

# ANSO 105: Introduction to Cultural Anthropology

## Spring 2007

**Dr. Baptiste**  
**309 H Dewing**  
**337-7242**  
**baptiste@kzoo.edu**  
**Office Hours: MW 1:00-2:00**  
**F: 11:00-2:00**

This class is an introduction to cultural anthropology. Through the reading of ethnographies, selected articles, films, lectures, and class discussions, we will explore the issues of belief systems, social stratification, culture change, gender roles etc. We will learn how these issues are pertinent to an increasingly interconnected and globalized world.

### Course Objectives

- a) Understand the importance of culture in everyday life and the relationship between culture and the individual and institutions
- b) Understand the basic concepts of Anthropology
- c) Be able to use ideas presented in class to reflect on events or phenomena in the “real world” (current events, one’s own life experience, material from other classes, etc.)
- d) To enhance appreciation for the extent and significance of contemporary world-wide cultural diversity

### Thinking about the dimensions

We shall work on the following areas in this class

Intercultural understanding,  
Lifelong learning  
Social responsibility  
Written and oral communications skills

### Books

- Hartigan, John  
1999 *Racial Situations: Class predicament of Whiteness in Detroit*. Princeton: Princeton
- Kottak, Conrad  
2005 *Assault on Paradise*. McGraw Hill
- Miller, Barbara D.  
2005 *Cultural Anthropology* 3<sup>rd</sup> edition. Allyn & Bacon

## Requirements

### Writing Assignments

The writing assignments for this course will be one research project focusing on an **anthropological** topic of your choice. Since most of you are either planning to study abroad or have already done so, I suggest you choose a topic related to your host country or the country in which you plan to study. If you have difficulty choosing a topic, please see me as soon as possible.

### Assignment #1

Your first assignment will be to write a **one-page only** proposal. The goal of this exercise is to help you develop your research question. Your proposal will describe your interest in your topic and the reasons you have chosen that particular subject. The central focus of your paper should be a question or a theme that you plan to explore in your research project.

### Assignment #2

Your second assignment will be divided in 3 parts

- 1 A one-paragraph introduction that presents the topic to the reader and the issues that surround that particular topic.
- 2 An annotated bibliography of peer 5 peer-reviewed sources.
  - a) Before choosing the final 5, you must consult 15 sources from which you will choose the 5 that best represent/examine the topic. You must provide a bibliography of the sources consulted **with one-sentence** explaining why you did not choose that particular source
  - b) Your sources should date no earlier than **1990**
- 2) 2-page conclusion. Your conclusion should
  - a) Present different anthropological perspectives on your issue
  - b) Propose a direction for future research.

*Papers are due in class. I do not accept papers via email.*

*You must complete all assignments in order to pass this class.*

*I will take off a third (1/3) of a grade for each day that a paper is late after the due date.*

### Class Participation

Students are expected to come to class prepared and ready to participate in class discussions. Multiple unexcused absences will result in a lower grade.

### Films

Films are an important component of this class. Students are responsible for the ideas and concepts discussed in the films used in class. If for some reason you are absent when a film was presented in class. You must arrange to watch the film at the library.

### Grade Breakdown

Proposal	10%
Research project	20%
Midterm	30%
Class Participation:	10%
Final	30%

## COURSE OUTLINE

### Week 1: We are the others

Miller Ch, 1, 2

Durkheim, Emile

1982 "What is a social fact." In *The Rules of the Sociological Method*, Steven Lukes Ed. New York: Free Press, pp. 50-59.

Miner, Horace

2002 "Body Ritual Among the Nacirema." In *Distant Mirrors*, Phillip R. DeVita and James D. Armstrong eds. Belmont, Ca: Wadsworth.

### Week 2: Culture, meaning, belief and reality

Miller, ch. 13

Cooper, Eugene

1986 "Chinese Table Manners: You are what you Eat." In *Applying Cultural Anthropology*, Aaron Podolefski and Peter J. Brown eds., New York: McGraw Hill (reserve).

Geertz, Clifford

1973 "Deep play: Notes on the Balinese cockfight." In *The interpretation of cultures*. New York: Basic Books.

Pierre Lienard and Pascal Boyer

2006 "Whence Collective Rituals?: A cultural selection model of Ritualized behavior." *American Anthropologist* 108(4):814-827

Film: *Trobriand Cricket*

### Week 3: The social construction of identity

Monday, April 9<sup>th</sup> - No class- lecture presentation at 8 pm- attendance mandatory

Miller ch. 12

Turner, Terence S.

1980 "The Social Skin." In *Not Work Alone: A Cross-Cultural View of Activities Superfluous to Survival*, Jeremy Cherfas & Roger Lewin eds. Beverly Hills: Sage Publications. pp. 112-140

## PAPER PROPOSAL DUE FRIDAY APRIL 13<sup>th</sup> IN CLASS

### Week 4: Language Culture and Society

Miller, ch. 12-14

Bourdieu, Pierre

1977 "The economics of Linguistic exchange." *Social Science Information* 16(6): 645-68

Goffman, Erwin

1995 "On face-work: An analysis to ritual elements in social interaction." In *Language, Culture and Society: A Book of Readings*, B. Blount, ed. Long Grove, IL: Waveland Press.

Rosaldo, Michelle

1982 "The things we do with words" *Language in Society* 203-37

Film: *American Tongues*

### **Week 5: Birth, Death, and Illness**

Miller 5, 7

Rapp, Rayna

1995 "Heredity or: Revising the facts of life." In *Naturalizing Power*, S. Yanagisako and C. Delaney, eds. New York: Routledge

Verdery, Katherine

1999 "Giving proper burial" In *The political lives of dead bodies.* New York: Columbia University Press.

### **MIDTERM FRIDAY APRIL 27TH**

### **Week 6: Patterns of family and kinship**

Miller, ch. 8

Kottak 1-3 1991.

Just, Roger

1991 "The Limits of Kinship." In *Contested Identities: Gender & Kinship in Modern Greece* P. Loizos and E. Papataxiarchis eds. Princeton: Princeton University Press. pp. 114-32

### **Week 7: Production Consumption and exchange**

Miller 3 and 4

Kottak 4-6

Malinowski, Bronislaw

1964 "The essentials of the Kula." In *Argonauts of the Western Pacific*. Prospect Heights, IL: Waveland Press

Wallerstein, Immanuel

1984 "The development of the concept of development." In *Sociological Theory* 2:102-116

### **Week 8: System of classification**

Miller ch.9, ch.10

Hartigan Intro, ch.1, ch.2

Watson, Rubie

1986 "The named and the nameless: gender and person in Chinese society." *American Ethnologist*, 13(4):619-631.

Dikotter, Frank

1992 "Racial discourse in China: continuities and permutations" In *The Discourse of Race in Modern China*. Stanford: Stanford University Press.

*Film: "Race the floating signifier"*

### **Week 9: Hierarchy and classification**

Hartigan 3, 4 and conclusion

Williams, Brackette

1995 "Classification systems revisited: Kinship, caste, race, nationality as the flow of blood and the spread of rights. In *Naturalizing Power*, S. Yanagisako and C. Delaney, eds. New York: Routledge

### **RESEARCH PROJECT DUE MONDAY MAY 25<sup>th</sup> IN CLASS**

### **Week 10: Conclusion: The state of the discipline**

*Changes to this syllabus may be announced in class or via email. Students are responsible for keeping up with the changes.*