

ANT 101: Introduction to Sociocultural Anthropology  
Fall 2011, M,W,F 10:30 — 11:20, Chambers 1027

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Office Hours: M, W 9:30– 10:30 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 different theoretical articles and overviews on a broad array of subjects within sociocultural anthropology and three ethnographies on specific issues 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?

What is ethnography, and 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

- Nanda, Serena and Richard Warms 2009. *Culture Counts: A Concise Introduction to Cultural Anthropology*. Belmont: Wadsworth.
- 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.
- Shankar, Shalini 2008. *Desi Land: Teen Culture, Class, and Success in Silicon Valley*. Durham: Duke University Press.
- Zhan, Mei 2009. *Other-Worldly: Making Chinese Medicine through Transnational Frames*. Durham: Duke University Press.

Additional articles required for class are available on Moodle.

### 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. I am not a TV; discussions in class are an important part of exploring anthropological topics. Films will be shown regularly throughout the course and are an important component of the course; they are a required part of the course material and can be used for review essays. Remember, there is no such thing as a dumb

question or comment – if you do not understand something that I present in class, do not hesitate to either ask me in class or find me during office hours.

**Response Papers: 10%**

You will write five (5) response papers throughout the term, no more than two pages and double-spaced. They will be graded ( $\sqrt{+}$ ,  $\sqrt{\phantom{x}}$ ,  $\sqrt{-}$ ) and require 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.

**Online Quizzes: 10%**

You will take five (5) online quizzes throughout the term; I don't expect any extra studying for these quizzes, but you will need to have done the reading and attended class. They will be electronically-graded and require completion for full credit. Quizzes will reinforce some of the main points from the readings.

**Midterm Review: 20%**

This will be a one-hour essay exam on **3 October 2011**, 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: 20%**

This project, due **7 November 2011**, 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 (25% of this project's grade), and an analysis in the form of a short essay (75%).

**Final Review: 30%**

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.

**Submission of Writing Assignments:** All assignments must be submitted to me electronically, and will be returned to you electronically. You can do this in two ways: as an email attachment; or through the digital drop box in Moodle. If you have any questions about how to submit assignments, please see me individually.

**Grading System:**

Grades will follow the college system using the 4.0 scale (i.e., A=4.0, A-=3.7, B+=3.3, etc. – see the college catalog) and weighted for each assignment as described above.

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, 22 Aug	What is Culture, what is Anthropology? Course Introduction
Wednesday, 24 Aug	<b>Reading:</b> Horace Miner essay (read this one first, please); Renato Rosaldo essay (available on Moodle)
Friday, 26 Aug	<b>Reading:</b> Nanda and Warms pp 2-40 <b>Film:</b> First Contact
Monday, 29 Aug	Anthropological Methodology <b>Reading:</b> Nanda and Warms, pp 44-65. Clifford Geertz essay (available on Moodle) <b>Assignment:</b> Quiz #1
Wednesday, 31 Aug	<b>Reading:</b> Laura Bohannon essay (available on Moodle ) <b>Assignment:</b> Response Paper Due
Friday, 2 Sep	Doing Fieldwork <b>Reading:</b> Claire Sterk essay (available on Moodle)
Monday, 5 Sep	Taking Fieldnotes <b>Reading:</b> Jean Jackson essay (available on Moodle)
Wednesday, 7 Sep	Families and Kinship <b>Reading:</b> Nanda and Warms, pp. 141-166 Margery Wolf, Chapters 1 and 2
Friday, 9 Sep	<b>Information Literacy: Class Meeting in Library, Electronic Resources Room</b>
Monday, 12 Sep	Getting Married in China <b>Reading:</b> Continue reading Margery Wolf, Chapters 3, 4, 5, 6 <b>Assignment:</b> Quiz #2
Wednesday, 14 Sep	<b>Reading:</b> Continue reading Margery Wolf, Chapters 7, 8
Friday, 16 Sep	Little Daughter-in-Laws <b>Film:</b> Dadi's Family <b>Reading:</b> Nanda and Warms, pp. 169-191 Continue reading Margery Wolf, Chapter 11 <b>Assignment:</b> Response Paper Due (Library Project)
Monday, 19 Sep	<b>Film:</b> Small Happiness <b>Assignment:</b> Quiz #3
Wednesday, 21 Sep	<b>American Kinship</b> <b>Reading:</b> Murphy essay; Stack essay (available on Moodle)
Friday, 23 Sep	Race and Ethnicity <b>Reading:</b> Nanda and Warms, pp. 239-262 AAA statement on race (available on Moodle) <b>Assignment:</b> Response Paper Due

