

Course Syllabus

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ANTHROPOLOGY 3AC

Introduction to Cultural Anthropology

Fall 2017

Tu/Th 9:30-11:00

Dwinelle 155

Professor Charles Hirschkind

111 Kroeber

chirschk@berkeley.edu

Professor's Office hours: Monday 9:30-12:00

Graduate Student Instructors:

Anjana Bala (Anjana.Bala@ucsf.edu),

Philip Balboni (pbalboni@berkeley.edu),

Tracy Brannstrom (tracyb@berkeley.edu),

Mohamad Marwan Jarada (mmjarada@berkeley.edu),

Patricia A. Kubala (pkubala@berkeley.edu),

Carolina Antoinette Talavera (catalavera@berkeley.edu),

Adrian Wilson (adrian.wilson@berkeley.edu)

Head GSI:

Maxfield Waterman (maxfield.waterman@berkeley.edu)

Course Description

This course offers an introduction to the basic concepts, ideas, issues, and debates in cultural anthropology. As we will explore in the beginning of the course, the discipline of

anthropology emerged at an historical moment in the late 19th century when the pragmatics of colonial administration became linked to the scientific ambition to document the varieties of human existence, when romantic exoticism became entwined with humanist universalism. Since the discipline's inception, anthropologists have dedicated themselves to exploring human societies in all of their diversity: the distinct cultures, politics, economies, and environments by which people have given shape to different ways of living, working, speaking, and understanding. While our scope in this class will be global, and will lead us to examine in some detail the heterogeneity of cultural forms found in non-Western societies, we will pay particular attention to various forms of politics, economics, and culture that exist within the US.

Student Responsibilities

Attendance: Attendance at discussion sections is required, and attendance records will be kept by your GSI. You are expected to participate actively in discussion section. Section attendance and participation will constitute 15% of your grade. If prolonged illness or emergencies require you to miss several sections, GSIs will expect you to provide advance notice and documentation. In addition, attendance at lectures is strongly encouraged. Many of the questions that will appear on the midterm and final exam will be drawn directly from lecture material. If you miss lectures, you are jeopardizing your success on exams.

Preparation

All reading assignments should be completed before your section meeting for the week indicated on the class schedule below. If possible you should finish readings before the lecture as well; this will make the presentation much easier to follow.

Collegiality

It is expected that students will be attentive and respectful of their fellow students and of their instructor and GSIs. Please arrive at the lecture on time, and wait until it has concluded before leaving. Sometimes a film will run slightly longer than the time allotted: please stay for the conclusion of the film. If you must leave, please keep in mind that others are watching and trying to listen, and exit as quietly as you can.

Grading

There will be both a midterm and final exam. Both exams are composed entirely of short essay questions. The in-class midterm exam will be held on *Tuesday, Oct. 3rd* and will draw from all of the material covered prior to that date in class lectures, guest lectures, discussion

sections, readings, films, and videos. The final exam, scheduled for *Wednesday, Dec. 13th*, will encompass everything covered since the midterm.

In addition to the exams, you will need to develop and write-up an *Ethnographic Research Project*. Your GSI will explain how these projects are to be carried out. They will be due in lecture on *Tuesday, Nov. 21st*.

Overall grade calculus:

Discussion section participation: 15%

Ethnographic research project: 20%

Midterm exam: 25%

Final exam: 40%

Required Readings

The following book is required and may be purchased at the ASUC Bookstore:

De Leon, Jason. 2015. The Land of Open Graves: Living and Dying on the Migrant Trail. Berkeley: University of California Press.

The remainder of the required readings for the course are compiled in the ANTHR 3AC COURSE READER, available at:

Copy Central, 2560 Bancroft Way.

Schedule of Readings/Films

WEEK 1: Introduction to Class: An Anthropological Perspective?

Thursday, August 24th:

Syllabi, Enrollment, Course Description

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WEEK 2: The Practice of Anthropology

Tuesday, Aug. 29th:

Miner, Horace. 1956. "Body Ritual among the Nacirema." American Anthropologist 58:3: pp. 503-507.

Boas, Franz, "The Methods of Ethnology." American Anthropologist, N.S., vol. 22 (1920): 311-322.

Thursday, Aug. 31st:

Geertz, Clifford. 1973. "Thick Description." In The Interpretation of Cultures. New York: Basic Books, pp. 3-32.

WEEK 3: Culture, Race, Biology

Tuesday, Sept. 5th:

Franz Boas (1931) "Race and Progress." In Race, Language, and Culture. Chicago: Univ. of Chicago Press, 1940, pp. 3-17.

W.E.B. Dubois, *Dusk of Dawn*, Chapter 5, "The Concept of Race," pp. 625-651 in WEB DuBois: Writings, Compiled by Nathan Higgins, 1986, NY, NY: Library of America.

Film: The Stories We Tell

Thursday, Sept. 7th:

Sahlins, Marshall. 2001. "Critique of the Vulgar Sociobiology." In The Use and Abuse of Biology. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press.

