

Anthropology 104  
Spring 2008  
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## *Introduction to Cultural and Social Anthropology*

### **Course Description**

Anthropology 104 provides the basic introduction to the discipline of anthropology and its major sub-fields: social/cultural anthropology, physical/biological anthropology, linguistic anthropology and archaeology. The course emphasizes the human physical and cultural evolution from human origins to the rise of complex societies. Through an overview of the fossil record of our hominid ancestors, we will cover the basic principles of evolutionary theory, and the interpretation of paleontological and archaeological evidence. We will proceed with the agricultural Neolithic revolution as an important stage in socio-cultural evolution. We will then examine the development and increase in complexity of human institutions including kinship, marriage, economic exchange and religion, the rise of capitalism and its consequences - colonialism, racism, exploitation, ecological degradation and the politics of world poverty and the urban underclass.

This course will also critically question some of the more common assumptions we may hold, as individuals, as social and economic beings, or as members of various groups of belonging such as ethnicity, class, religion, etc. Readings, films and lectures are designed in order to provide students with knowledge and an understanding of the diversity of human culture and society in the world. The complex and variant forces underlying human interaction and social life are going to be revealed through the eyes of different anthropologists doing research in and writing about the customs and ways of life in such remote and yet so familiar places, as the Kalahari desert, the Amazonian rain forest, Taiwan, US and the Caribbean. Class participants will familiarize themselves with the standard theoretical and methodological approaches adopted by anthropologists and the exceptional descriptions they provide about the evolution of humans as a biological species and as social beings. Throughout the semester, we will address issues of family and kinship organization, politics and economics, as well as individual and social adaptations as they occurred in different places around the world in response to the world economic system and colonization. In this way, course participants might gain new and helpful conceptual tools to re-interpret human kind by themselves and understand how our actions may influence those culturally different people with whom we share the resources of this earth.

## **Course Requirements**

Attendance is necessary to gain mastery over the material and will be expected of all students. Assigned readings for each session must be completed prior to class. Students should be prepared to raise questions and participate in discussion during our meetings. A premium will be placed on active class participation. A mid-term examination, an oral final examination and a research paper are required. Details about the research paper will be handed out in class.

Final grades will be calculated on the following basis:

Class participation	20%
Short paper	10%
Mid-term	40%
Final research paper	30%

## **Required texts**

The following books have been ordered for this course and can be found in the College Bookstore. The rest of the readings will be posted on e-reserve.

Bourgois, Phillipe In Search of Respect

Mintz, Sydney Sweetness and Power

Murphy, Robert and Yolanda Murphy Women of the Forest

Wolf, Marjorie The House of Lim

## **Class schedule**

**Monday, January 28**

**Introducing Anthropology**

**Film:** *First Contact*

**Thursday, January 31**

**Practicing anthropology in the age of modernity: Ethnographic methods and theories**

**Read:**

Malinowski, Bronislaw "Introduction" Argonauts of the Western Pacific (e-reserve)

E.E. Evans-Pitchard, "Introductory"; in *The Nuer: A Description of the Modes of Livelihood and Political Institutions of a Nilotic People* (1940), pp. 1-15. (e-reserve)

**Recommended readings**

Geertz, Clifford, "Under the Mosquito Net" (1967) The New York review of

Books Vol. 9, No.4, September 14, 1967  
(<http://www.nybooks.com/articles/11976>)

**Film:** *Bronislaw Malinowski: Off the Veranda*

### **Monday, February 4**

#### **Humans, nature and culture**

##### **Read:**

Darwin, Charles "Struggle for Existence" (e-reserve)

Geertz, Clifford "The impact of the concept of culture on the concept of man"

IN The Interpretation of Cultures (e-reserve)

### **Thursday, February 7**

#### **Anthropology job candidate: Adam Van Arsdale**

#### **Genes, race and identity.**

##### **Read:**

Shriver, MD & RA Kittles (2004) "Genetic ancestry and the search for personalized genetic histories." Nature Reviews: Genetics 5:611-618 (e-reserve)

Duster, T (2005) "Race and reification in science." Science 307:1050-1051 (e-reserve)

### **Monday, February 11**

#### **Anthropology job candidate: Linda Rehbun**

#### **Emotions and romance**

##### **Read:**

Hochschild, Arlie Russell "Exploring the Managed Heart." IN The Emotions: A Cultural Reader. Edited by Helena Wulff, pp. 83-91. New York: Berg, 2007. (e-reserve)

Milton, Kay "Emotion (or, Life, The Universe, Everything)." IN The Emotions: A Cultural Reader. Edited by Helena Wulff, pp. 61-76. New York: Berg, 2007. (e-reserve)

Rehbun, L.A. "The Language of Love in Northeast Brazil". IN Romantic Passion: A Universal Experience? Edited William Jankowiak, pp. 240-261. New York: Columbia University Press, 1995. (e-reserve)