Monday, 26 Sep	<b>Reading:</b> Stephen Gould essay; Franz Boas essay (available on Moodle)
Wednesday, 28 Sep	<b>Reading:</b> Diamond article; Lozada article on ethnicity (available on Moodle)
Friday, 30 Sep	<b>Film:</b> American Tongues
Monday, 3 Oct	<b>Assignment:</b> Midterm Review
Wednesday, 5 Oct	Economy and Exchange <b>Reading:</b> Nanda and Warms, 115-139
Friday, 7 Oct	<b>Film:</b> Ongka's Big Moka
Monday, 10 Oct	Fall Break! Have a good holiday.
Wednesday, 12 Oct	The Spirit of the Gift <b>Reading:</b> Yan chapter; Sahlins article (available on Moodle)
Friday, 14 Oct	Production and Consumption <b>Reading:</b> Nietschmann article; Mintz article (available on Moodle) <b>Film:</b> Cannibal Tours
Monday, 17 Oct	<b>Reading:</b> Bestor essay (available on Moodle)
Wednesday, 19 Oct	Religion and Ritual <b>Reading:</b> Nanda and Warms, pp 263-284; Geertz essay on religion (available on Moodle)
Friday, 21 Oct	<b>Reading:</b> Myerhoff, Chapters 1, 2 <b>Film:</b> Number Our Days <b>Assignment:</b> Quiz #4
Monday, 24 Oct	<b>Reading:</b> Myerhoff, Chapter 3; Turner article (available on Moodle)
Wednesday, 26 Oct	<b>Reading:</b> Myerhoff, Chapters 4, 5
Friday, 28 Oct	<b>Reading:</b> Continue reading Myerhoff, Chapters 6, 7 <b>Assignment:</b> Response Paper Due <b>Film:</b> Trobriand Cricket
Monday, 31 Oct	Science, Religion, and Rationality <b>Reading:</b> Evans-Pritchard article; Gmelch Baseball Magic article (available on Moodle)
Wednesday, 2 Nov	Politics, Power, and Globalization <b>Reading:</b> Nanda and Warms, pp 193-214; Llewelyn article (available on Moodle)
Friday, 4 Nov	<b>Film:</b> Chief in Two Worlds

Monday, 7 Nov	The Power of Culture <b>Reading:</b> Bourdieu article (available on Moodle) <b>Assignment:</b> Fieldwork Project Due
Wednesday, 9 Nov	Case Study: Love Parade <b>Reading:</b> Borneman article (available on Moodle)
Friday, 11 Nov	Development and Anthropology <b>Reading:</b> Nanda and Warms, pp 312-336; Miller, Chapter 16 (optional; available on Moodle)
Monday, 14 Nov	<b>Reading:</b> Escobar article (available on Moodle) <b>Assignment:</b> Quiz #5
Wednesday, 16 Nov	<b>Reading:</b> Hannerz article; Appadurai article (available on Moodle)
Friday, 18 Nov	Ethnographic Study of Globalization: People and Popular Culture <b>Reading:</b> Watson McD's essay (available on Moodle) Zhan, p 1-27
Monday, 21 Nov	<b>Reading:</b> Zhan, p.33-88
23 -25 Nov	<b>Thanksgiving Break</b>
Monday, 28 Nov	<b>Reading:</b> Zhan, p. 91-142
Wednesday, 30 Nov	<b>Reading:</b> Zhan, 145-201 <b>Assignment:</b> Response Paper Due
Friday, 2 Dec	<b>Last Day of Class</b> Course Overview
Self-Scheduled	<b>Final Review</b>