De Anza College
Anthropology 02. -05
12:30-1:20 MTWTh L-72
Fall Quarter 2008

Class Schedule, Assignments, Quiz Dates and Final Exam

Office Hours: 11-11:30 T - Th
Social Science Division Office
L 13 Conference Room
Instructor: Nancy H. Olsen
E-mail: olsennancy@fhda.edu

Required Text: Cultural Anthropology, 7th edition, Marvin Harris and Orna Johnson, Allyn and Bacon. A copy of this textbook is on reserve in the library for students to check out for 2 hours.

Websites to visit:
infotrac.college.com
www.turnitin.com
www.ablongman.com - home page – click on “Student Resources” and then on “Cultural Anthropology” and then on the picture of your book. You have arrived at the student resources home page – many links to other sites and sources there. Take some time to explore the website!! Visit topics that sound interesting to you. If you visit a web page that sounds interesting to you but you discover that it isn’t – write a paragraph about what the page was about and what you thought it was going to be about based on your understanding of the words used to announce it. Turn it in for one point of extra credit.
www.leakeyfoundation.org – has physical, archaeological and cultural projects that they sponsor. Check it out!! What sounds interesting to you??
www.saa.org – is the official website for American archaeology. What timely topics do you find there?? What is interesting to you??
www.aaanet.org is the official website for the American Anthropological Association and has many links and topics of interest to anthropologists. Go visit the website at least once to get acquainted with the topics and issues that are important now for American anthropologists. Especially check out the job possibilities with for an anthropology major!!

Cultural Anthropology is a holistic study of human behavior in terms of people’s relationships with each other, with institutions, with nature, technology, healing, information and beliefs. Cultural anthropology offers explanations of why and how people adapt to their environments, make their living, take care of their families, remember their heritage, honor their ancestors, store knowledge, perceive the world and communicate with one another. It also explains why differences exist between cultures and why cultures change through time. In this class we will explore the rich diversity of solutions that people have constructed around the globe to accommodate their lives to physical environments and changing social, economic, political and spiritual conditions.

REQUIREMENTS TO PASS THE COURSE
Read assignments – we will discuss ideas in the assignments in class.
Ask questions about the reading assignments. There is no learning without asking questions!
Attendance: Three absences without contacting me will result in a drop. I will take attendance every class meeting. Be there, it’s the only way to stay involved with your own education!
Research paper – through the quarter you will develop a research question, interview one person whose opinions/knowledge will help to answer that question. From that question and interview, develop a research investigation. It may require talking to more
people or looking up articles in journals or both. Research paper is due at the end of the quarter.

**Two midterms** – Take ‘em, pass ‘em. Midterms are taken from the reading assignments, from class discussions and lectures.

**GOALS FOR THE CLASS**

- Prepare you for four-year colleges’ level of learning and participation.
- Become a better reader! You’ll need to read with understanding and thoughtfulness. Do you believe what you are reading? Does it sound plausible? If not, ask questions. How does what you are reading differ from what you are familiar with?
- Critical thinking – by questioning what you’re reading and learning, you advance past the high school level of absorbing everything you are told and beginning to examine ideas for their value.
- Communication skills – we will concentrate particularly on writing as is expected in the Social Sciences in a four-year institution. There will be two forms of writing – learn to write essay answers in exams and the research paper.
- Learn that “all roads are good.” Learn how anthropology can provide answers for you in your relationships with others. See your own goals in relation to your inherited cultural standards and learn how relative those standards are because standards change with every culture around the world.

**Expectations**

**Attendance**

In order to make an A in this class you will need to be here regularly to participate in all the class discussions about the reading assignments. Three absences in which you have not contacted me will result in your being dropped. Choose your absences wisely!! Email is the best way to reach me outside of office hours. It is your job to stay in touch!!

**Respect your fellow students**

- Talking to your neighbor during class is discouraged – it creates more of a disturbance than you realize and distracts other students around you who are trying to hear and learn.

- Turn off your cell phone before coming into class. If you are expecting an important call, put it on buzzer mode or voice mail.

- Going in and out of the room while class is in session disrupts concentration of others. If you have to leave, do so quietly. Sit near the door so you can leave with as little disturbance as possible.

