

University of Utah
Anthropology 1010: Culture and the Human Experience
Spring 2014
Tuesdays & Thursdays, 9:10 – 10:30 am
Stewart 104

Instructor: Thomas Flamson
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Office: Stewart 213J
Office Hours: Tuesdays, 12:30 – 1:30
Thursdays, 11:00 – 11:45 (*until 2/20*) / 11:00 – 12:00 (*after 2/20*)

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Office: Stewart 207
Office Hours: Tuesdays, 10:30 – 11:30

SYLLABUS

Description: An introduction to cultural anthropology. This course examines how the concept of culture allows us to understand similarities and differences in behavior and values in human societies. Human behavior varies widely over time and space, which we will explore by focusing on the cultures of Australian aborigines, native Amazonians, East African pastoralists, Pacific Islanders, Indians, and modern Brazilians, always making comparisons that will help us to better understand our own culture.

Lectures: We will be covering a lot of material every class meeting, and attendance is essential. The PowerPoint slides used in each lecture will be available on the class website the following day as Adobe Acrobat pdfs (if you do not already have it, google “Acrobat Reader” to download the free program that will let you view these files). Viewing these slides is not a substitute for attending lecture—they will contain illustrations and topic headings, but the substance of each lecture will be delivered in class.

We will also watch some films over the course of the semester, and these will be part of the material covered by the exams. As they may not be available outside of class, either online or on reserve at the library, lecture may be your only opportunity to see them. There will also be occasional in-class exercises and quizzes based on the readings and films, which cannot be made up.

Content Warning: This course will explore a variety of behaviors and beliefs, including some of a sexual or violent nature. This will include issues of sexuality and sexual orientation, genital modification, sexual taboos, rape, intergroup violence, and ritual sacrifice and mutilation. You will watch films about people with different cultural norms of modesty, which will include nudity. Students likely to be offended by a frank (but not prurient) discussion of sexual or violent attitudes and practices in another culture should bear this in mind.

Texts: John H. Bodley, *Cultural Anthropology: Tribes, States, and the Global System*, 5th edition, AltaMira Press, 2011
 James Spradley & David W. McCurdy, eds., *Conformity and Conflict: Readings in Cultural Anthropology*, 14th edition, Pearson, 2011
 Napoleon Chagnon, *Yanomamö*, 6th edition, Wadsworth Press, 2013

You are expected to have completed the readings listed for each week *prior* to the first date listed for that week. Please check the weekly reading assignment in the syllabus carefully, and be sure to allow plenty of time to complete them, as there are usually about 30-40 pages assigned each week, and significantly more in Section II.

The correct editions are for sale in the University bookstore. If you buy copies elsewhere, please be sure you get the correct editions, as significant changes have been made since previous editions. Copies of the books will also be on reserve at the Marriott library, for 3-hour check-out.

Grading:	In-class exercises & quizzes:	10%
	Exams (best 3 of 4):	60%
	Final Exam, 4/28:	30%

In-class exercises & quizzes: Throughout the semester there will be in-class exercises or quizzes based on the material covered in lecture, films, or the readings. These will be graded pass/fail, and will add up to 10% of your grade. There will be no chance to make up a missed exercise or quiz.

Exams: There are four in-class exams scheduled throughout the semester. These will be multiple-choice, and take up roughly half the class meeting. These will not be cumulative, but will cover the material – both lecture and readings – since the last exam. They may include any material from lecture, films, or readings for that section. The best three of these four exams will be used for your score, and will account for 60% of your overall grade. There will be no chance to make up a missed exam; if you miss class on the day of an exam, that will be the one dropped for calculating your grade.

Final Exam: The final exam will also be multiple-choice, and will be cumulative. The exam will be held during finals week, in the same classroom (Stewart 104), but at a different time and day of the week than normal class meetings (Monday, 4/28, 8-10 am). It will count for 30% of your overall grade.

