Introduction to Cultural Anthropology
Anthropology 3
Online
Fall Semester 2013

Instructor: Dr. Gina Michaels
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Office Hours:

Required Texts:

Course Description:
This course introduces us to the field of cultural anthropology through ethnographies. Key themes of this course include: power and culture; the ideas of progress and the nation-state; immigration and identity; race and gender; inequality and structural violence; transnational collaborations; globalization; and transformation.

Student Learning Outcome:
STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:
1. Describe and analyze issues of power and inequality in a range of nonwestern and western cultures in Africa, the Caribbean, and the United States.
2. Identify and illustrate the dangers of ethnocentrism.
3. Identify and analyze the importance and limitations of a culturally relativistic outlook in today’s world.
4. Examine the relevance of comparative cultural studies in the search for a better understanding of the United States and developing nations.
5. Analyze the utility of a holistic approach to cultures.
6. Explain and analyze cultural practices as they are embedded within broad systems shaped by race, class, and gender.

Evaluation:
Discussion Questions/ Participation 10%
Quizzes 15%
Ethnography Projects 15%
Midterm Exam 20%
Interview and Presentation 20%
Final Exam 20%

90-100% A
80-89 B
70-79 C
60-69 D
0-59 F
Discussion Questions:
All students are expected to read the assignments before each class and be prepared to participate in class discussions via the class discussion board. Please read critically and take notes. Be sure that you understand the author’s main points.
In addition to assigned readings, each student will select a week where they become an expert in the relevant chapter or article. Discussion leaders will post 2-3 questions to the class discussion board. Each student is then responsible for posting a thoughtful response to at least one of these postings. Points will be assigned both on the days when students lead discussion and also when class members actively engage in these discussions.

Class Participation:
Active participation throughout the semester is required. If you have not logged onto our class moodle page for more than two weeks, you will be dropped from the course. The college policy on attendance is that students missing one more class hour than the unit value for that particular course may be dropped without possibility of credit.

Quizzes:
There will be a number of short quizzes throughout the semester. Quizzes will focus on the assigned readings. Quizzes will be timed and have strict due dates, quizzes cannot be made up.

Projects:
There will be a small number of ethnography based projects over the course of the semester. Students will follow directions, participate in cultural fieldwork and submit short papers reflecting on the experiences.

Interview with an Immigrant: Each student will select informant who immigrated to the United States after the age of 12. Students will conduct an extensive interview with that person and write a 5-7 page paper describing his or her story, observations about life both in their country of origin as well as here, and your interpretations, explanations, and reactions, using anthropological approaches that you will learn in this class. Project guidelines will be posted during week 8. Each member of the class must select a different person to interview. Each student will prepare a short slideshow on their findings to share with the class during the final week of the semester.

Important Notes
Students requiring special services or arrangements because of hearing, visual, or other disabilities should contact their instructor, counselor, or the Disabled Students Program and Services (DSPS) at (831) 479-6379.

Students are expected to exercise academic honesty and integrity. Violations such as cheating and plagiarism will result in disciplinary action that may include recommendation for dismissal.

SEVERE CLAUSE
Severe acts of disruption, lack of respect, such as with the use of a racial slur or an issue of sexual harassment will be cause for immediate drop from the class and referral to the Dean of Student Services and other college and legal authorities.
Important Dates:
Ethnography Project September 20th
Midterm Exam October 18th
Food Project October 25th
Gender Project November 15th
Interview Assignment May 29
Final Exam December 6th

Course Plan:

Week 1:
Introduction to Course
What is anthropology?

Week 2:
What is culture?
Reading:
Eating Christmas in the Kalahari, pp 13

Week 3:
Race and Ethnicity
Reading:
Mixed Blood, pp 217
Race the Power of an Illusion

Week 4:
The Ethnographic Method
Reading:
Ethnography and Culture, pp 6
Ethnography Project

Week 5:
Language
Reading:
Shakespeare in the Bush, pp 41
Language Use
Reading:
Whorf Revisited: You are What you Speak, pp 49

Week 6:
Subsistence
Reading:
Domestication and the Evolution of Disease, pp 93
Guns, Germs and Steel

Week 7:
Families
Reading:
Family and Kinship in Village India, pp 165

**Week 8:**
Midterm

**Week 9:**
Food and Culture
**Reading:**
How Sushi Went Global, pp 296
Food Project

**Week 10:**
Gender
**Reading:**
The Opt-Out Phenomenon: Women, Work and Identity in America, pp 197

**Week 11:**
Systems Theory
**Reading:**
Poverty at Work: Office Employment and the Crack Alternative, pp 125
Inequality
**Reading:**
Malawi versus the World Bank, pp 145

**Week 12:**
Magic
**Reading:**
Baseball Magic, pp 266
The Shaman's Apprentice

**Week 13:**
Indigenous Peoples
**Reading:**
The Founding Indian Fathers, pp 246
Ishi

**Week 14:**
**Colonialism/Globalization**
Colonialism and Globalization
**Reading:**
Village Walks: Tourism and Globalization among the Tharu of Nepal, pp 306
Life and Debt
Interview Post
Week 15:
Final Exam