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ANTH 216D CULTURAL ANTHROPOLOGY

Winter 2009
 Monday and Wednesday 1400-
 1550
 ITC 310



[Read article: Indian Country Today Sep 16, 2008](#)

INSTRUCTOR

Dr. Robin L. Smith smithr@wou.edu
 Phone: 838-8357
 Office: HSS 209
 Office Hours: M-R 1200-1330
 and by appointment.

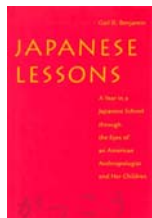
Note: If you have a disability that might require assistance or accommodations for any aspect of this course, please come by my office and talk with me during the first week of classes. You may also contact the Office of Disability Services, at 838-8250 V/TTY, for information about access and accommodations.

Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has. -- Margaret Mead

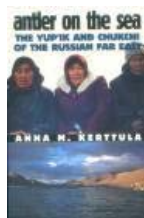
DESCRIPTION

Cultural Anthropology is the scientific study of living peoples with the goal of explaining cultural similarities and differences among the diverse groups that compose humankind. In this course we will 1) explore the basic concepts and methods employed by anthropologists, 2) become familiar with several different cultures, 3) and be challenged to apply the insights of anthropology to contemporary problems at home and throughout the world.

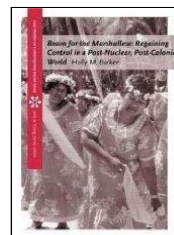
TEXTS



Benjamin, Gail R.
 1998 *Japanese Lessons: A Year in a Japanese School Through the Eyes of an Anthropologist and Her Children*. New York: New York University Press.



Kerttula, Anna M.
 2000 *Antler on the Sea: The Yup'ik and Chukchi of the Russian Far East*. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press.



Barker, Holly M.
 2004 *Bravo for the Marshallese: Regaining Control in a Post-Nuclear, Post-Colonial World*. Belmont, CA: Wadsworth/Thompson Learning.

On reserve at Hamersley Library:
 Harris, Marvin and Orna Johnson
 2000 *Cultural Anthropology*, 5E. Boston: Allyn and Bacon.

...and several other introductory anthropology texts you're encouraged to use for reference, definitions, and general orientation. Please **DO NOT** use Wikipedia, Webster's, Britannica, or other generic reference works in your papers.

EVALUATION

1. PREPARATION & PARTICIPATION. Attendance and participation are mandatory. In order to participate, you must prepare by reading the assignments and writing answers to the discussion questions. It is not enough to note page numbers on which relevant information appears, nor simply to copy phrases from the ethnography. Instead, **in your own words** define and use terms and concepts from the lecture together with information and insights from the ethnography to compose a substantive response. Write or type these responses directly on your print-out of the study questions. **BRING THESE TO CLASS ON DISCUSSION DAYS. BE PREPARED TO SHARE AND TURN IN.** 20% total.

2. ESSAYS. Three formal essays are required. Each is a review essay based on one of the ethnographies that also incorporates information from a recent journal article and from lectures. Papers are due as indicated on the schedule; no late papers. Since the essay must reflect ideas presented in class and issues raised in discussion, **take notes on lecture, discussion, and films.** 20% each, 60% total.

More detailed information is provided in this [Essay Guide](#).

3. FINAL EXAM. An essay style exam that incorporates specific terms and concepts presented in lecture as well as content of films and readings. 20%.

Grades are assigned using the following scale: A = 93-100, A- = 90-92; B+ = 87-89; B = 83-86; B- = 80-82; C+ = 77-79; C = 73-76; C- = 70-72; D+ = 67-69; D = 63-66; D- = 60-62; < 60 = F.

