (reports for first 20 minutes of class)
Video: *Disappearing World series: The Kayapo*

Week 11

Nov 4 Cultural changes among *Bakairi*. Complete reports of chapters 9-11.
Read: complete *Bakairi Indians*.

Nov 6 Political types: bands and tribes, chiefdoms and states. Class and caste.
Read: Kottak chapter 6

Week 12

Nov 11 The modern world system and globalization: origins and contemporary problems.
Read: Kottak chapters 10, 13

Nov 13 **Video:** *Life and Debt*. (Take notes for discussion)

Week 13

Nov 18 Discussion of *Life and Debt*. World Bank, IMF, and WTO.
Read: Handout on IMF & WTO.

Nov 20 **Video:** *Understanding Race*

Week 14

Nov 25 Ethnicity and race as a cultural construct.
Read: Kottak chapter 11, chap 1:pp. 5-12.
Paper due today.

Nov 27 **Thanksgiving**

Week 15

Dec 2 Religion – origin, types, and functions.
Read: Kottak chapter 9.

Dec 4 Course wrap-up.
Video: Shamanism

Final exam covers material after midterm and is in exam period. Check campus web for final grade – please do not call me.