If you decide to **add the class**, it is your responsibility to follow through with the paperwork. You will need to show me your receipt from the Registrar for me to add your name to the class roster. If you decide to **drop the class**, it is your responsibility to follow through with the paperwork.

**Homework**

It is your responsibility to buy the textbook and read the assignments in a thoughtful manner. Be ready to discuss the issues in class! Save all your written assignments on disk, as a backup!! Questions are MOST WELCOME – no textbook author(s) has though of everything!! We will spend time in class clarifying “muddy waters.” If you need help with reading or writing in English, take advantage of the TUTORIAL CENTER – L47 website: [www.deanza.edu/tutorial](http://www.deanza.edu/tutorial). They have skills courses, adjunct study skills, and skills workshops. Phone 408-864-8253. Drop
by and check out the hours and classes they offer to help you read, write and calculate better. If you are an ESL student I would seriously think about signing up for a skills class – it will help! **Above all BE KIND TO YOURSELF** - allow yourself enough time to do the assignments – 2 hours homework for every hour in class.

**Tests**
There will be 2 midterms and one final that will be comprehensive. Tests are both multiple choice and essay. Bring a scantron and blue book with you for every test. Bring #2 pencils and pens with ink in them. Bring several just in case.

If you miss a test – it is your responsibility to get in touch with me within 24 hours of the missed test. Email is the quickest way to communicate. Schedules are tight this Winter Quarter, make-up testing puts a real burden on you to get it done. We’ll try to work something out for your emergency. If you miss a test and do not get in touch with me, I’ll assume you’ve dropped the class and follow through accordingly. If you know ahead of time that you’ll be out of town, please see me.

**Readings**
Additional readings can be done when you finish the chapter. The readings will be handed out on a disk in class – they are free!! They are in pdf format and can be used on either MAC or PC. Extra readings contain case studies by anthropologists in many parts of the world that exemplify topics in your assignments. These readings will give you 1. better understanding of the topics and 2. extra credit points if you turn in a 2-page reflection paper or answer the questions asked at the end of the reading. Extra credit points go from 5 maximum to 1 minimum or 0 if you haven’t addressed the questions asked. These readings will give you additional material to use in your test essays, for one, and for another reason, will give you a broader understanding of the field of anthropology. The appropriate reading will be given in the homework assignments.

**Research Project**
Your research project will be due at the end of the quarter. The first week of class, read assignments, look through the textbook to see what other topics are interesting to you and **find a question that is interesting to you**! Example: How does herbal or folk medicine work? Ways of curing or healing? Do men talk more in public and women talk more in private? What is it like to live in arranged marriage? What is it like to be a newly arrived immigrant? How has my culture changed since my grandparents arrived from ____? Do games that involve betting involve more social investment than just money? Compare cultural organizations of space. Why do men barbecue (in US culture)? What do parades communicate? Do sports events communicate class and status? Investigate a form of cultural performance – can be rap, dance, “drifting,” formal Taiko, Kabuki theater, Balinese dances, Belly Dancing, and so forth. Then look around De Anza (social clubs for example) or the community (Sunnyvale/Cupertino/San Jose/Santa Clara) for people who can help you answer your question. Often work colleagues provide interesting sources of cultural information. Or interview your grandparents, aunts, uncles! Prepare at least10 questions that will help you answer your research question. Conduct an interview with one person and write up the interview – Q’s and A’s. From this interview, whether your question was answered or not, develop a more in depth investigation on one aspect of the interview. Talk to at least 2 other people to get a broader understanding. Read anthropological articles in books/journals to find what anthropological professionals have learned about your topic. Use all that to write your final research paper. You are welcome to talk to me about your question or project during office hours before class or by email.

**Grading Policy**
I arrive at final grades mathematically through an accumulation of points. Two tests (50 pts each), a research paper (total of 50 possible points), a final (100 pts), and class attendance (25) and participation (25) all enter into your final grade. The research project valued at 50 points is divided into two parts. Your first interview is not evaluated – you earn 25 of those 50 by doing it
and turning in the results. The second part is the final research paper that incorporates your original interview into it. That is evaluated and a maximum of 25 points is given to the second half, making 50 points, total. You can earn a total of 20 extra credit points for the quarter. Class participation and attendance earn 50 more points (25 maximum each). Maximum total = 300 points for the quarter. Other extra credit activities are included with assignments and often announced in class as we go along. They will earn less credit than the extra readings. 300 points or more is equivalent to an A+.

