

ANT 101: Introduction to Sociocultural Anthropology  
Spring 2004, M,W,F 8:30 — 9:20, Chambers 2084

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Office Hours: M, W, F 10:30 – 11:30 am  
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This course is an introduction to topical areas in the history, theory, and research methods of sociocultural anthropology. In this class, we will read ethnographies and theoretical articles to explore anthropology's disciplinary perspectives. The class will meet three times a week

Our emphasis will be on the **holistic** nature of anthropology and anthropological methodology. How do we understand the diversity of societies and cultures in light of our shared physical biology? How do anthropologists know what they say they know? How is anthropology especially relevant today? In this class, it is more important to understand the thinking behind the conclusions and ethnographic details rather than memorizing “facts” themselves.



### Course Readings

- Miller, Barbara D. 2002. *Cultural Anthropology*. Boston: Allyn and Bacon.  
Wolf, Margery 1972. *Women and the family in rural Taiwan*. Stanford, Calif., Stanford University Press.  
Myerhoff, Barbara G. 1980 (1978). *Number our days*. New York, N.Y. : Simon and Schuster.  
Small, Cathy 1997. *Voyages: From Tongan Villages to American Suburbs*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press

### Course Requirements

#### Class Participation: **10%**

The most important work in this course is to be prepared for each class; this means having thoroughly read the material and being prepared to discuss particular points from the reading. Readings are due on the day listed in the class schedule. Films will be shown regularly throughout the course and are an important component of the course. Remember, there is no such thing as a dumb question or comment.

#### Response Papers: **10%**

You will write five (5) response papers throughout the term, no more than two pages and double-spaced. They are individually ungraded ( $\sqrt{+}$ ,  $\sqrt{}$ ,  $\sqrt{-}$ ) and require only timely submission for full credit. Response papers will serve as a diagnostic for me to help me see how much you understand the reading and the concepts that we will discuss in class.

**First Review: 20%**

This will be a one-hour essay exam on **23 February 2004**, without the use of notes or class material. One week prior to the exam, I will hand out five possible questions for you to think through; on the day of the exam, I will ask two of those five questions. I will distribute a handout explaining the mechanics for taking this exam later in the semester.

**Fieldwork Project: 25%**

This project, due **5 April 2004**, is designed to familiarize you with the conduct of ethnographic field research, applying the theoretical and methodological considerations we have discussed to a particular social situation. What you choose to study is up to you; if you have questions about what is suitable after reading the handout that I will distribute later in the term, please email or meet with me. The field project consists of two parts: fieldnotes (30% of this project's grade), and an analysis in the form of a short essay (70%).

**Final Review: 35%**

This will follow the same format as the midterm examination, an essay exam without using any notes or class material. One week prior to the end of the semester, I will hand out five possible questions for you to think through. When you take the exam, I will ask three of those five questions. I will distribute a handout explaining the mechanics for taking this exam later in the semester.

While students working with each other outside of class is highly encouraged, all graded, written work must be your own and pledged accordingly. All work is subject to the Davidson College Honor Code as stated in the student handbook. If there are individual accommodations for special needs, please let me know and authorize the Dean of Students to contact me so that we can work something out.

Course Schedule (subject to modification)

