Anthropology 302-Spring 2011
INTRODUCTION TO CULTURAL ANTHROPOLOGY
Lecture Class Time: Monday, Wednesday 11:00-12:00pm FAC 21
Section Meetings: SAC As Scheduled

Instructor:
Dr. Suzanne Seriff
Office: SAC 4.126 (24th and Speedway)
Office Hours: MW 10-10:45 or by appointment
Phone: 471-
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Teaching Assistants and Discussion Sections:

Unique#	Classroom	Day/Time	T.A.	E-mail	Office Hours /Location
31125	SAC 5.102	T 8-9am	Elizabeth Velasquez	e.velassquez@gmail.com	
31130	SAC 5.102	TH 8-9am	Calvin Johns	isawcalvin@yahoo.com	TH 9:30-11:30 TBD
31135	SAC 5.102	M 9-10am	Nikki Marterre	enmarterre@gmail.com	MW 10-11 SAC grad lounge
31140	SAC 5.102	W 9-10am	Nikki Marterre	enmarterre@gmail.com	MW 10-11 SAC grad lounge
31145	SAC 5.102	F 9-10am	Omer Ozcan	omrozcan@gmail.com	M 1-2 Cactus Cafe
31150	SAC 5.102	F 11am-12pm	Omer Ozcan	omrozcan@gmail.com	M 1-2 Cactus Cafe
31155	SAC 5.102	W 2-3pm	Amy Brown	abrown@mail.utexas.edu	PCL 4.014 M 12-1; W 12:30-1:30
31160	SAC 4.174	W 3-4pm	Amy Brown	abrown@mail.utexas.edu	PCL 4.014 M 12-1; W 12:30-1:30
31165	SAC 5.102	W 3-4pm	David Garcia	cafeyatole@gmail.com	M 3-5 SAC
31170	SAC 5.102	W 4-5pm	Calvin Johns	isawcalvin@yahoo.com	TH 9:30-11:30 TBD
31175	SAC 5.102	F 2-3pm	David Garcia	isawcalvin@yahoo.com	M 3-5 SAC
31180	SAC 5.102	TH 5-6pm	Elizabeth Velasquez	e.velassquez@gmail.com	

Course Description:

This course is an introduction to Cultural Anthropology. It is designed to introduce students to the central concepts, theories, and techniques employed by cultural anthropologists to explore the social and cultural dimensions of human experience. The course is organized around central questions in the study of human societies, including: the anthropological idea of progress; language and symbolism; gender and race; power and resistance; nationalism; and modernization, globalization and cultural representation.

The instructor's aim is for students to emerge from the course with an enhanced understanding of their own experiences as social and cultural beings, an awareness of the diversity and complexity of cultures and societies, an awareness of the historical structures of power that shape both the practice and representation of culture, and an awareness of various approaches to communication, interpretation, and representation across cultures. The development of critical and analytical thinking skills is also a central

aim of this course. Readings, lectures, group activities, and films all work together to develop these skills and equip students to better understand, interpret and navigate the complexities of distinct cultures and societies, including their own.

Course Requirements and Grading:

Success in this course involves mastering both the concepts and the methodology of the cultural anthropologist. Thus, students will be asked to do certain things as well as display certain knowledge. As this is a class based on active participation of all students, students can expect a steady diet of in-class activities, short writing assignments, and week-by-week forms of evaluation. Students are expected to attend all scheduled classes and section meetings—including media presentations and guest lectures.

There will be two in-class tests for this course, two take-home essay tests, and two written essay assignments. Tests may be made up only with the instructor's permission (which will be given only in the case of documented illnesses or emergencies). Written exercises and take home tests are due on or before their due dates and will not be accepted after the published due date in the syllabus.

PLEASE NOTE: THERE WILL BE AN EXAM GIVEN DURING OUR FINAL EXAM SLOT. DO NOT SCHEDULE A PLANE TICKET OR ACTIVITY BEFORE THIS DATE!

CLASS LECTURES: Students are expected to attend class regularly. Exercises and discussions in section meetings will assume you have heard the lecture materials and completed the assigned readings. Students missing a class will be responsible for consulting with their T.A. about viewing any video materials used in class.

SECTION MEETINGS: Every student will be assigned a section with obligatory meetings each week. Attendance will be taken, and regular exercises will be submitted and discussed in section. Attendance and participation—through in class discussion, discussion blogs, and class presentations-- will constitute 20% of your semester grade. This means that your grade will be lowered by one letter grade at least, if you do not attend your sections and participate regularly. The due dates for the two take-home exams and two written exercises are listed in your syllabus. NO EMAILED EXAMS WILL BE ACCEPTED. The section you are assigned is listed on your registration materials, and is also available through the Blackboard. You must attend the section for which you are officially enrolled. If you need to change sections for any reason, you must go through the University administrative system for changing courses.

