

**Sociocultural Anthropology**  
ANT 100-80-2 and ANT 100-70-2  
Cedar Crest College, Spring 2009  
Thursday, 7-9:30 pm, Curtis Hall 241

Instructor: Benjamin Carter, Ph.D.

Office: Curtis 236

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Office Hours: 6:30-7, 9:30-10, or by appointment

**Description:**

This course will acquaint students with common concepts, theories and methodologies of cultural (or *social*) anthropology and will seek to impart an appreciation of global cultural diversity. Students will be expected to demonstrate how anthropology is holistic, cross-cultural and cross-discipline. Students will be expected to demonstrate understanding of anthropological terminology, especially the three main concepts of culture, ethnocentrism, and cultural relativism. We will examine cultural institutions and how they vary between cultures around the world. Upon completion of this course students should be better equipped to make critical judgments concerning daily world affairs and thoroughly prepared for specialized upper-level cultural anthropology courses.

WARNING: Some of these topics will be controversial. Please treat the instructor and fellow students with respect, no matter how much you disagree with them.

**Objectives:**

*The student will be able to:*

- outline the basic tenets of cultural anthropology including: culture, society, participant observation, ethnocentrism, and cultural relativism.
- provide explanations of the biological and moral equality of all humans.
- place anthropology, as a discipline, within its historical and social context.
- portray how anthropologists do anthropology.
- describe the different ways in which people throughout the world are organized along social, political, economic and religious dimensions.
- provide examples of the cultural logic of some of the different ways in which people live.
- describe the influence of European colonization upon societies throughout the world.
- explain the effect that we, as Americans, have on other people and that they have upon us.

**Course Expectations:**

*To insure a productive and stimulating learning environment, students are expected to:*

- attend class and arrive on-time.
- be prepared for each class and take part in discussions.
- be aware of assignment due dates as listed in the syllabus.
- complete assignments on time.
- participate meaningfully and respectfully in class.

**Required Books:**

*Human Culture: Highlights of Cultural Anthropology* by Carol and Melvin Ember. Pearson Prentice Hall: Upper Saddle River, NJ. 2009 (ISBN: 978-0-13-603629-6)

*Annual Editions: Anthropology 07/08*, edited by Elvio Angeloni. McGraw-Hill: New York. 2007 (ISBN: 978-0-07-351627-1).

**Other Requirements:**

Readings: All other readings can be found on eCollege. Complete references for these works follow the schedule at the end of the syllabus. You are required to complete the assigned readings by the class for which they are listed.

**Assessment:**Quizzes (20%)

Each class you will take a quiz based upon the readings for that week. These are designed to assess your completion and comprehension of the material. They short and should take about 10 minutes of class time.

Research Paper (20%)

You will research an element of a culture for which there is anthropological literature. A list of cultures will be provided and the paper will be a minimum of 10 pages long and you will be required to research your topic. You will present your final findings at the end of class. More information will be forthcoming.

Midterm Exam (20%)

The midterm exam will be comprised of a mixture of objective (multiple choice, T/F and matching) questions along with written answers (short and long answer).

Final Exam (25%)

The final exam will be similar to the midterm. The exam will be cumulative, but will stress material covered since the midterm.

Attendance/Participation (15%)

You are all adults and it is your responsibility to come to class regularly and on time. The input of each student contributes to the success of this class. If you are not here, that contributes negatively to the education of others. If you do not attend regularly, you can expect to do poorly on course assessments. We will be covering a great deal of material in a very short period of time. If you do miss a class, make arrangements with your fellow students to discuss missed material. Please feel free to see me during office hours, but you must have 1) acquired the notes from a classmate and 2) read the material for that class. The grade for class participation is based upon three components 1) attendance, 2) participation and 3) completion of in-class activities.

**Electronic Devices:**

All electronic devices, including cell phones, personal digital assistants (PDAs), and wireless email devices (like Blackberry and Bluetooth enabled devices), should be turned **OFF** during class. No electronic devices are permitted in the classroom at all during examinations.

### Weekly Reading and Lecture Schedule

Week 1 (Thursday, January 22)	Introduction and Historical Roots	Ember and Ember Ch 1 Miner (AE31) Linton (AE7)
Week 2 (Thursday, January 29)	Culture and Cultural Relativism	Ember and Ember Ch 2 (22-37) Boas 2008 (1940) Ahmadu 2000 Parker 1995
Week 3 (Thursday, February 5)	Doing Anthropology	Ember and Ember Ch 2 (37-42) Chagnon (AE 1) Sterk (AE 4)
Week 4 (Thursday, February 12)	Language	Ember and Ember Ch 3 Nowak 2003 MacNeil 2008 (2005) Tannen 2008 (1994)
Week 5 (Thursday, February 19)	Making a Living- Subsistence	Ember and Ember Ch 4:68-84 Sahlins 2008 (1972) Goldammer 1998
Week 6 (Thursday, February 26)	Making a Living- Exchange	Ember and Ember Ch 4:84-91 Lee (AE 3) Counts (AE15) Malinowski 1922
Week 7 (Thursday, March 5)	Gender	Ember and Ember Ch 6 Nanda 2000 Small (AE 22)
Spring Break (Thursday, March 12)		
Week 8 (Thursday, March 19)	Midterm	
Week 9 (Thursday, March 26)	Drugs and Alcohol	Wilcox 2007 (1997) Marshall (AE 37)
Week 10 (Thursday, April 2)	Marriage and Children	Ember and Ember Ch 7 Goldstein (AE 16) Nanda (AE 19) Small (AE 18)
Week 11 (Thursday, April 9)	Political Systems	Ember and Ember Ch 8 Weatherford 1988 Spradley and McCurdy 2003 Harris 2003
Week 12 (Thursday, April 16)	Religion and Magic	Ember and Ember Ch 9 Gmelch (AE 32) Evans- Pritchard 2008 (1937) Harris 2008 (1989)
Week 13 (Thursday, April 23)	Class, Ethnicity and Race	Ember and Ember Ch. 5, p. 240 Marks 1994 McIntosh De Waal 2006 (1994)
Week 14 (Thursday, April 30)	Cultural Exchange: Colonialism and Globalization	Ember and Ember Ch 10, Mann 2002 Lappé and Collins (AE 33) Atran 2003
Week 15 (Thursday, May 7)	Student Presentations	
Date TBA	Final Exam	

Citations.

