

## **Sociocultural Anthropology**

ANT 100-80-2

Cedar Crest College, Spring 2010

Thursday, 6-8:30 pm, Curtis Hall 110

Instructor: Dr. Benjamin Carter

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Office Hours: 5:30-6, 8:30-9, 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)

**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 (textbook and articles) for that week. These are designed to assess your completion and comprehension of the material. They are multiple choice and will take only 10 minutes of class time.

Research Paper (20%)

You will research a culture for which there is anthropological literature. A list of cultures will be provided. The paper will be a minimum of 1500 words (approximately 6 pages) long and you will be required to research your topic. You will be required to cite the location where you found your information. We will be writing this paper in stages, including an outline and a rough draft. More information will be forthcoming.

Midterm Exam (20%)

The midterm exam will be comprised of a mixture of objective (e.g., multiple choice, T/F and matching) questions along with written answers (e.g., 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 and some on-line activities.

### Weekly Reading and Lecture Schedule

Week 1 (Thursday, January 21)	Introduction and Historical Roots	Ember and Ember Ch 1 Miner 2007 (1956) Linton 2007 (1936)
Week 2 (Thursday, January 28)	Culture and Cultural Relativism	Ember and Ember Ch 2 (22-37) Ahmadu 2000 Small (Babies)
Week 3 (Thursday, February 4)	Doing Anthropology	Ember and Ember Ch 2 (37-42) Chagnon 2007 (1992) Boas 2008 (1940)
Week 4 (Thursday, February 11)	Language	Ember and Ember Ch 3 Tannen 2008 (1994)
Week 5 (Thursday, February 18)	Making a Living- Subsistence	Ember and Ember Ch 4:68-84 Sahlins 2008 (1972) Lee 2007 (1969)
Week 6 (Thursday, February 25)	Making a Living- Exchange	Ember and Ember Ch 4:84-91 Counts 2007 (1990) Malinowski 1922
Week 7 (Thursday, March 4)	Gender	Ember and Ember Ch 6 Nanda 2000 Small 2007 (1999)
Spring Break (Thursday, March 11)		
Week 8 (Thursday, March 18)	Midterm/ Drugs and Alcohol	Wilcox 2007 (1997)
Week 9 (Thursday, March 25)	Marriage and Children	Ember and Ember Ch 7 Goldstein 2007 (1987) Nanda 2007 (2000)
Week 10 (Thursday, April 1)	Political Systems	Ember and Ember Ch 8 Weatherford 1988
Week 11 (Thursday, April 8)	Religion and Magic	Ember and Ember Ch 9 Gmelch 2008 (1992) Evans- Pritchard 2008 (1937) Harris 2008 (1989)
Week 12 (Thursday, April 15)	Alternative assignment	
Week 13 (Thursday, April 22)	Class, Ethnicity and Race	Ember and Ember Ch. 5, p. 240 Marks 1994 McIntosh
Week 14 (Thursday, April 29)	Cultural Exchange: Colonialism and Globalization	Ember and Ember Ch 10, Mann 2002 Lappé and Collins 2007 (1997) Atran 2003
Date TBA	Final Exam	

## POLICIES

### **Electronic Devices:**

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

**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 may 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. Plagiarism includes borrowing, in whole or part, from any source without proper citation. Late penalties on papers apply – usually one letter grade per day.
3. 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. Kindly do not get up and leave while the class is in session.
4. 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.

### Citations.

Ahmadu, Fuumbai

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 andf 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

**GOOD LUCK!!!**