ANTH 151B (1003)
Human Cultures
TR 8:20-9:50  OL241

Course Syllabus                                             Fall 2012

Instructor: Audrey Ricke, audreyricke@depauw.edu
Office Hours: MF 11am-12pm W 4:00-5:00pm and by appointment
Asbury Hall Rm 331, 765-658-4814

Course Description: This course will introduce students to the many facets of socio-cultural anthropology. Throughout the course, we will be investigating how the issues of social organization, politics, economics, religion, and identity are dealt with by a variety of cultural groups. In order to understand how socio-cultural anthropology approaches these topics today, we will study the methods anthropologists employ for understanding the world and how others perceive it. No prior knowledge of anthropology is expected. Assignments are designed to help students develop a basic understanding of the topics and approaches within socio-cultural anthropology.

Course Learning Objectives: Upon successful completion of the course, students will be able to:

• explain culture and why the study of contemporary cultural issues should be holistic and relativistic
• identify the various ways of constructing kinship, gender, race, political and economic systems and people’s relationship with the environment
• compare religious and medicinal practices in Western and non-Western societies
• describe anthropological methods and apply and evaluate these methods by gathering data on one of the topics discussed in class
• conduct library research in order to apply anthropological research and methods to a problem or issue in their field of study

Required Readings: Please bring a copy of the assigned reading to class on the day it is scheduled to be discussed.

1.) Dettwyler, Katherine

2.) Fadiman, Anne

3.) Greenfield, Sidney

4.) Spradley, James and David W. McCurdy

5.) Articles and chapters on Reserve
Assignments - Out of class assignments must be submitted to Moodle and a typed, stapled hard copy must be turned in by the beginning of class on the due date to potentially receive full credit. Typed work should be in 12pt Times New Roman or similar font with 1 inch margins. Unless prior arrangements are made, 10% will be deducted from the earned grade each day the paper is late. All citations must follow the American Anthropological Association style guide which is found at http://www.aaanet.org/publications/style_guide.pdf

1. Participation 20pts (10%)
2. Fieldwork Project 25pts (12.5%) due Oct 2
3. Anthropology in the News 20pts (10%) based on sign-up
4. Film Response Paper 25pts (12.5%) due Nov 1
5. Applying Anthropology Paper 30pts (15%) due Nov 29
6. Exams
   Midterm 1 25pts (12.5%) on Sept 20
   Midterm 2 25pts (12.5%) on Oct 25
   Final 30pts (15%) on Dec 11

TOTAL = 200pts

1.) Participation- Contributions to class discussions are essential and will prepare you for the assignments and exams. Please read the assigned texts before the date they are scheduled to be discussed. After reading, be sure that you can summarize the author’s main point, explain how the reading connects to the week’s topic, and how the information in the reading relates to prior readings and your own life experiences. What are some new questions that are raised about the topic after reading the work? Be prepared to discuss these and other related questions in class.

10 times throughout the course, you will be asked to bring to class or complete in class short exercises. The in-class graded exercises will NOT be announced in advance, but the out-of-class exercises will be announced in advance. Each exercise will be graded on a 2pt scale: 2pts for well-completed, 1pt for adequate completion, 0 pts for late, incomplete, or below average completion. For documented excused absences, in-class exercises may be made-up; however only 3 absences from class are allowed, and each subsequent absence will result in 4 points deducted from your participation score. Excused absences will be in accordance with DePauw policy and the instructor’s discretion, and prior arrangements with the instructor, if feasible, are required.

In order to limit distractions for your fellow students, please arrive on time and remain until the class officially ends. Participation points will be deducted for arriving late or leaving early multiple times.

2.) Fieldwork Project- this project is designed to provide you with hands-on experience in methods used by anthropologists. Please select one of the following options and a write a 2 pg double-spaced paper.

