



ANTH 2
Cultural Anthropology – Online
Saddleback College
Spring 2012

The voyage of discovery is not in seeking new landscapes but in having new eyes.
— Marcel Proust

Anthropology demands the open-mindedness with which one must look and listen, record in astonishment, and wonder at that which one would not have been able to guess.
— Margaret Mead

Instructor Information

Instructor: Professor Claire Cesareo-Silva
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Office Hours: TTh 10:30am-12pm; W 9-11am (online only); or by appointment

Course Information

Ticket #: 17400
Meeting Location: Online

Course Description

Anthropology, broadly defined, is the study of human beings and human societies. Cultural anthropologists study and record differences and similarities in how human societies are organized and the meanings people ascribe to their behavior. Perhaps the greatest aim of anthropology is to make the exotic seem familiar and the familiar seem exotic, thereby dissolving the superficial differences between peoples and cultures.

In this course we will discuss the history of anthropological thought from its creation as the study of "primitive" peoples in conjunction with European colonialism and expansionism to the more recent emphasis on analyzing themselves, the observers, as well as the so-called "others." We will look at the tools, methods and concepts used by anthropologists, and also discuss several key issues in the study of culture such as gender, religion, kinship, politics, identity, and social change.

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of human cultural diversity.
2. Discuss the benefits and limitations of the various methodologies used by cultural anthropologists, especially fieldwork and participant-observation.
3. Explain the importance of cultural relativism in the analysis of global diversity, and discuss how this perspective differs from ethnocentrism.
4. Define the concept of culture, and differentiate between cultural and individual perspectives of the world.
5. Demonstrate an understanding of holism, and the interrelationship between different aspects of a culture.
6. Identify and outline the anthropological framework of kinship, political, social, economic, and religious systems in a global context.
7. Critically analyze the process of globalization and its effects upon cultures around the world.
8. Articulate an anthropological perspective on current issues and concerns in the field of cultural anthropology.

Required Texts

The following books are required and are available at the college bookstore:

Myerhoff, Barbara G.

1974 Peyote Hunt: The Sacred Journey of the Huichol Indians. Cornell University Press. ISBN: 978-0891491375.

Goldstein, Donna M.

2003 Laughter Out of Place: Race, Class, Violence, and Sexuality in a Rio Shantytown. University of California Press. ISBN: 978-0520235977.

Additional Readings:

There are also several other required readings that will be available on the Blackboard course site. These articles are all listed on the last page of the syllabus.

Course Requirements

- I. **Online Time and Discussion Participation:** Students are expected to keep up with the readings, online lectures, assignments and discussion postings on a weekly basis. Online time and discussion postings will be tracked in order to determine your final participation grade. Each week students will receive a score on the weekly discussion boards that will be used to help determine the overall participation grade at the end of the semester. Scores will be based on the following rubric:

Score	Criteria
5	Posts are coherent, thoughtful, and engaging. Uses materials from the course readings and/or lectures to substantiate opinions and statements. Posts are made early so that others can read and respond. Meets or exceeds the minimum required postings.
4	Posts are coherent, thoughtful and engaging, but may lack depth and

Score	Criteria
	detail. Uses materials from the course readings and/or lectures to substantiate opinions and statements, but may not be used accurately or adequately. Posts are made early so that others can read and respond. Meets or exceeds the minimum required postings.
3	Posts are competent but are not original or engaging. Does not sufficiently substantiate opinions and statements with materials from the course readings and/or lectures. Posts are made by the deadline but are not made early so that others can read and respond. May or may not meet the minimum required postings.
2	Posts are rudimentary and superficial. Does not substantiate opinions and statements with materials from the course readings and/or lectures. Posts are made by the deadline but are not made early so that others can read and respond. Does not meet the minimum required postings.
1	Postings are very rudimentary and superficial. Does not substantiate opinions and statements with materials from the course readings. Posts made after the deadline. Does not meet the minimum required postings.
0	No postings were made for the week.

- II. **Annotated Bibliography:** Students will select a topic and complete an annotated bibliography in relation to that topic. Specific instructions will be posted to the course site.
- III. **Midterm Exam:** The midterm will consist of multiple choice, true-false, and essay questions. A study guide will be distributed one week before the exam.
- IV. **Final Exam:** The final will be identical in form to the midterm.