92% of 300 = 276. A- begins at 276; 285 - is the cut-off total for an A,
82% of 300 = 246 B- begins at 246 - 250; B goes from 251 to 261, B+ goes from 262 to 275.
72% of 300 = 216 C – begins at 216 – 225,C goes from 226 to 236, C+ goes from 237 to 245.
62% of 300 = 186 –, D - begins at 186 – 195, D goes from 196 to 208, D+ goes from 209-215.

Any total grade that falls short of 186 will receive an F. Opportunities to earn extra credit points abound!! If you are having trouble keeping up, please let me know!! Most students who have trouble keeping up have not allowed themselves enough time for reading, study, thinking. Be kind to yourself – you’re demanding a lot of yourself just to be in college!!! If you have a learning disability that has been identified, please see me. If you are an English-as-a-second-language student, please see me during office hours or contact me by e-mail.

SCHEDULE OF CLASS TOPICS, READING ASSIGNMENTS, AND TESTS

**Sept. 22**
Getting acquainted, buy text book!! YOU WANT EDITION 7! Harris and Johnson, Cultural Anthropology. Don’t buy any other sort no matter what anyone tells you!!! Read Chaps. 1 and 2 asap

**Sept. 23**
In Class - What is the field of anthropology about? What is culture?? What is ethnography? What is cultural relativity?
Extra Credit: Write a two-page autobiography. How do you see yourself fitting into California culture in Silicon Valley? (3pts)
Extra Credit Reading: “Shakespeare in the Bush,” Answer questions identified on the disk (5pts) or “The Practice and Ethics of Fieldwork” Write a reflection paper: what is the Problem of Translation? What is the Problem of Preconception?
Extra Credit: Channel 9, 8pm “Cracking the Maya Code (Nova)” Write a one page reflection on what you learned!! What were the problems the linguists had to solve?

**Sept. 24**
What is cultural relativity and what is culture??

**Sept 25**
What is cultural materialism?
How does oral tradition relate to culture?
Oral history project and research projects. Start thinking about your topic. 
**Reading Assignment: Harris and Johnson, Chapter 3 for next week**

**Sept. 29**
Origins – Social Darwinism - Evolution – reaction to evolution – multilinear evolution –Marxism, Historical Particularism, British Functionalism

**Sept. 30**
Structuralism, Cultural Ecology. Interpretive/ Symbolic Anthropology

**October 1**
Human capacity for culture compared with chimpanzees who are our
October 2  closest cousins in the primate family. How did it get started?? And who said so? Turn in autobiographies. Jane Goodall video. Exercise in observation. How much culture do chimpanzees have? Make a list of behaviors that are instinctive and behaviors that are learned among chimpanzees.

**Reading Assignment:** Harris and Johnson, Chapter 4. Extra Credit reading: “Body Art as Visual Language” by Enid Schildkrout. Answer questions 1.2.4.5. Research Question due next week!!

October 6  **Culture and language.** How anthropologists study languages. What we know about language development. Why is language important? How many different languages do students attending class speak?

What is Gullah? What is Cajun? Find out and compare for 3 pts of extra credit! Verbal communication – language descriptions. **Turn in research question!** – start looking for someone to interview! Schedule your interview. Need help making interview questions? Email me!!

October 7  “Do You Speak American?” What is symbolic about the way that we speak?

October 8  **Semiotics and the cultural semiosphere, memory and place.**

Rapport-talk and Report-talk, Report (10min) How was the Maya code cracked?? Report (10 min. Body Art – what does it communicate? Report (10min). **Symbolic communication** - What is “mnemonic”? How do we use mnemonics in everyday living?

October 9  **Survey of visual messages based on cultural contexts.**

**Reading Assignment:** Harris and Johnson, Chapter 5 and 6, **Extra Credit readings,** Pigs for the Ancestors: Ritual in the Ecology of a New Guinea People, Roy Rappaport pp.1-16, 32-62, 67-98, 224-242.

“Ethnic Art Market in the Southwest” by Edwin L. Wade

“Northwest Coast Totem Poles,” by Aldona Jonaitis

“American School Rooms: Learning the Nightmare,” Jules Henry

The Devil and Commodity Fetishism in South America, Michael Taussig, “Iconography of Nature and Conquest” pp.182-198,


**Research questions returned with comments.**

October 13  **Chapter 5 Production = Ways of making a living.**

Energy and the evolution of culture – a new way to think about culture!!