Monday, 12 Jan	What is Culture, what is Anthropology? Course Introduction
Wednesday, 14 Jan	<b>Reading:</b> Horace Miner essay (read this one first, please); Renato Rosaldo essay (available on Blackboard)
Friday, 16 Jan	<b>Reading:</b> Miller, Chapter 1 <b>Film:</b> First Contact
Monday, 19 Jan	Martin Luther King Day – No Class
Wednesday, 21 Jan	<b>Class Meeting in Library, Electronic Resources Room</b> <b>Reading:</b> Clifford Geertz essay (available on Blackboard) <b>Assignment:</b> Response Paper Due
Friday, 23 Jan	Comparing Culture <b>Reading:</b> Laura Bohannon essay (available on Blackboard)
Monday, 26 Jan	Anthropological Methodology <b>Reading:</b> Miller, Chapter 2
Wednesday, 28 Jan	Doing Fieldwork <b>Reading:</b> Claire Sterk essay (available on Blackboard)
Friday, 30 Jan	Taking Fieldnotes <b>Reading:</b> Jean Jackson essay (available on Blackboard) <b>Assignment:</b> Response Paper Due (Library Project)
Monday, 2 Feb	Families and Kinship <b>Reading:</b> Miller, Chapter 8; Margery Wolf, Chapters 1 and 2
Wednesday, 4 Feb	Getting Married in China <b>Reading:</b> Continue reading Margery Wolf, Chapters 3, 4, 5, 6
Friday, 6 Feb	<b>Reading:</b> Continue reading Margery Wolf, Chapters 7, 8 <b>Film:</b> Dadi's Family
Monday, 9 Feb	Little Daughter-in-Laws <b>Reading:</b> Continue reading Margery Wolf, Chapter 11
Wednesday, 11 Feb	<b>American Kinship</b> <b>Reading:</b> Murphy essay; Stack essay
Friday, 13 Feb	<b>Film:</b> Small Happiness <b>Assignment:</b> Response Paper Due
Monday, 16 Feb	Seeing the Other <b>Reading:</b> Stephen Gould essay; Franz Boas essay (available on Blackboard)
Wednesday, 18 Feb	<b>Reading:</b> Diamond article; AAA statement on Race (available on Blackboard)
Friday, 20 Feb	<b>Reading:</b> Lozada article on ethnicity (available on Blackboard) <b>Film:</b> American Tongues
Monday, 23 Feb	<b>Assignment:</b> First Review
Wednesday, 25 Feb	Economy and Exchange <b>Reading:</b> Miller, Chapter 3
Friday, 27 Feb	<b>Reading:</b> Miller, Chapter 4 <b>Film:</b> Ongka's Big Moka

1-5 March	Spring Break! Have a good holiday.
Monday, 8 Mar	The Spirit of the Gift <b>Reading:</b> Yan chapter; Sahlins article
Wednesday, 10 Mar	Production and Consumption <b>Reading:</b> Nietschmann article; Mintz article
Friday, 12 Mar	<b>Reading:</b> Bestor essay
Monday, 15 Mar	Religion and Ritual <b>Reading:</b> Miller Chapter 14; Geertz essay on religion
Wednesday, 17 Mar	<b>Reading:</b> Myerhoff, Chapters 1, 2
Friday, 19 Mar	<b>Reading:</b> Myerhoff, Chapter 3; Turner article (optional) <b>Film:</b> Number Our Days
Monday, 22 Mar	<b>Reading:</b> Myerhoff, Chapters 4, 5
Wednesday, 24 Mar	<b>Reading:</b> Continue reading Myerhoff, Chapters 6, 7 <b>Assignment:</b> Response Paper Due
Friday, 26 Mar	Science, Religion, and Rationality <b>Reading:</b> Evans-Pritchard article; Gmelch Baseball Magic article <b>Film:</b> Trobriand Cricket
Monday, 29 Mar	Politics, Power, and Globalization <b>Reading:</b> Miller, Chapter 11
Wednesday, 31 Mar	<b>Reading:</b> Llewelyn article
Friday, 2 Apr	The Power of Culture <b>Reading:</b> Bourdieu article
Monday, 5 Apr	Case Study: Love Parade <b>Reading:</b> Borneman article <b>Assignment:</b> Field Project Due
Wednesday, 7 Apr	Development and Anthropology <b>Reading:</b> Miller, Chapter 16
Friday, 9 Apr	<b>Reading:</b> Escobar article <b>Film:</b> Cannibal Tours
Monday, 12 Apr	College Holiday – No Class
Wednesday, 14 Apr	<b>Reading:</b> Hannerz article; Appadurai article
Friday, 16 Apr	<b>Reading:</b> Watson McD's essay <b>Film:</b> The Colonel Comes to Japan
Monday, 19 Apr	<b>Reading:</b> Small, p. 3-49
Wednesday, 21 Apr	<b>Reading:</b> Small, p. 51-87 <b>Assignment:</b> Response Paper Due
Friday, 23 Apr	<b>Reading:</b> Small, p. 88-120 <b>Film:</b> Chief in Two Worlds
Monday, 26 Apr	<b>Reading:</b> Small, 171-216
Wednesday, 28 Apr	<b>Last Day of Class</b> Course Overview
	<b>Final Examination</b>