HUMAN CULTURES
ANTH 151

Instructor: Dr. Angela N. Castañeda, Ph.D.
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Semester: Fall 2015
Location: Asbury Hall 117
Time: 2:20-3:50 Tuesday and Thursdays
Office: Asbury Hall 219
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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.

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:


**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 incorporate anthropological research skills in your daily life (20%). A draft paper is due on December 3rd. This draft should include a complete version of your final paper. The draft thesis will receive comments but will not be graded. Failure to turn in a draft thesis will result in a 10% reduction of your final paper grade.

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 17th** (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. 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 (i.e. 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 (i.e. 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. If you are unfamiliar with proper citation procedures, you should ask your instructor or consult the W center.

Accommodations:
“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). If you are a student who believes you may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability or learning challenge you are strongly encouraged to contact Student Disability Services for further information on how to receive accommodations and support. Contact information for Student Disability Services is: 408 S. Locust Street, Suite 200, in The Memorial Student Union Building (765-658-6267) (studentdisabilityservices@depauw.edu). Accommodations cannot be implemented until the faculty member has received the official ADA letter, released by Student Disability Services. It is critical that you schedule a time to discuss the implementation of the accommodations specified in your letter with each faculty member receiving the letter. Accommodations are not retroactive. Students with documented disabilities have the right to choose not to use accommodations, and in exercising that right, they accept the resulting outcomes. This means that faculty are under no obligation to retroactively address any issue arising from students' choices to forgo accommodations.”

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 27th
  ● VIDEO: Babies

WEEK 2  CULTURE CONCEPT
September 1st
  ● READ: Ferraro chapters 1 and 2
September 3rd
  ● READ: Dettwyler Ch. 1-4 p. 1-48

WEEK 3  FIELDWORK and ETHNOGRAPHIC METHODS
September 8th
  ● READ: Dettwyler Ch. 5-7 p. 49-90
September 10th
  ● READ: Dettwyler Ch. 8-14 p. 91-163

WEEK 4  RACE & ETHNICITY
September 15th
  ● CURRENT EVENT—Dettwyler
  ● READ: Ferraro chapters 3 and 4
  ● VIDEO: Brazil
September 17th
  ● READ: Fish, “Mixed Blood”* AND Goldstein’s Introduction
  ● VIDEO: Brazil in black and white
WEEK 5
September 22nd
- READ: Goldstein chapters 1 and 2

September 24th
- READ: Goldstein chapter 3
- VIDEO: *City of Men*

WEEK 6
September 29th
- READ: Goldstein, chapters 4 and 5

October 1st
- READ: Goldstein, chapter 6
- VIDEO: *City of Men*

WEEK 7  MIDTERM
October 6th
- READ: Goldstein, chapter 7

October 8th
- MIDTERM EXAM

WEEK 8  FAMILY and GENDER
October 13th
- READ: Ferraro chapters 7 and 8

October 15th
- READ: Ferraro chapter 9 and 10 AND Facebook’s Last Taboo: The Unhappy Marriage”* (NY Times article)
- VIDEO: *The Beauty Academy of Kabul*

WEEK 9  FALL BREAK

WEEK 10  FOOD
October 27th
- VIDEO: *Food Inc.*

October 29th
- CURRENT EVENT—Food

WEEK 11  RELIGION
November 3rd
- READ: Ferraro chapters 13 and 14; Fadiman, Ch. 1-4
November 5th
  ● READ: Fadiman, Ch. 5-8

WEEK 12  RITUAL
November 10th
  ● READ: Fadiman, Ch. 9-13
  ● VIDEO: Enough

November 12th
  ● READ: Fadiman, Ch. 14-19
  CURRENT EVENT—Fadiman

WEEK 13  ANTHROPOLOGY BACK HOME: BIRTH in the U.S.
November 17th
  ● READ: Cheyney chapters 1-4
  Last day to turn in your co-curricular

November 19th
  ● American Anthropological Association annual meetings, Denver

WEEK 14
November 24th
  ● READ: Cheyney, chapters 5-7
  ● VIDEO: Laboring Under an Illusion

November 26th
  ● NO CLASS THANKSGIVING BREAK

WEEK 15
December 1st
  ● EXAM

December 3rd
  ● Field Project Draft Paper due in class

WEEK 16  CONCLUSIONS…where do we go from here?
December 8th
  PRESENTATION OF FIELD PROJECTS

December 10th
  PRESENTATION OF FIELD PROJECTS & PAPERS DUE

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