Option 1 Participant Observation: For one of the topics listed on the syllabus, create a general why or how question. Join in on an activity or event related to your question for approximately 1 hr and take notes on what you observed and experienced. (Remember that participant observation involves total engagement-talking with people, watching, doing the activity etc for multiple hours). For the first page, summarize your observations and results. For the second page, discuss additional research questions that came to mind from this experience and answer the following questions: what are some of the benefits of this research method? What are some of the drawbacks? Include your hand-written or typed notes. Well-written notes should be at least one single-spaced 8.5” x 11” notebook-sized paper front and back. (The notes do not count toward the 2 page minimum)

Option 2 Interview: For one of the topics listed on the syllabus, create a general why or how question. Write a total of 10 questions that you believe will provide information that will help answer your original question. Verbally interview three individuals and take notes on their answers. If you have
access to an audio recorder, you may also like to record the interview given first the person’s permission. For the first page, summarize your results. For the second page, explain what problems you encountered with the questions and method and what you would do next time to fix these problems? Be sure to explain what new information would be provided by the changes. If you encountered no problems and can think of no way to improve your questions, thoroughly explain why. Complete explanations go way beyond stating “because my interview sample was bad,” “because I did/did not get the answers that I expected,” “because I would get longer/shorter responses” and similar comments. Attach the list of questions that you asked and your hand-written or typed interview notes. (The notes do not count toward the 2 page minimum)

3.) Anthropology in the News: This assignment is designed to give you experience summarizing main points and presenting your ideas as well as introduce you to a wide variety of contemporary anthropological research.

   Find an article that is about an anthropological study or written by an anthropologist and was featured in a major newspaper or magazine within the last five years. Write a 1 page double-spaced summary of the article and how it relates to one of the topics we have been discussing in class. Create one discussion question that links the article to the week’s topic. Prepare a 5 minute presentation which summarizes the article and how it relates to the week’s topic and then be prepared to start a class discussion with the question you wrote. Please turn in the summary, including discussion question, and a copy of the article in class the day you are scheduled to present.

   Comments about how the article relates to the week’s topic must go beyond one sentence or phrase. For example, do NOT simply state, “Both this article and today’s topic deal with x.”, but instead make a comparison with an example from the reading or apply a particular concept from the text. While note cards or other memory aids may be used, you should NOT simply read the presentation. Rather than yes or no-type questions or questions asking to recall facts from the text, good discussion questions focus on the themes within the readings and are why and how-type questions which encourage conversation. As you write your question, please keep in mind that anyone who has done the readings should be able to answer it.

4.) Film Response Paper – This assignment will prepare you to write comparative papers and apply anthropological concepts to case studies.

   One of the characteristics of culture is that it is integrated: one part is connected to another. Watch the online film, Bali: Masterpiece of the Gods (58 min). Select one or two of the featured Balinese arts and write a 2 to 3 page paper explaining how these Balinese arts are connected to two other aspects of Balinese life, and reflecting on one specific art form within your own culture, such as dance, explain how it is specifically linked to another aspects of life. (At least one page should address Bali and at least one page your own culture). The film can be found at: http://www.snagfilms.com/films/title/bali_masterpiece_of_the_gods

5.) Applying Anthropology Paper- This assignment is designed to give you experience summarizing main points and applying anthropological concepts and methods to your field of study.

   Interdisciplinary projects and cross-cultural knowledge are increasingly being valued in many job markets. Think of one issue or problem related to people that involves your major. If your major is undecided, select a major that interests you. If your major is anthropology, think of an issue within anthropology that you would like to focus on in the future. Find two academic anthropology journal articles which contain case studies that would be applicable to the issue or problem which you have chosen. (A case study is a set of raw data that is collected and analyzed in order to make a point.) Drawing on what you have learned in this course, explain how the information in the articles can be used to help deal with your selected issue or problem. You do not need to solve the problem completely.
Rather, use the two anthropological case studies to suggest and justify future directions or important factors that need to be considered. This is NOT a comparison paper of anthropology and your major.

The paper must be 4 double spaced pages plus references cited. See the handout on writing an essay. At least two anthropology academic journal articles must be cited. If you are using an academic, non-anthropological journal article, you must submit proof that the author is an anthropologist, i.e. has a PhD in anthropology or teaches anthropology courses for an anthropology department. This information is often contained at the beginning or end of the article or is listed on university and other professional websites. A list of anthropology journals can be accessed via AnthroSource.