What’s a system?? Industrial food energy systems.

What’s “infrastructure” according to Harris and Johnson??

October 14  **Hunters and Gatherers - !Kung in the Kalahari, Nunamiut in Alaska, M’Buti in the Ituri rain forest, Aborigine in Arnhemland.**

October 15  **Farming – Herding – Navajo in American Southwest, Tsembaga in New Guinea, Team Report (10 min).**

October 16  **Industry – Production Problems related or produced by industry.**

Energy, Commodity, Tourism

Team reports (10 minutes) The Devil and Commodity Fetishism

Ethnic art and the industrialized market – Northwest Coast totem poles, “Objects and Others” or the American Southwest art market.

**Reading Assignment:** Harris and Johnson, Chapter 7

October 20  Reproduction = Population – Population considered on a global scale. Relationships with the environment.
How many anthropologists does it take to collect oral history?

October 21  In Class - What is the relationship between making a living (production) and human populations (reproduction)? How are human populations distributed around the globe? Why?? Why do people aggregate in cities? Why do people migrate from one part of the planet to another?? What do anthropologists say about population that you didn’t know?

October 22  Chapter 7 Economic organization – non-monetary exchange, trading and monetary types of exchange. What’s the difference between the two types??
Potlatch debate – 2 teams – from Mauss’s point of view, from Harris’s point of view.

October 23  Review for Test #1. Bring questions to class – this is your chance!!!
Study guides handed out.

October 27  Test #1 – bring #2 pencils, pens, a scantron and blue book to class.
(1 hour, 50 points)
Reading Assignment: Harris and Johnson, Chapter 8 and 9
Extra Credit Reading: “Men and Women in !Kung Society,” by Marjorie Shostak. Answer the question: How do the !Kung think about marriage? “The Mating Game,” by Julia M. Klein. Answer the question: How is love not blind?? Extra Credit assignment: Rent “Monsoon Wedding” or “The Syrian Bride” (3 points each) and hand in a one-page discussion about (Monsoon) the different ways that two classes of people in the same culture experience with marriage. What is it based on, do you think? or (Syrian Bride) what are the social pressures on the bride? Family pressures? What are customary rituals in a Syrian marriage – how have the politics changed it? (Tests returned Nov. 3).

October 28  Chapter 8 Domestic Life – households and marriage
The beginning of “structure” in human behavior and ways that people perceive their relationships with other people. Who do you share food/school/work/crayons with? How many different kinds of domestic groups around the world are there?

October 29  Marriage/kinship video.

October 30  Chapter 9 Descent, Locality, and Kinship
Descent rules, marriage eligibility, kindreds, lineages. “Kin terms are negotiated, not written in stone” – sez Harris. Do you agree?
Reading Assignment: Harris and Johnson: Read chapters 10 & 11. Do your interviews!!

Happy Halloween!! Why do we celebrate Halloween? Why are we afraid of the dark? What does darkness have to do with anything?? What’s getting darker?? What’s the symbolic significance between darkness and order??
Nov. 3  Political Life - Law, Order, and War in non-state societies. 
Band, villages, tribes – how does their political organization relate to the environment in which they live? How do each of these groups of people resolve differences without killing each other? Big Man systems.

Nov. 4  Chiefdoms and States - What makes the difference between them??
Nov. 5  Why war?? Why genocide? “Discovering Dominga” video
Nov. 6  Extra credit: write a reflection paper (1-2 pages) on this video. What did you learn about violence? Extra Credit: Go to Video Express and check out. Watch -“Ongka’s Big Moka” and answer this question “Why can’t Ongka make people cooperate any more than they do?”

Read chapters 13 and 14 for next week. First interview is due next week!!

Nov. 10  HOLIDAY!! Get your interview finished and typed!!

Nov. 11  Chapter 12 - Class and Caste – can you identify differences between them? Would you recognize them if you saw them in action?
Turn in interview!! (Interviews will be returned by Nov. 17 with comment.)
Extra credit assignment: rent “Snow Falling On Cedars” or “Crash”
Turn in 1 page listing the issues that Chap. 12 and 13 discuss. (3 pts)

Nov. 12  Chapter 13 - Ethnicity, Race and Racism – what does physical anthropology know about people’s physical differences?? What is the theory of “Out of Africa”? Or not?? ‘What is “social construction?” Turn in interview!! After today, it’s late!!

