Introduction to Cultural Anthropology
Anthropology 204

Tues/Thurs: 4:00PM – 5:20PM
Location: Hill Hall 105

Instructor: Christopher R. Duncan
E-mail: chris.duncan@rutgers.edu
Tel: 973-353-2810
Office: Hill 616
Office Hours: By apt.

Cultural anthropology provides an understanding of contemporary human issues through the systematic study of cultural and social similarities and differences around the world. The course’s specific goals are to provide an overview of cultural anthropology, how anthropologists work, and what sorts of issues anthropologists confront in their research. Students will explore these topics through lectures, films, and reading assignments. The comparative study of human cultures is also a good way to foster critical thinking about one’s own values and assumptions.

Teaching and learning objectives:
• To gain a more nuanced understanding of the various ways in anthropologists study culture.
• The ability to read and critically evaluate primary and secondary texts.
• The ability to combine description and analysis of cultural phenomena in written and oral work in such a way as to construct a coherent and cogent argument.

Required Texts: (Available at the Rutgers-Newark Bookstore, online booksellers, and on reserve at library):


All other readings are available online via Blackboard.

Course Requirements

Exams: 45% of your final grade. There will be two in-class exams in this course.

Quizzes and reflection papers: 30% of your final grade. Quizzes will be short quizzes consisting of multiple choice and short answer questions to ensure that you are keeping up with the material. Some of these are listed on the syllabus. There will more of these in the second half of the course – on a weekly basis. At other points throughout the semester I will give short take home essay assignments or reflection papers. I also reserve the right to give in-class pop quizzes. Quizzes and exams will be
distributed at the start of class. If you are late to class on the day of a quiz you will NOT be given extra time.

**Essays:** 10% of your final grade. These essays will be short written assignments of varying length (usually one or two pages) about the readings or class discussions. These assignments will be handed out in class and due a week later.

**Class Participation:** 10% of your grade. Class participation is NOT the same thing as class attendance. You are expected to take an active role in this class, discussing the readings and raising further topics of interest for discussion. I will assume you come to class prepared and have done the reading, and thus I will not hesitate to call upon you to answer questions.

**Class Attendance:** 5% of your grade. Class attendance is mandatory for this class. You will be allowed two unexcused absences, after which it will start to count against your grade. I will take role at the start of class, students who are more than five minutes late will be marked absent. Late arrival to class is disruptive to the class. Students who are consistently tardy will be penalized in their final grade.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage of Final Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Exams</td>
<td>45%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quizzes</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Essays</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class Participation</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class Attendance</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Grading:**
- **A/A-** = Consistently outstanding achievement in the course
- **B+/B** = Work of good to very good quality, but not consistently outstanding. If you answer a question correctly but your answer is poorly constructed, poorly written, or poorly argued you will get a B.
- **B-/C+/C** = Acceptable level of competence and basic understanding of material
- **C-/D+/D** = Minimally adequate; student may not be ready for further related coursework
- **E** = Unsatisfactory and unworthy of credit

**Course Schedule**
- **ECA** = Essentials of Cultural Anthropology
- **GWB** = Gangsters without Borders

**Class 1 / Tuesday, Sept 6: Introduction to Class and Instructor**
- Review Syllabus and Blackboard
Class 2 / Thursday, Sept. 8: What is Anthropology?
- ECA, Chapter 1

Class 3 / Tuesday, Sept 13: What is Culture?
- ECA, Chapter 2, pp. 31-45
- Williams, Raymond. “Culture.” From his *Keywords: A Vocabulary of Culture and Society*, pp. 87-93. Oxford Univ. Press.

Class 4 / Thursday, Sept. 15: Culture and Power
- ECA, Chapter 2, pp. 45-61

Class 5 / Tuesday, Sept 20: Fieldwork
- ECA, Chapter 3
- GWB, Chapter 1
- Quiz

Class 6 / Thursday, Sept 22: Anthropology and History

Class 7 / Tuesday, Sept 27: Race and Racism
- ECA, Chapter 5

Class 8 / Thursday, Sept 29: Ethnicity
- ECA, Chapter 6, pp. 151-169

Class 9 / Tuesday, Oct 4: Nationalism
- ECA, Chapter 6, pp. 169-173
- Quiz

Class 10 / Thursday, Oct 6: Gender
- ECA Chapter 7
- GWB, Chapter 5
Class 11 / Tuesday, Oct 11: Review for First Exam

Class 12 / Thursday, Oct 13 In-class First Exam

Class 13 / Tuesday, Oct 18: Sexuality
• ECA, Chapter 8

Class 14 / Thursday, Oct 20: Sexuality and Globalization: Film: Missionaries of Hate
• Bruner, Jason. 2014. “Uganda’s President Will Sign Anti-Gay Bill. How Did the Nation Get to this Point?” Religion and Politics.