6.) Exams: The exams will be essay-based and comprehensive with a focus on the material covered since the last exam. Make-ups for those who miss the exams will only be allowed in extreme circumstances, and prior arrangements with the instructor and official documentation must be obtained.

Evaluation:

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Asking questions and making mistakes are important components of learning. Please come see me in my office for any questions related to your scores on assignments or exams. Email or speaking immediately before or after class does not allow for sufficient discussion of questions and concerns. I will schedule appointments no earlier than 24 hours after returning the work. This 24-hour waiting period is to ensure that you have enough time to thoroughly look over my comments and your work as well as collect your thoughts before coming to see me. These discussions may result in a decrease, increase, or no alteration in the score; however, the main goal is to promote and ensure your mastery of the material as well as analytical and writing skills.

The following description written by Professor Angela Castaneda 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.

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.”
Policies and Accommodations

*The syllabus is subject to change, and every effort will be made to notify you well in advance.

EXCUSED ABSENCES – Per university policy, students may be excused from class in order to observe religious or official University athletic obligations. Please contact me immediately about a possible excused absence in order that accommodations, if applicable, may be made.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY POLICY – DePauw’s policy states that “cheating, plagiarism, submission of the work of others, etc. violates DePauw policy on academic integrity and may result in penalties ranging from a lowered grade to course failure or expulsion.” (http://www.depauw.edu/files/resources/tipsplanningcoursesyllabi2.pdf)

Please see the following link for more information about the university’s academic integrity policy. http://www.depauw.edu/handbooks/academic/policies/integrity/

A self-tutorial, which includes examples and a detailed explanation of plagiarism, can be found at http://www.indiana.edu/~istd/. I strongly encourage you to visit this website in order to confirm your understanding of plagiarism.

STUDENT DISABILITY SERVICES – “DePauw University is committed to providing equal access to academic programs and University administered activities with reasonable accommodations to students with disabilities, in compliance with the Americans With Disabilities Act and Amendments (ADAAA). Any student who feels she or he may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability or learning challenge is strongly encouraged to contact Pamela Roberts, Coordinator of Academic Success and Student Disability Services for further information on how to receive accommodations and support. Academic Success and Student Disability Services is located at 101 E Seminary St. 765-658-6267. It is the responsibility of the student to share the letter of accommodation with faculty and staff members. Accommodations will not be implemented until the faculty or staff member has received the official letter. Accommodations are not retroactive. It is the responsibility of the student to discuss implementation of accommodations with each faculty and staff member receiving the letter.”-quoted from Pamela Roberts’s Handbook on Academic Success & Student Disability Services

ELECTRONIC DEVICES IN CLASSROOM - In order to promote a distraction-free, learning environment, please keep all cell phones and other similar devices TURNED OFF throughout the duration of the class period. During class, you may use a laptop to take notes for THIS class and to complete in-class activities for THIS class. If you choose to use your laptop for any other purposes, you will no longer be able to bring a laptop to class for the remaining semester.
# READINGS

## Week 1

**Anthropology & Culture**

Aug. 23 Introduction
- *what is culture?*
- *what is anthropology?*

## Week 2

**Cultural Relativism & Applying Anthropology**

Aug. 28 Spradley & McCurdy  
*Culture & Ethnography pg 2-5*

Spradley & McCurdy  
*Body Ritual Among the Nacirema pg 287-292*

*Chapters 1-4 pg 1-48*

Aug. 30 Spradley & McCurdy  
*Culture Change & Applied Anthropology pg 336-339*

Spradley & McCurdy  
*Using Anthropology pg371-381*

*Chapters 5-9 pg 49-114*

*Sign-up in class for Anthropology in News Topics/Dates*

## Week 3

**Ethics and Methods:**

Sept 4  
Spradley & McCurdy  
*Fieldwork on Prostitution in era of AIDS pg 20-30*