Nov. 13. “The New Los Angeles” video
Extra Credit Assignment: Write a 1-2 page reflection paper on how race and immigration affects big city organization as exemplified by Los Angeles. How might these issues affect other big cities?
Reading Assignment: Harris and Johnson, Chapter 14 Sexuality and Gender Stratification
Extra Credit Reading: “Symbolizing Roles: Behind the Veil”. Answer questions at the end of the reading for 5pts extra credit.
“Who Sleeps by Whom Revisited,” by Lene Balle-Jensen and William Godlstein. Answer the question “What is the multicultural view of who may sleep with whom?”.

Nov. 17  Chapter 14 - Sexuality and Gender Hierarchies - gender issues and hierarchies – a theory of gender hierarchy – socialization of children and youth. Review/questions for Midterm #2 next Tuesday.

Nov. 18  Reports (10 min) Behind the Veil, Who Sleeps by Whom Revisited, And Information Control and Social Identity.

Nov. 19  Review for Midterm #2 Guidelines for writing research papers handed out.
Nov. 20  **Midterm #2, bring #2 pencils, pens, a scantron and blue book to class. (1 hour, 50 points)**
Continue work on your research project

**Reading Assignment:** Harris and Johnson, Chapter 16 Religion and World Views - Skipping chapter 15!! You are not required to read it!!
**Extra Credit Reading:** “Leonard Crow Dog and Brooke Medicine Eagle,” Write a 1-2-page reflection paper about their vision quests. What have you learned? “Bless Me, Ultima, Rudolfo Anaya – class report, please. (Can be a team report.) Find the book in the local libraries! (5 pts for each team member).
Is the *curandera* Christian or non-Christian? How does the practice of Christianity involve local native religious beliefs?
“The Shadow of a Vision Yonder” by Sam Gill “Is the Navajo world view 3-dimensional?? (i.e. words, action, life-customs)

Nov. 24  **Religion, World Views** and ways of explaining the ways things are. Why is this all considered by Harris and Johnson to be “superstructure”?!
Separating organized religion from less formalized religions – curing – witchcraft – divination – Myths and oral traditions  
**Video** “The Box of Daylight.” How many messages can you find in this myth? Whose is it?
How does this contribute to understanding culture?

Nov. 25  **Popol Vuh: The Creation Myth of the Maya** video.
Write a reflection paper – How does this differ from your own religious beliefs? 1-2 pages. Turn in next week.

Nov. 26  Reports!! (10 min. each)


**Class totals so far available for students.**

Dec. 2  Shamanism/ trances/ visions/ healing – Navajo chants/ sandpaintings.

**Reading Assignment:** Harris and Johnson, Chapter 17 and 19, Art and Globalization

Dec. 3  **Social distribution of art in cultures** : Why is St. Patrick’s day commemorated with GREEN?? Art is a system within systems: Visual images are mnemonic Some biology of seeing!! Art is a technology!!s 3-D movie-viewing glasses will be handed out to help you see!! Nonwestern art – the cultural semiosphere and world views as the bases for cultural aesthetics. African Kingdoms’ mnemonics, MesoAmerican and prehistoric Native American calendars, African American quilts and what they “mean” culturally. Plains Indians painting on hide, ledger painting, Iroquois wampum belts – document agreements.

**Research papers are due next week~!**

Dec. 4  Chapter 19  **Globalization!!**
What’s happening to the world?? What is it and how did it get started?? “Those who have not studied history are doomed to repeat it!!” Who said that?? Julius Ceasar?? Ché Guiverra? Mahatma Gandhi?

**Research papers due Dec. 8, Monday!!**

Dec. 8  Review for final. Bring questions!! Last chance to ask!!!

**Research papers turned in!!--.**
If you get your research paper in early the week before, you have a good chance of getting it back!!

Bring an 8x12 manila envelope with your address and 2 – 1st class stamps on it to the final. I will mail you all your papers, final, research paper and your final grade. That way you can see just how the totals added up.

Dec. 9

FINAL EXAM – 11:30-1:30
And it’s all over but the shouting!!