Class 15 / Tuesday, Oct 25: Sexuality and Globalization
• Bruner, Jason. 2014. “Uganda’s President Will Sign Anti-Gay Bill. How Did the Nation Get to this Point?” Religion and Politics.

Class 16 / Thursday, Oct 27: Kinship and Marriage
• ECA, Chapter 9

Class 17 / Tuesday, Nov. 1: Class and Inequality
• ECA, Chapter 10
• GWB, Chapter 2 and 3
• Quiz

Class 18 / Thursday, Nov. 3: Global Economy
• ECA, Chapter 11
• GWB, Chapter 4

Class 19 / Tuesday, Nov. 8: Case Study: Gangsters Without Borders
• GWB, Chapter 5 and 6

Class 20 / Nov. 10: Gangsters Without Borders class discussion / Review for 2nd Exam
• GWB, Chapter 7 and 8

Class 21 / Tuesday, Nov. 15: Second Exam

Class 22 / Thursday, Nov. 17: Film TBA (AAA Meetings)
Class 23 / Tuesday, Nov. 22: Politics and Power
  • ECA, Chapter 12

**Thursday, Nov. 24: Thanksgiving**

Class 24 / Tuesday, Nov. 29: Religion
  • ECA, Chapter 13

Class 25 / Thursday, Dec. 1: Religious Violence
  • QUIZ

Class 26 / Tuesday, Dec. 6: Applied Anthropology: Will this get me a job?

Class 27 / Dec. 8: War, Applied Anthropology and Ethics
  • QUIZ

Class 28 / Dec. 13: Reflection & Wrap-up

**The Fine Print**

I reserve the right to change course readings or the class schedule throughout the course of the semester.

Readings for this course in no way reflect the opinions of the instructor, the Department of Sociology and Anthropology, or Rutgers University-Newark. Readings have been selected to show a diversity of views on the topics under discussion and to enhance discussions on the topics.

**CLASSROOM BEHAVIOR:** In this class we will discuss complex issues about which some class members may have strong feelings. However, this class is for learning about these issues, not trying to convince other students that your viewpoint is the correct one or that theirs is the wrong one. Class discussions are aimed at enhancing our mutual understandings of complicated issues from a variety of nuanced perspectives. To encourage broad participation and in the name of creating a comfortable and secure academic environment in which all class members feel free to express their
reasoned opinions in class, I will have a zero tolerance policy for the following behaviors:

- Hate speech of any kind
- Violent, threatening or disruptive behavior
- Any other violations of the University's Code of Conduct.

Any students I deem to be violating this code of conduct will be removed and dropped from the class. If you have any questions regarding this policy please contact your dean.

**Assignments:** Assignments are due at midnight Newark time. Assignments arriving after that will consider one day late. Except in the case of emergencies, you should notify me before rather than after a late assignment is due. Late papers unaccompanied by a letter from a doctor, counselor, or funeral director will be penalized a third of a grade (an A- becomes a B+, etc.) for each 24 hour period after it is due. To be clear, turning in an assignment any time during the first 24 hours after it is due is penalized a third of a grade, between 24 and 48 hours two thirds of a grade, etc. Materials submitted more than 7 days after the due date will receive a grade of F. Even with a letter from a doctor, counselor, or funeral director all assignments must be submitted within a reasonable time period.

**Communication with Instructor:**
- Please include your name in all e-mails that you send me. Unsigned e-mails will not be answered.
- Do not expect me to answer e-mails sent after 7pm until the next day.
- All course relevant e-mails will be sent to your rutgers.edu accounts. You are responsible to check this account for any course updates.

**Withdrawals and Incompletes:** It is the student’s responsibility to inform the professor if they are withdrawing from the class or seeking an incomplete. See University policies on withdrawals.

**Academic Honesty:** The Department of Sociology and Anthropology abides by the University’s Academic Integrity Policy.

Academic honesty is fundamental to the activities and principles of a university. All members of the academic community must be confident that each person’s work has been responsibly and honorably acquired, developed, and presented. Any effort to gain an advantage not given to all students is dishonest whether or not that effort is successful. The academic community regards academic dishonesty as an extremely serious matter, with serious consequences that range from probation to expulsion. *It is your responsibility to know what constitutes plagiarism.* Claiming to not understand what constitutes plagiarism will not be
accepted as an excuse and you will fail the class. Ignorance of how the university defines academic misconduct is also not an excuse.

You may not submit a paper written for another class to meet the requirements for this class. If you do you will, minimally, receive a zero on that paper, and could receive an F for the course, as well as be referred to the dean’s office for further sanctions.

**Extra Credit:** The only way to receive a passing grade in this course is to complete the course requirements with the sufficient grade. Do not ask me at the end of the semester if you can have an extra credit project to improve your grade. You need to focus on the class and your grade from the start of the semester.

**Students with Disabilities:** Students with disabilities or special needs are advised to contact the Paul Robeson Campus Center Office of Student Life, services for students with disabilities for information regarding its services or its.