

HUMAN CULTURES (ANTH 151)

Instructor: Dr. Angela N. Castañeda, Ph.D.

E-mail: acastaneda@depauw.edu

Semester: Fall 2017

Location: Asbury Hall 201

Time: 12:40-2:10pm Tuesday and Thursdays

Office: Asbury Hall 219

Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday 10:30am-Noon, also by appointment

Office Tel. #: 765-658-4372

The purpose of anthropology is to make the world safe for human differences.

Ruth Benedict

Course Description:

In this introductory course, we will address the methods of inquiry characteristic of cultural anthropology. Focusing on both so-called “exotic” cultures and our own, we will also explore the great diversity existing in human culture, while at the same time searching for cultural universals—the similarities that make all humans fundamentally alike.

Cultural anthropologists have developed a set of ideas and practical activities that help them learn about people through interaction and observation. These anthropological methods and practices provide a lens through which trained individuals can learn about others while simultaneously learning about themselves. Anthropologists pay close attention to the way people act, talk, and think about their culture, themselves, and their world. During the course of the class we will be addressing a number of new perspectives to appreciate the diversity in our world and society while we try to better understand our place within them.

Course Goals:

This course has four main goals: 1) to introduce students to the essential concepts and intellectual methods that typify cultural anthropology; 2) to expose students to the great variety existing in human cultures so that they can place their own particular life in a cross-cultural perspective; 3) to provide students with a base for interpreting and understanding key anthropological concepts concerning such topics as culture, ethnicity, religion, race, and gender, and; 4) to enable students the opportunity to engage in some of the key methodological practices associated with cultural anthropology such as participant observation.

Required Readings:

Cheyney, Melissa. 2011. *Born at Home, The Biological, Cultural and Political Dimensions of Maternity Care in the United States*. Belmont: Wadsworth.

Dettwyler, Katherine. 1994. *Dancing Skeletons: Life and Death in West Africa*. Prospect Heights: Waveland Press.

Fadiman, Anne. 1997. *The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down*. New York: The Noonday Press.

Ferraro, Gary. 2011. *Classic Readings in Cultural Anthropology*. 3rd Edition. Belmont, CA: Wadsworth Publishing.

Goldstein, Donna. 2003. *Laughter Out of Place: Race, Class, Violence, and Sexuality in a Rio Shantytown*. Berkeley: University of California Press.

Note: There are also articles assigned as required reading. These articles are noted in your syllabus with an asterisk (*). Be sure to bring either a copy of the article and/or your notes to class.

Course Format:

Methods used to cover class material include lectures, films, music, slides, guest lecturers and most importantly class discussion. The lectures will be used to introduce key concepts during each week's topic and are expected to be very participatory. Films will also be used as texts to enhance the course material. Periodically we will split-up into smaller discussion groups to review and analyze material more thoroughly. Students will occasionally be asked to reflect on films, classroom discussions, and readings in the form of in-class response papers. In order to achieve this cooperative learning experience, readings must be done as assigned and texts as well as notes brought to class.

Grading:

1. **EXAMS:** There will be two essay exams, which will combine short and long essay questions. One test will be given mid-way through the course and the other towards the end of the semester (20% each).
2. **FIELD PROJECT:** A mini-ethnographic assignment that asks you to use anthropological research skills (20%).
3. **PARTICIPATION:** Participation is an integral part of this course. There are numerous ways you can participate in class, but to start you must first have a punctual attendance record. Engaging in class activities (group discussions, debates, reflection/response papers) and attentive listening are also key to class participation as is contributing insightful comments that link class material to your experiences or your classmates' contributions.

Current event: Students will contribute a current event that connects with course readings (3 at 10% each).

Co-curricular: Each student is required to attend one Anthropology-related event, write a one page single-spaced response paper demonstrating your integration of class material with the event, and share this experience with the class. **Do not simply summarize the event—instead your response paper should reflect on the event as it relates to anthropological ideas/concepts covered in class.** I encourage you to begin looking for an activity to attend as soon as possible and to write-up your response and turn it in no more than one week after your attendance

at the event. While I will announce event ideas periodically during class, it is your responsibility to find an event that you are interested in and able to attend—the campus calendar on-line is a good source for possible events. The last day to turn in this assignment is **November 21st** (10%).