Ahmadu, Fuambai

2000 Rites and wrongs: An insider/outsider reflects on power and excision. In *Female "Circumcision" in Africa*, ed. by B. Shell-Duncan and Y. Hernlund, pp. 283-312.

Atran, Scott

2003 Genesis of Suicide Terrorism. *Science* 299(5612):1534-9

Boas, Franz

2008 (1940) The aims of ethnology. In *Anthropology Sources*, ed. by E. Angeloni, pp. 1-3.

De Waal, Alex

2006 (1994) The Genocidal State: Hutu extremism and the origins of the "Final Solution" in Rwanda. In *Talking about People: Readings in Contemporary Cultural Anthropology*, 4<sup>th</sup> edition, edited by W. Haviland, R. Gordon and L. Vivanco. Pp. 191-200.

Evans Horse, Billy and Luke Eric Lassiter

2004 (1997) A tribal chair's perspective on inherent sovereignty. In *Reflections on Anthropology: A Four Field Reader*, ed. by K. Dettwyler and V. Bryant, pp.242-248

Evans- Pritchard, E.E.

2008 (1937) Witchcraft Explains Unfortunate Events. In *Anthropology Sources*, ed. by E. Angeloni, pp. 153-156

Goldammer, Johan.

1998 History of fire in land-use systems of the Baltic region: Implications of the use of prescribed fire in forestry, nature conservation and landscape management. Paper presented at the First Baltic Conference on Forest Fires.

Harris, Marvin

2003 (1989) Life without chiefs. In *Conformity and Conflict: Readings in Cultural Anthropology*, 11<sup>th</sup> edition, ed. by J. Spradley and D. McCurdy. pp. 327-335. Allyn and Bacon: New York

Harris, Marvin

2008 (1989) Mother cow. In *Sources Anthropology*, edited by E. Angeloni, pp.178-184. McGraw-Hill: New York.

Malinowski, Bronislaw

1922 The essentials of the kula. In *Argonauts of the Western Pacific*, pp. 81-104

Mann, Charles C.

2002 1491. *Atlantic Monthly*, March 2002:41-53

Marks, Jonathan

1994 Black, white, other. *Natural History*. 103(12).

McIntosh, Peggy

White Privilege: Unpacking the Invisible Knapsack.

McNeil, Robert

2008 (2005) Do you speak American? *Annual Editions: Anthropology 08/09*, 31<sup>st</sup> edition, edited by Elvio Angeloni. Pp. 36-41. McGraw-Hill: New York

Nanda, Serena  
2000 Hijra or Sadhin: Neither man nor woman in India in *Gender Diversity: Crosscultural Comparisons*. p. 27-41. Waveland Press, Prospect Heights, Illinois.

Nowak, Martin A.  
2003 (2001) Homo Grammaticus. In *Conformity and Conflict: Readings in Cultural Anthropology*, 11<sup>th</sup> edition, ed. by J. Spradley and D. McCurdy. p. 63-69 Allyn and Bacon: New York

Parker, Melissa  
1995 Rethinking female circumcision. *Africa: Journal of the International African Institute*. 65(4):506-523.

Sahlins, Marshall  
2008 (1972) The Original Affluent Society. In *Sources Anthropology*, edited by E. Angeloni, pp.86-92

Spradley, James and David McCurdy  
2002 Law and Order. In *Conformity and Conflict: Readings in Cultural Anthropology*, 11<sup>th</sup> edition, ed. by J. Spradley and D. McCurdy. pp. 305-317. Allyn and Bacon: New York

Tannen, Deborah  
2008 (1994) Why don't you say what you mean? In *Anthropology Sources*, ed. by E. Angeloni, pp. 74-78

Weatherford, Jack  
1988 The founding Indian fathers, in *Indian Givers: How the Indians of the Americas Transformed the World*, pp. 133-150. Fawcett Columbine, New York

Weatherford, Jack  
1987 Cocaine and the Economic Deterioration of Bolivia. In *Conformity and Conflict*, ed. by J. Spradley and D. McCurdy, pp.

Wilcox, Danny Monroe  
2007 (1997) Drug Culture: Everybody Uses Something. From *Annual Editions: Anthropology 07/08*, pp. 164-170. McGraw-Hill, New York

**OFFICIAL CEDAR CREST COLLEGE POLICIES:**

***Last day to Drop/Add-*** 4pm on January 27<sup>th</sup>, 2009

***Deadline for Withdrawal from the course-*** 4 pm on April 14<sup>th</sup> 2009.

***Academic Accommodations:*** Students with disabilities requesting classroom or course accommodations must address their needs prior to the development of accommodations..

***Academic Integrity (courtesy of Fred Curtis)-*** All work must adhere to the university policies concerning academic integrity and honesty. You must do your own work. You must cite sources appropriately in all papers. The Academic Integrity policy will be strictly adhered to in this course.

**GOOD LUCK!!!**