Grading Criteria

I use percentages not points to calculate your grade. Your course grade will be calculated as follows:

Attendance and Participation	20%
Annotated Bibliography	30%
Midterm Exam	25%
Final Exam	25%

All grades, including the course grade, will be based on the following standard grading scale:

Grade	Percentage
A	90-100%
B	80-89%
C	70-79%
D	60-69%
F	below 60%

Course Policies and Student Responsibilities

1. **Late Work:** Late work will only be accepted if you contact me on or before the due date. You need not concoct an extravagant reason for needing an extension; all excuses are valid. Students will then be given a revised due date, after which there will be no more extensions. Do not be afraid to contact me if you are having any problems with the assignments, but please do so as early as possible.
2. **Extra-Credit Policy:** During the semester, there will be a number of opportunities to earn extra-credit points. All extra-credit work must be submitted by the last day of class. *You may earn a maximum of 15 extra credit points*, and this will be calculated into your participation score at the same percentage rate (20%). This means that if you earn 15 extra credit points they will be multiplied by .20, thus adding 3 percentage points to your overall course grade.
3. **Student Demeanor:** Please treat everyone with courtesy and respect. I encourage all students to participate openly and freely in the course discussions, and I expect students to respect the opinions of others. This does not mean you have to agree with everything I or another student says, but you must disagree in a non-threatening and productive manner.
4. **Quality of Work:** This is a college course therefore I will expect college-level work. Your ability to clearly express thoughts and ideas will be included in the grading of your papers.
5. **Plagiarism:** Plagiarism, the use of someone else's published or unpublished work in whole or in part without attribution, is a major infraction of Saddleback's Academic Honor Code. Proven plagiarized work will be given a 0/F. Please contact me if you need more information on how to correctly cite the work of others in your papers.
6. **Cheating:** Students found cheating on an exam or assignment will receive a 0/F for that exam or assignment.
7. **Withdrawals:** Students who do not log-in and/or complete work for 2 consecutive weeks *may* be dropped from the course. However, do not expect to be automatically dropped if you stop attending. It is your responsibility to make sure that you are officially withdrawn by drop date or you may receive an F for the course.
8. **Repeats:** By California law, students are now able to take a course only 3 times, inclusive of the times for which they received a W or an F. If you are taking this course for the third time, be sure that you complete the course with a passing grade!

Students with Disabilities

This course meets the requirements set forth in the accessibility checklist and universal design grid provided by Special Services. The web pages, video presentations, textbooks, and class materials used in this course are accessible to students with disabilities.

Other accommodations are available for students who have a documented disability. Documentation is done through the Office of Special Services in the Student Services Center, Room 113; 582-4885. Please see me early in the semester if you need to discuss any particular issues.

Blackboard Course Site

Obviously, in order to take this course you must have a computer with online capabilities. Your computer should have at least 64 megabytes of RAM, a 4GB hard drive, and modem that is 56 kbps or faster. A broadband or DSL connection is highly recommended. If you do not have access to such a system, you can use the computers in the library, the BGS computer lab, or in the LAP, but I strongly urge you to evaluate the feasibility of taking an online course without regular computer access.

If you have never used Blackboard in your courses before, please consider taking Saddleback workshop on “How to Succeed in an Online Class.” You can register for this workshop at <http://www.planetreg.com/E12111714678>.

You access the course by typing in the following URL address: <http://soccdd.blackboard.com>, or linking to it from MySite or the college’s main web page. Your user name is the same as your Saddleback email address up to but not including the @ sign (generally your first initial, last name, and one or two digits). Your password is the same as your e-mail account, generally your pin number plus two zeros. If you have changed your email password, your password for Blackboard will have also changed. If you have forgotten your password, you can log-on to MySite and change it.

IMPORTANT: All communication will go out using your Saddleback e-mail address, so you must utilize this account. If you are not in the habit of checking your Saddleback account, please begin doing so. Students who have their Saddleback email forwarded to their regular account sometimes do not receive group emails because of the policies of your internet service provider.

Once you log-in, there will be a list of the courses in which you are currently enrolled. To access this course, just click on the link to **Anth 2 – Cultural Anthropology**.

If you encounter any technical problems using Blackboard, please visit the Student Technical Support page at <http://www.saddleback.edu/de/student-technical-support/>.