Rehbun, L.A. "Nerves and Emotional Play in Northeast Brazil." Medical Anthropology Quarterly 7, 2: 131-151, 1993. (e-reserve)

### **Thursday, February 14**

#### **Culture and the individual**

##### **Read:**

Lesser, Alexander "Franz Boas" (e-reserve)

Mead, Margaret Coming of Age in Samoa (e-reserve)

**Monday, February 18**  
**No class, President's Day**

**Thursday, February 21**

**Anthropology job candidate: Nicholas Degenova**  
**"Dialogue and the Possibility of Ethnographic Knowledge"**

**Read:**

Clifford Geertz, "'From the Native's Point of View': On the Nature of Anthropological Understanding" (1971)

Américo Paredes, "On Ethnographic Work among Minority Groups: A Folklorist's Perspective" (1977); pp. 73-110 in Paredes, *Folklore and Culture of the Texas-Mexican Border* (1993).

Miguel Díaz Barriga, "The Culture of Poverty as Relajo" (1997); *Aztlán* 22(2): 43-65.

**Monday, February 25**

**Anthropology job candidate: Jean-Philippe Belleau**  
**Forest ethnographers and adaptations**

**Read:**

Murphy and Murphy *Women of the Forest*, Chapters 1,2,3

Terence Turner, "Representing, Resisting, Rethinking. Historical Transformations of Kayapo Culture and Anthropological Consciousness", in *Colonial Situations. Essays on the Contextualization of Ethnographic Knowledge*, G.W. Stocking, editor, Madison, Wisconsin: The University of Wisconsin Press, 1991

This text is a bit difficult. Students can focus on the ethnographic experience of the author (pp. 285-294 and pp.303-312) and may disregard the theoretical part (pp. 294-303).

On the Munduruku:

<http://www.socioambiental.org/pib/epienglish/munduruku/munduruku.shtm>

(Please read the nine (9) different pages of this site, from 'Name and Language' to 'Indigenous Organizations')

**Thursday, February 28**

**Anthropology job candidate: Erich Fox Tree**

**Read:**

Geoffrey Pullum "The Great Eskimo Vocabulary Hoax" (e-reserve)

Whorf "Relation of Habitual Thought and Behavior to Language" (from the edited volume *Language, Thought, and Reality*) (e-reserve)

**Monday, March 3**

**Anthropology job candidate: Stephanie Rupp**  
**"China and Africa: Ethnographies of Engagement."**

**Read:**

Alden, Chris. 2007. "Introduction" and "China's New Foreign Policy towards Africa" in China and Africa. London: Zed Books.

**Thursday, March 6**

**Continue on Forest peoples**

**Read:**

Murphy and Murphy, Women of the Forest Chapters 4,5,6,7,8,9

**Monday, March 10**

**Farming the earth and family organization**

**Read:**

Algaze, Guillermo "Initial social complexity in Southwestern Asia: The Mesopotamian advantage." Current Anthropology, 2001 (e-reserve)

Wolf, Marjorie The House of Lim, Chapters 1,2,3,4

**Thursday, March 13**

**Continue on farming and family organization**

**Read:**

Wolf, Marjorie The House of Lim Chapters 5,6,7,8

**Monday, March 17**

**mid-term**

**Thursday, March 20**

**Film: *Small Happiness***

**Monday, March 24, no class, spring break**

**Thursday, March 27, no class, spring break**

**Monday, March 31**

**Continue on farming and social organization**

**Read:**

Wolf, Marjorie The House of Lim, Chapters 9,10,11,12

**Thursday, April 3**

**Colonizing Territories, bodies, and souls**

**Read:**

Mintz, Sydney Sweetness and Power, Introduction and Chapter 1

**Monday, April 7**

**Continue on Colonialism**

**Read:**

Mintz, Sydney Sweetness and Power, Chapters 2 and 3

**Thursday, April 10**

**Continue on Colonialism**

**Read:**

Mintz, Sydney Sweetness and Power, Chapter 4

**Monday, April 14**

**Ordering the world nationally: nationalism in a post-colonial world**

**Read:**

Geertz, Clifford "After the Revolution (e-reserve)

Geertz, Clifford "The integrative revolution" (e-reserve)

**Thursday, April 17**

**Continue on nationalism**

**Read:**

Gellner, Ernest Nations and Nationalism

**Monday, April 21, no class, Marathon day**

**Tuesday, April 22**

**Situating anthropology in a post-modern world**

**Read:**

Philippe Bourgois In Search of Respect, Chapters 1,2,3

**Thursday, April 24**

Continue on Bourgois In Search of Respect, Chapters 4,5,6

**Monday, April 28**

Continue on Bourgois In Search of Respect, Chapters 7,8,9

**Thursday, May 1 student presentations**

**Monday, May 5, student presentations**

**Final papers due Monday, May 19 by 4:30pm**

**Have a nice summer**