Your final grade for the course will be based on the following:

- Participation.....40%
(4 writing assignments 10% each)
 - One (1) field project.....20%
 - Two (2) in-class exams.....40%
- TOTAL 100%

Grading Scale:

A 94%+	A- 90-93%	
B+ 87-89%	B 84-86%	B- 80-83%
C+ 77-79%	C 74-76%	C- 70-73%
D+ 67-69%	D 64-66%	D- 60-63%
F 59%-		

A note on graded materials—you must wait at least 24 hours (but no more than 1 week) before coming to see me about a grade you received on any class material. I am available for consultation regarding any graded assignment only after you have taken sufficient time to read through both your original work and my comments. Keep in mind that reviewing graded material means a possible increase OR decrease in the original grade, so be sure to look over your work carefully before bringing it to my attention for a second time. The following information will help you better understand the criteria for graded material:

A= **exceptionally thought-provoking**, original, creative in both content and manner of presentation, and a skillful use of concepts and/or materials which are fully supported with examples from class material.

B= presents a **solid understanding** of the subject matter and an ability to handle the issues and materials encountered in the subject with only minor errors.

C= demonstrates an **adequate understanding** of the subject matter with central ideas present, but too general, repetitious and not clearly supported or integrated with evidence and details.

D= a **minimally acceptable** performance with a confusing central idea and lacking details. Parts of the assignment are missing and/or incomplete.

F= shows lack of effort and **minimal comprehension** of material with major mechanical errors, no thesis, and misuse of key concepts.

Attendance:

Regular attendance and active class participation is required. Students with conflicting schedules related to athletic or religious holidays should communicate with me in advance. Late arrivals

will not be tolerated. Class attendance will be taken at the beginning of the period, and it is your responsibility to make sure you receive credit for your attendance if you arrive after attendance is taken. Irregular attendance and repeated late arrivals will result in the lowering of the final course grade. Also note that you should be both physically and mentally present—this means demonstrating active listening skills, participating and refraining from causing class distractions (ie. Use of electronic devices cell phones, computers, or leaving during class—unless for an emergency).

Class Preparation:

Your class preparation is essential to your required active participation in the course. You must complete assigned readings **before** the class period for which they are assigned. You must come to class with prepared questions and comments regarding the assigned readings (see participation in course requirements). This will help ensure your active participation in class. **Things to think about regarding the readings:** What was the author’s main point/thesis? How does this relate to the class topic? What connection can you make between the reading and your own life?

Assignment Policy:

It is important that students pay close attention to the details on assignments, which will be provided in handouts. Hard copy assignments must be turned in **NUMBERED AND STAPLED** (electronic copies must also have page numbers—also it is the student’s responsibility to make sure their assignment is properly attached to the email). **Assignments due as hard copies in class will not be accepted via email (ie. Due to printer problems—it is your responsible to make sure you have time to print your assignment).** All assignments are due at the beginning of the class session, unless otherwise noted. Late assignments will not be accepted without a medical excuse or otherwise documented emergency. The instructor retains the right to lower the grade on any late assignment accepted. If you must miss class on the day an assignment is due, it is your responsibility to turn the assignment in early.

Academic Dishonesty:

All work must be **your own**. You must give credit to **any** information and/or ideas that you use that are not your own by citing it in your work. Failing to do so will be perceived as plagiarism resulting in a zero on the assignment and possible additional penalties to be decided by the instructor. **Use Chicago Manual of Style in-text citations (author/date).** If you are unfamiliar with proper citation procedures, you should ask your instructor or consult the W center.

Accommodations:

“It is the policy and practice of DePauw University to provide reasonable accommodations for students with properly documented disabilities. Written notification from Student Disability Services is required. If you are eligible to receive an accommodation and would like to request it for this course, please contact Student Disability Services. Allow one week advance notice to ensure enough time for reasonable accommodations to be made. Otherwise, it is not guaranteed that the accommodation can be provided on a timely basis. Accommodations are not retroactive. Students who have questions about Student Disability Services or who have, or think they may have, a disability (psychiatric, attentional, learning, vision, hearing, physical, medical, etc.) are

invited to contact Student Disability Services for a confidential discussion in Union Building Suite 200 or by phone at 658-6267.”

Religious Holidays:

“DePauw accommodates students who are adherents of a religious tradition and wish to fulfill obligations of that religious tradition on holy days. Students are expected to notify their instructors of their intent to fulfill the obligations of their religious tradition well in advance of these days. For the sake of this policy, “holy days” are defined as periods of time in which either: activities required by normal class participation are prohibited by a religious tradition, or a special worship obligation is required by a religious tradition. For this class I ask that you notify me by e-mail at least 14 days in advance of the date in question.”