WEEK 4: Colonial Contexts

Tuesday, Sept. 12th:

Said, Edward. 1994. Orientalism. New York: Vintage Books. (Introduction and Afterword).

Thursday, Sept 14th:

Porterfield, Todd. 1994 "Western Views of Oriental Women in Modern Painting and Photography." In Forces of Change: Artists of the Arab World. The National Museum of Women in the Arts, Washington D.C. (Pp. 58-71).

WEEK 5: Migration and Violence in the US Borderland

Tuesday, Sept. 19th:

De Leon, Jason. 2015. The Land of Open Graves: Living and Dying on the Migrant Trail. Berkeley: University of California Press. (Part 1, pages 1-85)

Film: Who is Dayani Crystal?

Thursday, Sept. 21st:

De Leon, The Land of Open Graves. (Part 2, pages 89-201)

WEEK 6: Reason and Religion

Tuesday, Sept. 26th:

Evans-Pritchard, E.E. Witchcraft, Oracles and Magic (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1977). (Chapters 1-2).

Film: Strange Beliefs

Thursday, Sept. 28th:

4. E. Evans-Pritchard, Witchcraft, (continued): Chapters 3-4.

WEEK 7: Critique of Capitalism

Tuesday, Oct. 3rd: IN-CLASS MIDTERM

Thursday, Oct. 5th:

Marx, Karl and Engels, Friedrich. 1967 [1848]. The Communist Manifesto. Penguin Classics: London. (Chapter 1, "Bourgeois and Proletarians").

WEEK 8: Cultures of Capitalism

Tuesday, Oct. 10th:

Taussig, Michael. 1983. The Devil and Commodity Fetishism. Raleigh: University of North Carolina Press. (Chapters 1-2, pp. 1-38).

Thursday, Oct. 12th:

Taussig, Devil (continued): Chapter 5, pp. 93-111; Chapter 7, pp. 126-139.

WEEK 9: Globalization, Media, Performance

Tuesday, Oct. 17th:

Feld, Steven, 2000. "Sweet Lullaby for World Music." Public Culture 12 (1): 145-171.

Thursday, Oct. 19th:

Cowie, Jefferson and Boehm, Lauren. 2012. "Dead Man's Town: 'Born in the USA,' Social History, and Working-Class Identity." In Bruce Springsteen, Cultural Studies, and the Runaway American Dream. K. Womack, J. Zolten, M. Bernhard, eds. Burlington, VT: Ashgate Press, pp. 25-44.

WEEK 10: Anthropology of the Senses

Tuesday, Oct. 24th:

Brown, Karen McCarthy. 2001. Mama Lola: A Vodou Priestess in Brooklyn. Berkeley: University of California Press. (Introduction, Chapter 2)

Thursday, Oct. 26th:

Brown, Karen McCarthy. 2001. Mama Lola (Chapters 3-4)

Film: Les Maitres Fous

WEEK 11: Science and Gender

Tuesday, Oct 31st:

Butler, Judith. 2001. "Doing Justice to Someone: Sex Reassignment and Allegories of Transsexuality." GLQ: A Journal of Lesbian and Gay Studies 7.4: 621-636.

Thursday, Nov. 2nd:

Ann Fausto-Sterling, "The Five Sexes: Why Male and Female are Not Enough," The Sciences March/April 1993, pp. 20-24.

Film: Sex Unknown

WEEK 12: Language

Tuesday, Nov. 7th: HOLIDAY

Thursday, Nov. 9th:

Volosinov, V.N. 1986 (1929). "Verbal Utterance" and "Theme and Meaning in Language." In Marxism and the Philosophy of Language. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press. (pp. 83-106)

Borges, Jorge Luis. "Tlön, Uqbar, Orbis Tertius" Trans. Alastair Reid. In Borges, a Reader. (pp. 111-122)—this reading is optional.

WEEK 13: Making up People

Tuesday, Nov. 14th:

Hacking, Ian. 1999. "Kind-Making: The Case of Child Abuse." In The Social Construction of What? Harvard: Harvard University Press. (pp. 125-162).

Thursday, Nov. 16th:

Dumit, Joseph. 1997. "A Digital Image of the Category of the Person." In Cyborgs and Citadels: Anthropological Interventions in Emerging Sciences and Technologies, Downey, G. L., Dumit, J. eds. School of American Research, Santa Fe, N.M.

WEEK 14: Regulating Moral and Medical Health

Tuesday, Nov. 21st:

Foucault, Michel. 1979. Discipline and Punish: The Birth of the Prison. New York: Vintage Books, pp. 3-31.

Ethnographic Research Project Due in Lecture

Thursday, Nov. 23rd: HOLIDAY

WEEK 15: Discipline

Tuesday, Nov. 28th:

Foucault, Discipline: pp. 135-169.

Thursday, Nov. 30th:

TBA

WEEK 16: READING WEEK

Final Exam: Wednesday, Dec. 13th, 11:30-2:30