Extra Credit: If you wish to do an extra credit project, please make arrangements to meet with me prior to Tuesday, 4/8. We will evaluate where your grade would fit in the curve as of then. The assignment will be to write a paper on a given topic, citing at least 2 sources that are not already part of the assigned reading. On 4/8, I will email paper topics to everyone planning to do extra credit. The paper will be worth up to one additional letter on your overall course grade, and will be due prior to the final exam. The difficulty of the topic and the number of pages required will depend on your current grade status: E → D: 5-7 pages, D → C: 6-8 pages, C → B: 7-9 pages, B → A: 8-10 pages.

SCHEDULE

Subject to change

“Reader” refers to Spradley & McCurdy 2011

I: INTRODUCTION / FORAGERS

Week 1: Introduction to Cultural Anthropology (1/7 & 1/9)

READINGS: *Bodley*, 1. Culture: A Scale and Power Perspective *except* “Cultural Construction of Race,” “Ethnologue: Cataloguing World Languages,” and “Linguistic Relativity and the Sapir-Whorf Hypothesis” pp. 1-14 & 16-21;
Reader, Spradley, “Ethnography and Culture,” pp. 1-12;
 Bohannon, “Shakespeare in the Bush,” pp. 41-48;

SPECIAL: *Chagnon*, 1. Doing Fieldwork among the Yanomamo, pp. 5-44

This chapter will be discussed during the first week, but you are not expected to have completed it until the first exam. It is highly recommended you begin reading it early.

Week 2: Making a Living as Foragers (1/14 & 1/16)

READINGS: *Bodley*, 3. Australian Aborigines: Mobile Foragers for 50,000 Years *except* “The Dreaming and Aboriginal Social Structure,” “Sacred Sites and Dreamtime Pathways at Uluru,” and “Aboriginal Cognitive and Perceptual Systems,” pp. 67-71, 76-79, & 80-94;
Reader, Lee, “Eating Christmas in the Kalahari,” pp. 13-19;
 Lee, “The Hunters: Scarce Resources in the Kalahari,” pp. 73-86;
 Nelson, “Eskimo Science,” pp. 87-92;
 Cronk, “Reciprocity and the Power of Giving,” pp. 115-124

Week 3: Myth and Social Order (1/21)

READINGS: *Bodley*, 3. Australian Aborigines: Mobile Foragers for 50,000 Years, “The Dreaming and Aboriginal Social Structure” and “Sacred Sites and Dreamtime Pathways at Uluru,” pp. 71-76;
Reader, Miner, “Body Ritual among the Nacirema,” pp. 287-291

EXAM 1 on 1/23

II: HORTICULTURALISTS

Week 4: Making a Living as Horticulturalists (1/28 & 1/30)

READINGS: *Bodley*, 2. Native Amazonians: Villagers of the Rain Forest, *until* “Asháninka Bigmen: Leaders not Rulers,” pp. 25-43;
Chagnon, 2. Cultural Ecology, pp. 45-100;
 4. Social Organization and Demography, pp. 123-162;
Reader, Reed, “Forest Development the Indian Way,” pp. 105-114

Week 5: Peace and Conflict (2/4 & 2/6)

READINGS: *Bodley*, 2. Native Amazonians: Villagers of the Rain Forest, *from* “Asháninka Bigmen: Leaders not Rulers” *until* “Amazonian Cosmology,” pp. 43-54;
Chagnon, 5. Political Alliances, Trading, and Feasting, pp. 163-188;
6. Yanomamo Warfare, pp. 189-210;
7. Alliance with the Mishimishimabowei-teri; pp. 211-232

Week 6: Shamanism and the Cosmos (2/11)

READINGS: *Bodley*, 2. Native Amazonians: Villagers of the Rain Forest, “Amazonian Cosmology,” pp. 54-60;
Chagnon, 3. Myth and Cosmos, pp. 101-122

EXAM 2 on 2/13

III: PASTORALISTS / CHIEFDOMS

Week 7: East African Pastoralists (2/18 & 2/20)

