

AN 101: Introduction to Sociocultural Anthropology

Fall 2002: M,W, F 10:30 –11:20 am, Grey 100

SPEED BUMP

By Dave Coverly



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Office Hours: M, W, F 9:00 – 10:00 am

T, Th 10:00 – 11:15 am or by appointment

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 Requirements

Students are expected to attend all classes, do the readings, and **ask questions and discuss the implications of the issues** in the classroom. Lectures will not duplicate the readings, but will provide the theoretical background, context, and critique of the topics in the readings. Films will be shown regularly throughout the course and are an important component of the course. Students are expected to complete the assigned readings as scheduled on the syllabus. There will be **one final essay examination** worth 35%. There will be **one short paper**, on a particular cultural or social phenomenon worth 25%. Throughout the term, there will be **five response papers** (no more than two pages); submission of response papers will be 10% of the grade. Students will also conduct a **fieldwork project and report**, on a topic to be discussed with the instructor. The fieldwork project will count for 20% of the grade. Class participation will count for the remaining 10% of the final grade.

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 Readings

Articles are available from the library electronic reserve, and are to be completed by the date assigned on the course schedule. There are four books that are available for purchase:

Herzfeld, Michael 2001. *Anthropology : theoretical practice in culture and society*. Malden, MA : Blackwell Publishers. ISBN: 0631206590.

Levi-Strauss, Claude 1997(1961). *Tristes tropiques*. New York : Modern Library. ISBN: 0679602461.

Wolf, Margery 1972. *Women and the family in rural Taiwan*. Stanford, Calif., Stanford University Press. ISBN: 0804708495.

Myerhoff, Barbara G. 1980 (1978). *Number our days*. New York, N.Y. : Simon and Schuster. ISBN: 0671254308.

Course Schedule (subject to modification)

Monday 26 August	What is Culture, what is Anthropology? Course Introduction
Wednesday 28 August	Why Anthropology? Reading: 1. Miner, Horace M. 1956. Body Ritual among the Nacirema. <i>American Anthropologist</i> . 58:503-507. 2. Rosaldo, Renato 1989. After Objectivism. In: R. Rosaldo, <i>Culture and Truth</i> . Beacon, p. 46-67.
Friday 30 August	Reading: Herzfeld Chapter 1, pp. 1-20 Film: First Contact
Monday 2 September	Class Meeting in Library, Electronic Resources Room Reading: Geertz, Clifford 1973. <i>The Interpretation of Cultures</i> . Basic Books (excerpts).
Wednesday 4 September	Who are Anthropologists? Reading: Start reading Levi-Strauss; due, Part 1 Assignment: Response Paper Due
Friday 6 September	Comparing Culture Reading: 1. Laura Bohannon, Shakespeare in the Bush 2. Levi-Strauss, Part 2
Monday 9 September	Reading: 1. Herzfeld, Chapter 2, pp. 21-54 2. Levi-Strauss, Part 5 Discussion: Stepping in and out of Cultures

Wednesday 11 September	Doing Fieldwork Reading : 1. Claire Sterk article; 2. Levi-Strauss, Part 7
Friday 13 September	Reading : Levi-Strauss, Part 8, 9 Film : (Anthropology on Trial)
Monday 16 September	Seeing the Other Reading : 1. Gould, Stephen 1996. Measuring Bodies, in <i>The Mismeasure of Man</i> . Norton. 2. Boas, Franz 1940. Changes in Bodily Form of Descendants of Immigrants. In <i>Race, Language and Culture</i> . University of Chicago Press.
Wednesday 18 September	Reading : 1. Diamond article; 2. AAA statement on Race; 3. Lozada article on ethnicity (optional) Assignment : Library Project (Response Paper) Due
Friday 20 September	Reading : 1. Herzfeld, Chapter 6 Film : American Tongues
Monday 23 September	Families and Kinship Reading : 1. Begin reading Margery Wolf, Chapters 1 and 2 2. Kottak selection on kinship
Wednesday 25 September	Getting Married in China Reading : Continue reading Margery Wolf, Chapters 3, 4, 5, 6
Friday 27 September	Reading : Continue reading Margery Wolf, Chapters 7, 8 Film : Dadi's Family
Monday 30 September	Little Daughter-in-Laws Reading : Continue reading Margery Wolf, Chapter 11
Wednesday 2 October	Love and Marriage in China Reading : Jankowiak article
Friday 4 October	Reading : Continue reading Margery Wolf, Chapters 12, 13, 14 Film : Small Happiness
Monday 7 October	American Kinship Reading : Murphy selection (articles on reserve) Stack selection (articles on reserve)
Wednesday 9 October	Economy and Exchange Reading : Herzfeld Chapter 4, pp. 90-117.
Friday 11 October	Film : Ongka's Big Moka Assignment : Response Paper Due
Monday 14 October	Fall Break: Have a good rest!
Wednesday 16 October	The Spirit of the Gift Reading : 1. Yan chapter; 2. Sahlins article
Friday 18 October	Production and Consumption Reading : 1. Campbell article; 2. Nietschmann article
Monday 21 October	Reading : 1. Mintz article; 2. Bestor article
Wednesday 23 October	Religion and Ritual Reading : 1. Geertz article on religion; 2. Begin reading Myerhoff, Chapter 1

Friday 25 October	Reading : Continue reading Myerhoff, Chapter 2 Film : Number Our Days
Monday 28 October	Reading : 1. Continue reading Myerhoff, Chapter 3; 2. Turner article (optional) Assignment : Fieldwork Project Due
Wednesday 30 October	Reading : 1. Herzfeld, Chapter 9; 2. Continue reading Myerhoff, Chapter 5
Friday 1 November	Reading : Continue reading Myerhoff, Chapters 6, 7 Assignment : Response Paper Due
Monday 4 November	Science, Religion, and Rationality Reading : Evans-Pritchard article
Wednesday 6 November	Reading : Llewelyn article Politics and Power
Friday 8 November	Topics in Political Anthropology Reading : Herzfeld Chapters 5, 12
Monday 11 November	The Power of Culture Reading : Bourdieu article
Wednesday 13 November	Case Study: Love Parade Reading : Borneman article
Friday 15 November	Reading : Escobar article Film: Chief in Two Worlds
Monday 18 November	Reading : Herzfeld, Chapter 7 Assignment : Response Paper Due Globalization
Wednesday 20 November	Reading : Hannerz article
Friday 22 November	Reading : 1. Appadurai, Playing with Modernity article; 2. Gmelch Baseball Magic article Film : Trobriand Cricket
Monday 25 November	Reading : Appadurai, Global Cultural Economy article Assignment : Short Paper Due
Wednesday-Friday 27-29 November	Thanksgiving Break
Monday 2 December	Reading : Watson, McDonalds article Film : The Colonel Comes to Japan
Wednesday 4 December	Course Review
Friday 6 December	Closing Comments