Spradley & McCurdy  
*Nice Girls Do Not Talk to Rastas pg 31-36*

*Chapters 10-14 pg 115-165*

Sept 6  
Stoller  
*The Sorcerer’s Body in Sensuous Scholarship pg 4-23*

*Doing Participant Observation Pg 67-79*

(Interviews in class)

*Library Research Presentation- please bring your laptops to class*
### Week 4

**Subsistence, Politics, & Law**

- **Sept 11** Spradley & McCurdy  
  Ecology & Subsistence pg 69-72  
  The Hunters: Scarce Resources in the Kalahari pg 73-86  
  Forest Development the Indian Way pg 105-114

- **Sept 13** Spradley & McCurdy  
  Law & Politics pg 227-229  
  Cross-Cultural Law: The Case of the Gypsy Offender pg 230-237  
  Life Without Chiefs pg 238-245

### Week 5

**Economics & Globalization**

- **Sept 18** Spradley & McCurdy  
  Economic Systems pg 115-118  
  Reciprocity and the Power of Giving pg 119-124  
  Poverty, Office Work and the Crack Alternative pg 125-135

- Spradley & McCurdy  
  Globalization pg 294-295  
  How Sushi Went Global pg 296-305

**Sept 20** *Midterm Exam 1*

### Week 6

**Family Relations & Communication**

- **Sept 25** Spradley & McCurdy  
  Kinship & Family pg 151-155  
  Family and Kinship in Village India pg 165-171  
  Polyandry When Brothers Take a Wife pg 172-178

- **Sept 27** Spradley & McCurdy  
  Mother’s Love Death Without Weeping pg 155-164


### Week 7

**Gender**

- **Oct 2** Spradley & McCurdy  
  Do Muslim Women really Need saving? pg 208-216


  *Fieldwork Papers Due*
Oct 4  Spradley & McCurdy  Conversation style –Talking on the job pg 61-68
Spradley & McCurdy  Global Women in the New Economy pg 325-333

| Week 8 |

**Identity**

Oct 9  Spradley & McCurdy  Identity  pg 185-188
Spradley & McCurdy  Mixed Blood  pg 217-225


| Week 9 |

Oct 16 & 18 = *No classes – Fall Break*

| Week 10 |

**Expressive Arts & Social Change**


Spradley & McCurdy Village Walks: Tourism & Globalization among the Tharu of Nepal  pg 306-315

Oct 25  *Midterm 2*

| Week 11 |

**Religion & Health- Brazil**

Oct 30  Spradley & McCurdy  Religion, Magic, & Worldview pg256-258

Spirits with Scalpels Intro + chapter 1, 2  pg 9-48

Nov 1  Spirits with Scalpels Chapters 3, 4, 5  pg 49-64

*Film Response Due*
Week 12

Religion & Health Brazil

Nov 6 Spirits with Scalpels Chapters 5, 6, 7 pg 65-92
Nov 8 Spirits with Scalpels Part II pg 93-152

Week 13

Religion & Health –Brazil

Nov 13 Spirits with Scalpels Chapters 14-16 pg 153-180
   In-Class Video –To be announced

Nov 15 Spirits with Scalpels Chapters 17-18 pg 181-205
   Virtual Class – post a discussion question based on this week’s readings on Moodle or answer in complete sentences a discussion question already posted

Week 14

Religion & Health –A Hmong family in the US

Nov 20 – Spirit Catches you and you Fall down Chapters 1-4

Nov 22 – No classes - Thanksgiving Break

Week 15

Religion & Health –A Hmong family in the US

Nov 27 Spirit Catches you and you fall down Chapters 5-8

Nov 29 Spirit Catches you and you fall down Chapters 9-10

Applying Anthropology Paper Due

Week 16

Religion & Health –A Hmong family in the US

Dec 4 Spirit Catches you and you fall down Chapters 11-15

Dec 6 Spirit Catches you and you fall down Chapters 16-19

Week 17

Final Exam = Dec 11 1pm-4pm