READINGS: *Bodley*, 4. African Cattle Peoples: Tribal Pastoralists, pp. 99-125;
5. Cross-Cultural Perspectives on the Tribal World, *until* “Tribal Religious Beliefs and Practices,” pp. 129-158;
Reader, Shandy, “The Road to Refugee Resettlement,” pp. 316-324

Week 8: Polynesian Chieftdoms (2/25 & 2/27)

READINGS: *Bodley*, 6. Pacific Islanders: From Leaders to Rulers, pp. 181-212;
Reader, Harris, “Life Without Chiefs,” pp. 238-245

Week 9: Magic and Cognition (3/4)

READINGS: *Bodley*, 1. Culture: A Scale and Power Perspective, “Linguistic Relativity and the Sapir-Whorf Hypothesis,” pp. 15-16;
3. Australian Aborigines: Mobile Foragers for 50,000 Years, “Aboriginal Cognitive and Perceptual Systems,” pp. 79-80;
5. Cross-Cultural Perspectives on the Tribal World, “Tribal Religious Beliefs and Practices,” pp. 158-168;
Reader, Deutscher, “Whorf Revisited: You Are What You Speak,” pp. 49-56;
Gmelch, “Baseball Magic,” pp. 266-274

EXAM 3 on 3/6

SPRING BREAK – NO CLASS on 3/11 & 3/13

IV: STATES

Week 10: Mesopotamian City-States (3/18 & 3/20)

READINGS: *Bodley*, 7. Ancient Empires in Two Worlds: Mesopotamia and the Andes *until* “The Inca Empire in the Land of Four Quarters,” pp. 217-240;
Reader, Diamond, “Domestication and the Evolution of Disease,” pp. 93-104

Week 11: Indian Empires (3/25 & 3/27)

READINGS: *Bodley*, 9. Hinduism and Islam in South Asia *until* “Hindu Aesthetics: Divine Image and the Religious Power of Art,” pp. 293-315;
Reader, McCurdy, “Family and Kinship in Village India,” pp. 165-171;
 Goldstein, “Polyandry: When Brothers Take a Wife,” pp. 172-178

Week 12: Religion and Politics in State Societies (4/1)

READINGS: *Bodley*, 9. Hinduism and Islam in South Asia *from* “Hindu Aesthetics: Divine Image and the Religious Power of Art,” pp. 315-327;
Reader, Freed & Freed, “Taraka's Ghost,” pp. 260-265

EXAM 4 on 4/3

V: THE GLOBAL SYSTEM

Week 13: Class and Race in Comparison: Brazil & the US (4/8 & 4/10)

READINGS: *Bodley*, 1. Culture: A Scale and Power Perspective, “Cultural Construction of Race,” pp. 14-15;
 5. Cross-Cultural Perspectives on the Tribal World, “Health and Nutrition in Tribal Societies,” pp. 168-173;
 10. The Capitalist World System, “Growth and Poverty under the British Empire” *until* “The British Commercial Imperial Order,” pp. 358-366;
 12. An Unsustainable Global System, “Daily Reality in the Impoverished World: Infant Mortality in Brazil,” pp. 441-443;
Reader, Fish, “Mixed Blood,” pp. 217-225;
 Scheper-Hughes, “Mother's Love: Death without Weeping,” pp. 155-164

Week 14: The Anthropology of Modernity (4/15 & 4/17)

READINGS: *Bodley*, 13. Tribes to Nations: Progress of the Victims, “Amazonia: Resilient Tribes” and “Australian Aborigines,” pp. 474-496;
Chagnon, 8. The Acceleration of Change in Yanomamoland, pp. 233-268;
Reader, Bourgois, “Poverty at Work: Office Employment and the Crack Alternative,” pp. 125-135

Week 15: Overview and Review (4/22)

NO READINGS

FINAL EXAM on MONDAY, 4/28, 8:00 – 10:00 am