Questions???

I encourage all of my students to take advantage of my office hours, either for questions, concerns, or just drop-in discussions. Please feel free to stop by Asbury Hall 219, and if the official hours are not convenient or you would like to ensure yourself a specific block of time, we can set up an appointment (office phone x4372 or email acastaneda@depauw.edu).

Course Schedule:

WEEK 1 INTRODUCTION

August 24th

- VIDEO: *Babies*

WEEK 2 CULTURE CONCEPT

August 29th

- READ: Dettwyler chapters 1-4 pgs. 1-48

August 31st

- READ: Ferraro chapters 1-4 pgs. 1-24

WEEK 3 FIELDWORK and ETHNOGRAPHIC METHODS

September 5th

- READ: Dettwyler Ch. 5-9 pgs. 49-114

September 7th

- READ: Dettwyler chapters 10-14 pgs. 115-164
- CURRENT EVENT DUE—Dettwyler (bring hard copy)
- VIDEO: *Brazil*

WEEK 4 RACE and ETHNICITY

September 12th

- READ: “Mixed Blood”* and Goldstein’s Intro and chapter 1 pgs. 1-57
- VIDEO: Mulatto: it’s not a cool word AND “A Conversation with White People on Race”

September 14th

- READ: Goldstein chapter 2 pgs. 58-101

- VIDEO: *City of Men*

WEEK 5 CLASS

September 19th

- READ: Goldstein chapters 3-4 pgs. 102-173
- VIDEO: “A Conversation with Latinos on Race”

September 21st

- READ: Goldstein chapter 5 pgs. 174-225
- VIDEO: “A Conversation with Asian-Americans on Race”

WEEK 6 SEXUALITY and GENDER

September 26th

- READ: Goldstein chapters 6-7 pgs. 226-274
- VIDEO: “A Conversation with Black Women on Race”

September 28th

- Discussion of Day of Inclusion
- CURRENT EVENT DUE---Goldstein

WEEK 7 MIDTERM

October 3rd

- **MIDTERM EXAM**

October 5th

- Campus Farm Visit with Anthony Baratta (Sustainability Director)
- VIDEO: *Food Inc.*

WEEK 8 FOOD

October 10th (Rain Date for Campus Farm Visit)

- READ: Freeman, “Having It His Way: The Construction of Masculinity in Fast-Food TV Advertising”* (In *Food for Thought*) AND Allison, “Japanese Mothers and Obentos: The Lunch-Box as Ideological State Apparatus”*

October 12th

- READ: Popenoe, “Ideal”* AND Moore, “Raising the Bar: The Complicated Consumption of Chocolate”*

WEEK 9 FALL BREAK

WEEK 10 RELIGION

October 24th

- READ: Ferraro chapter 14 “Baseball Magic” AND Fadiman chapters 1-8 pgs. 3-105

October 26th

- READ: Fadiman chapters 9-12 pgs. 106-170

WEEK 10 RITUAL

October 31st

- READ: Fadiman chapters 13-19 pgs. 171-288

November 2nd

- READ: Ferraro chapters 7-9
- CURRENT EVENT DUE--Fadiman

WEEK 11

November 7th

- READ: Cheyney chapters 1-3 pgs. 1-54
- VIDEO: *Laboring Under an Illusion*

November 9th

- READ: Cheyney chapters 4-5 pgs. 54-94
- VIDEO: *The Business of Being Born*

WEEK 12 APPLIED ANTHROPOLOGY

November 14th

- READ: Cheyney, chapters 6-7 pgs. 95-128

November 16th

- READ: Ferraro chapter 15 and 16

WEEK 13

November 21st

- READ: "Intel's Sharp-Eyed Social Scientist" (New York Times);* and The "Experts The Ebola Response May Need: Anthropologists" (NPR)*
- **DUE--Last day to turn in your co-curricular**

November 24th

- NO CLASS THANKSGIVING BREAK

WEEK 14 EXAM

November 28th

- **EXAM**

November 30th

- Peer Editing (due--draft of final paper)

WEEK 15 CONCLUSIONS...Where do we go from here?

December 5th

- **PRESENTATION OF FIELD PROJECTS**

December 7th

- **PRESENTATION OF FIELD PROJECTS**

PAPERS DUE via email by 4pm on Monday, December 11th

NOTE: The instructor retains the right to change the syllabus for this class as necessary.