FILMS: The written text materials and ethnographies will be supplemented with a variety of ethnographic and other films and media clips. These will be shown during class, and most are also available for viewing in the UGL Audio-Visual Collection (FAC, 3rd floor). Some are only available in the Department of Anthropology and you must arrange with your T.A. to view these if you need to do so outside of class.

TESTS (35%): This portion of your grade consists of your midterm and final exam. The midterm exam will be given on a regular class day, and the final exam will be given during the regular three hour final exam period. DO NOT ARRANGE TO LEAVE THE UNIVERSITY BEFORE YOUR FINAL EXAM DATE! The course final will only cover material from the second half of the course (after spring break). Each test (the midterm and the final) will include both multiple choice questions and short essays. Questions will include material covered in the assigned readings, lectures, discussions, and films from class. Make-up exams will only be given in the event of a serious illness or emergency, for which official documentation is required.

TAKE-HOME ESSAYS (20%): There will also be two 2-page written take-home essays during the course of the semester, which will specifically test you on your understanding of the ethnographies we have read in class. Each essay is worth 10% of your overall course grade.

WRITTEN EXERCISES (25%): Two written ethnographic exercises will be assigned during the semester. Each should be between 4-5 pages in length. These must be typed, double spaced and brought to your section meeting on or before the due date posted in your syllabus. The first exercise is worth 10% of your overall course grade; the second assignment is worth 15% of your overall grade.

SECTION PARTICIPATION (10%): Based on attendance and regular participation in discussions and exercises in section and class presentation.

DISCUSSION BLOGS (10%): Most weeks, your instructor and/or TA will formulate a question/prompt in the discussion section of your blackboard which relates to your readings/topic for the week. There will be ten blogs total, which will each count 1 % of your final grade. You will get a point for turning the blog in on time; no points for a late or missed blog. All blog entries are due by 5pm the day before your section.

GRADING: Grades for each assignment will carry the following weight toward your final grade for the course:

Midterm Exam	15%
Final Exam	20%
Written Exercises	25%
Take-Home Essays	20%
Section Participation	10%
Discussion Blogs	10%

Required Course Readings

Required readings include three textbooks, as well as a small number of articles or book chapters. All required textbooks will be available in the University Co-op Bookstore. All required articles will be available on Blackboard. The required textbooks include:

(1) Richard H. Robbins, Cultural Anthropology: A Problem-Based Approach. 5th edition. Itasca, IL: F.E. Peacock Publishers, Inc. 2009. (If you have an earlier edition, you are responsible for making sure the reading is the same)
(2) Elizabeth Warnock Fernea: Guests of the Sheik: An Ethnography of an Iraqi Village. Anchor Books, 1989.
(3) Jay MacLeod, Ain't No Makin' It: Aspirations and Attainment in a Low-Income Neighborhood, 3rd Edition. Westview Press, 2009

Use of Blackboard and Electronic Reserves

The course has a Blackboard website which will be demonstrated during the first week of the class and in your section. It includes the syllabus, any instructions or announcements to students, an electronic gradebook and access to all required article readings. Students in the class are responsible for checking this Blackboard site regularly, which you can access by clicking on "Blackboard" under "Popular Sites" on the upper left side of the UT home page. Students are also responsible for regularly checking the e-mail account that is registered with the University. All e-mails to the professor or teaching assistants should either be done through Blackboard, or include "ANT 302" in the subject line; otherwise they may inadvertently be missed. Your weekly discussion blogs will be posted on the Blackboard account for your individual section (by unique number). All other communication—including the syllabus, any announcements, assignments, and class readings, will be found under a Blackboard account that has the word MASTER in it for our semester: (sp11) ANT 302 MASTER.

Schedule of Lectures and Reading Assignments

Part I: Interpretations of the Concept of Culture

Week One: January 19. Introduction to the Course

Introduction to the course, instructor, teaching assistants.

NOTE: Your sections will NOT meet this first week. We will meet as a class all together in the lecture hall on Wed, Jan. 19th. Each section has been assigned a different unique number. You can tell which section you are in from the unique number on your course registration (or on Blackboard). Section meeting times and places are listed in this syllabus on page 1 and on the Blackboard web site. Your assignment this week is to become familiar with the web site.

Week Two: January 24th, 26th : Introduction to Cultural Anthropology
What is anthropology? What is culture?

Readings: Robbins, Chapter 1 (pgs. 1-14)
"How Can People Begin to understand beliefs and behaviors that are different from their own/?"