Course Schedule

WEEK	TOPIC	READINGS/ASSIGNMENTS
Anthropological Understandings and Methods		
1 (1/30-2/5)	The Anthropological Perspective and the Concept of Culture	Discussion Board Articles – Miner and Geertz
2 (2/6-2/12)	Encountering the Other: Colonialism, Cultural Contact, and Globalization	Discussion Board Articles – Bodley and Watson
3 (2/13-2/19)	Fieldwork: What Anthropologists Do and How They Find Meaning in What Others Do	Discussion Board Topic approval due date
Cultural Persons		
4 (2/20-2/26)	Men, Women and Beyond: The Cultural Construction of Sex and Gender/Rites of Passage I: Transitions to Adulthood	Discussion Board Articles – Herdt and Bilu
5 (2/27-3/4)	Body Modification in Rites of Passage/Rites of Passage II: Death Rituals	Discussion Board Article – Shweder Topic Statement due
The Supernatural World		
6 (3/5-3/11)	Religious Beliefs and Rituals and the Pervasiveness of Religion	Discussion Board Myerhoff, Preface and Chapters 1-3 Midterm Exam study guide posted
Spring Break – No classes the week of 3/11-3/16		
7 (3/19-3/25)	Altered States of Consciousness/Cultural Understandings of Sickness, Health and Healing Film Clips	Discussion Board Myerhoff, Chapters 4-6 Midterm Exam
Constructing Relations		
8 (3/26-4/1)	Kinship and Descent/Rites of Passage III: Marriage Practices	Articles – Applbaum and Nanda
9 (4/2-4/8)	Economic Systems: Production, Exchange and Consumption	

WEEK	TOPIC	READINGS/ASSIGNMENTS
Belonging and Exclusion		
10 (4/9-4/15)	Equality, Inequality, and Social Control/Caste and Class	Goldstein, Introduction and Chapters 1-2
11 (4/16-4/22)	Race and Ethnicity	Annotated Bibliography Due
12 (4/23-4/29)	Race and Class in Brazil	Goldstein, Chapters 3-5
13 (4/30-5/6)	Surviving Culturally and Cultural Survival/Conclusions: The Importance of Anthropology	Goldstein, Chapters 6-7 Final Exam study guide distributed Last day to submit extra credit or late work
14 (5/6-5/13)	Final Exam	Final Exam must be taken by midnight on Sunday, 5/13 – NO ADDITIONAL LEEWAY WEEK

Other Important Dates

Last Day to Add/Use APC codes	2/15/12
Last Day to Drop without a "W"	3/1/12
Last Day to Change Grading options (letter grade or P/NP)	3/1/12
Last Day to Drop without a Letter Grade	4/12/12



Additional Readings for the Course

All of the following articles are available on the Blackboard site:

Miner, Horace

1956 "Body Rituals of the Nacirema." In American Anthropologist.

Geertz, Clifford

1973 "Thick Description: Towards an Interpretive Theory of Culture." In The Interpretation of Cultures. New York: Basic Books. Pp. 3-30.

Bodley, John

1998 "The Price of Progress." In Victims of Progress. The Mayfield Publishing Company. Pp. 137-151.

Watson, James L.

2000 "McDonald's in Hong Kong: Consumerism, Dietary Change, and the Rise of Children's Culture." In The Globalization Reader. Frank Lechner and John Boli, eds. Blackwell Publishing. Pp. 125-133.

Herd, Gilbert

1982 "Sambia Nosebleeding Rites and Male Proximity to Women." In Ethos 10(3): 189-231.

Bilu, Yoram

2003 "From *Milah* (Circumcision) to *Milah* (Word): Male Identity and Rituals of Childhood in the Jewish Ultraorthodox Community." In Ethos 31(2):172-203.

Shweder, Richard A.

2000 "What About 'Female Genital Multilation'? And Why Understanding Culture Matters in the First Place." In Daedalus 129(4):209-232.

Appelbaum, Kalman

1995 "Marriage with the Proper Stranger: Arranged Marriages in Metropolitan Japan." In Ethnology 34(1):37-51.

Nanda, Serena

2000 "Arranging a Marriage in India." In Stumbling Toward Truth: Anthropologists at Work. Philip R. Devita, ed. Waveland Press. Pp. 196-204.