ACADEMIC CULTURE GUIDE

- You are responsible for a grade if your name remains on the Registrar's role past the last drop date, at the end of week 6.
 - The "Incomplete" grade is reserved for the rare case in which the student was making satisfactory progress when **documented** circumstances beyond the student's control caused a significant but discrete portion of the course to remain unfinished at the end of dead week. If this applies to you, speak to me in person as soon as you become aware of a problem. You must negotiate and sign an Incomplete Contract to receive an I.
 - I place a high value on academic honesty and expect my students to do the same. Please ensure you understand the definition of academic dishonesty in the [Code of Student Responsibility](#). I refer apparent cases of academic dishonesty to the Coordinator of Campus Judicial Affairs for adjudication. If you have any questions or concerns about how you have quoted, paraphrased or cited sources, seek my assistance **before** you submit your work.
 - Please make wise use of email:
 - use your WOU email address.
 - use the subject line to identify the course and yourself: "ANTH 216 Last Name".
 - DO NOT send written assignments by email unless specified in the assignment.
 - avoid sending email messages (to anyone) when angry or upset.
 - use office hours, not email, for requests for special accommodations
 - Cell phones? Please [turn them off](#) at the beginning of class.
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GOALS

I hope that this brief introduction to the anthropological perspective will give you new insights into the many ways human groups enact and express their humanity. Here are some of the questions we will explore:

- What is anthropology and how is it different from other social sciences?
- What do cultural anthropologists do?
- What are some of the ways in which cultural anthropology has changed during the 20th century?
- What is culture?
- How is culture reproduced from generation to generation? How does it change?
- Why are most human groups strongly ethnocentric?
- What factors shape the differences in lifeways we see when different cultures are compared?
- How do human societies regulate their size and the behavior of their members?
- How do insider's and outsider's perspectives on human cultural behavior differ?
- What can or should anthropologists do to influence the direction of cultural change in the world today?



SCHEDULE FOR WINTER 2009

WEEK 1 INTRODUCTION

Jan 5 Defining Anthropology / film: *Franz Boas, 1852-1942* **NB: Written assignment due Wednesday**

Jan 7 Discussion: Benjamin 1-86. Bring [Study Questions for chapters 1 - 4](#)

WEEK 2 WHY DO FIELDWORK?

Jan 12 The Anthropologist as Instrument / film *Farm Song*

Jan 14 Discussion: Benjamin 87-175. Bring [Study Questions for chapters 5 - 7](#)

WEEK 3 INFRASTRUCTURE: PRODUCTION

Jan 19 MLK Holiday. *No Class Meeting*. **READ THIS ON-LINE LECTURE: Making a Living**

Jan 21 Discussion: Benjamin 176-241. Bring [Study Questions for chapters 8 - App.](#)

WEEK 4 ENCULTURATION

Jan 26 * **Essay 1 Due in Class Wednesday** / film: Margaret Mead

Jan 28 Discussion: Kerttula 1-80. Bring Study Questions for Prologue - chapter 3

WEEK 5 REPRODUCTION

Feb 2 What good are children? / film *Pegtymel*

Feb 4 Discussion: Kerttula 81-162 Bring Study Questions for chapters 4 - Ep./ film: *Time When Dreams Melt*

WEEK 6 KITH AND KIN

Feb 9 What good are relatives? /

Feb 11 * **Essay 2 Due in Class Wednesday**

WEEK 7 ECONOMICS

Feb 16 Production, Exchange, Consumption & Control / film: *Radio Bikini*

Feb 18 Discussion: Barker xiii - 49. Bring Study Questions for chapters 1 - 3.

WEEK 8 POLITICS

Feb 23 Why rule? Why accept rulers? / film: *Half Life*

Feb 25 Discussion: Barker 50 - 114. Bring Study Questions for chapters 4 - 7.

WEEK 9 RELIGION

Mar 2 Believers and Beliefs
Mar 4 Discussion: Barker 115 - 158. Bring Study Questions for chapters 8 - 11.

WEEK 10 ILLNESS & HEALING IN GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE

Mar 9 Applied Anthropology / *film: Bikini: Forbidden Paradise*
Mar 11 * *Essay 3 Due in Class Wednesday*; Summary and Review

EXAM WEEK

Mar 16-20 **FINAL EXAM Friday March 20 800-950 AM****

**You must take the exam at the scheduled time unless you present written permission from the Dean of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Dr. Stephen Scheck, for an alternate time during exam week.

[HOME](#)