Dick Hebdidge, "From Culture to Hegemony" PDF Article available on Blackboard (sp11 ANT 302 MASTER) under Course Documents

Week Three: January 31st; Feb. 2nd: The Anthropological Method
What is participant observation? What is ethnography?

Readings: Robbins: Chapter 1: 15-36
Fernea:, Guests of the Sheik, Part I, pgs. 3-104

Week Four: February 7th, 9th: The Idea of "Progress" in Anthropology
How has the idea of "progress" and "evolution" shaped the discipline of anthropology – for better or worse--and our understanding of cultural difference?

Readings: Robbins, Ch. 2: pgs. 39-60 (Intro and Questions 2.1, 2.2, 2.3
Fernea: Guests of the Sheik Part II, pgs. 105-172

Film Excerpt: *Cannibal Tours* (available for makeup UGL VIDCLASS 3.138)

First Written Exercise: Reading/Interpreting a Hollywood Film. Due Date: First Week in March

Week Five: February 14th and 16th: Culture and Communication: Part I
Language and Metaphor : Does Language Determine How we Think?

Readings: Robbins: Ch. 4: Problem 4-Question 4.1: How Does Language Affect the Meanings People Assign to Experience? Pgs. 123-131
Fernea: Parts III and IV, pgs. 173-268

Film Excerpt: American Dialects

Week Six: Feb 21st and Feb. 23rd: Culture and Communication: Part II
Symbolic Action: Ritual

Readings: Robbins: Ch. 4: Question 4.2 How Does Symbolic Action Reinforce a Particular View of the World? Pgs. 134-151
Fernea: Parts V and VI

Week Seven: March Feb. 28, March 2nd: Cultural Categories and Social Identities
Question of Language, Gender and Race

Readings Robbins: Ch. 6: Problem 6: Intro; Question 6.1 and Question 6.2
Fernea and Fernea: Symbolizing Roles: Behind the Veil (Blackboard article)

PDF Articles about Veils and Veiling; TBD

Film Excerpt: *The Veiled Revolution*

First Written Exercise Due in Section: Reading/Interpreting a Hollywood Film

Week Eight: March 7th, 9th: Understanding Culture; Review

3/7 Take Home Midterm Essay: Guests of the Sheik (Due: 3/9 in class)
Note: No late essays accepted. No emailed essays accepted.
Midterm Review in Class
3/9 In Class Midterm: Bring #2 Pencil

Week Nine: Spring Break: March 14-18

Part 2: Culture, Power, and the Social Order

Week Ten: March 21st-23rd: Starting at Home: Power Relations; Family Relations
Writing Against the Trope of "The Oppressed Woman"

Readings: Robbins: Ch. 5 : Patterns of Family Relation: Problem 5: Question 5.1, 5.2, 5.4
Blackboard reading: Writing Women's Worlds: Bedouin Stories by Lila Abu-Lughod: Preface, Introduction, Ch. 1: Patrilineality

Week Eleven March 28th-March 30th: Anthropology in a Globalized World
What is globalization and what does it have to do with me?

Readings: Robbins: Chapter 3 (Note: This chapter is new to the 5th edition of the Robbins textbook.)
Sidney Mintz, Sweetness and Power: Blackboard excerpt chs. 1-2

Second Writing Assignment: Commodity Chain. Due Date: Week of April 18th

Week Twelve: April 4th, 6th: The Cultural Construction of Social Hierarchy
Social Immobility in the Land of Opportunity

Readings: Robbins: Chapter 7: Questions 7.1, 7.2, 7.3,
MacLeod: Part One

Week Thirteen: April 11th-13th: Poverty: A Class Issue?

Readings: MacLeod: Part Two

Film Excerpt: *Race: The Power of an Illusion*

Week Fourteen: April 18th-20nd: The Culture of Power and Resistance
How do people adapt to, rebel against, or subvert the influences of social hierarchy

Readings: Robbins: Ch. 7, Question 7.4
MacLeod: Part Three
Media Presentation: From Bricks to Bricolage: Tactics of Subversion in the Art of the Workplace

Second Writing Assignment: Due Date in Sections this Week

Week Fifteen: April 25th-27th: **The Politics of Cultural Representation: Museums as Sites of Civic Engagement**
Cultural Representation in a Museum Context: How do Museums represent and/or misrepresent ethnic communities and global issues facing these communities around the world?

Readings: Suzanne Seriff: Immigrant Voices from the Forgotten Gateway (Blackboard article)
Mike Wallace: "Boat People; Immigration History at the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island.

Week Sixteen: May 2nd-4th: Summary and Conclusion

Final Exam: Time and Place TBD. Exam will cover material from second half of course.