

Anthropology / Sociology 103

General Anthropology

Fall -- 2000

CLASS PERIOD-- 9:10-10:10 M,W,F

PROFESSOR-- Susan Kus

OFFICE-- 105 Clough

Classroom-- 102 Clough

Office Hours -- M 1-2, T and Th 2:30-3:30

or by appointment

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COURSE STATEMENT

Anthropology, in the largest sense of the discipline, is the study of what it is to be human. However, it should be noted that anthropologists come to this study with “an attitude”. One anthropologist has characterized this attitude as one of **astonishment**.

If there is a piety in cultural anthropology it is the conviction that astonishment deserves to be a universal emotion. Astonishment and the assortment of feelings that it brings with it--surprise, curiosity, excitement, enthusiasm, sympathy--are probably the affects most distinctive of the anthropological response to the difference and strangeness of ‘others’. Anthropologists encounter witchcraft trials, suttee, ancestral spirit attack, fire walking, body mutilation, the dream time, and how do they react? With astonishment. While others respond with horror, outrage, condescension, or lack of interest.... (Shweder 1991:1)

If we would all cultivate this “response of astonishment” in attempting to understand the diversity of thought and behavior that is characteristic of humans, then we might begin to really listen to “others” and thus “enlarge the universe of human discourse” (Geertz). In this process we might also come to better understand not only the “other” but, ourselves -- our potentials and our limitation.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Class attendance and class participation are very important if you wish to take an active interest in your education and move along the path to enlightenment. Besides lectures and assigned readings, this course requires class participation, completing 5 short essay assignments (4-5 pages), a mid-term and a final exam, and viewing several films outside regular class time. Exams will include short answer and essay questions. Essays are due one week after they are assigned.

The essays will be in the style of a journal entry or a short exploratory piece. Late papers and assignments will not be accepted except in the case of very extenuating circumstances. In such a case, permission to turn in an assignment late must be obtained from the instructor **before** the assignment due date. Such late submissions carry a grade penalty.

Failure to adequately complete any assignment or to take any exam will result in a failing grade for the course. Unexcused absences and/or failure to participate in class can lower your

grade. In the case of a significant number (3 or more) of unexcused absences a failing grade will be assigned for the course. You are asked to self-report on absences. Upon returning to class after an absence, you should sign the attendance notebook with the date of the absence(s) and the reason for the absence.

Incompletes are not normally given in this class. In the rare case where an incomplete may be in order, the student must obtain permission from the instructor and complete all paper work for the Registrar **before** the final day of the course.

GRADING

Class participation	10%
5 essay assignments @ 10% each	50%
Mid-term exam.....	15%
Final exam.....	25%

REQUIRED READING

Basic Text: Ferraro, G., Cultural Anthropology: An Applied Perspective (3rd ed.)

Spradley, J & D. McCurdy Confromity and Conflict: Readings in Cultural Anthropology (Tenth Edition)

Wormsley, W. The White Man Will Eat You!

Farrer, Claire Thunder Rides a Black Horse

Kehoe, A. The Ghost Dance

Coursepak Readings:

Rensberger, B. "Racial Odyssey," in Applying Anthropology, A. Podolefsky & P. Brown (eds.), Mountain View, CA: Mayfield, 1994, (Chapter 8)

Briggs, J. "Kapluna Daughter," in Women in the Field, P. Golde (ed.), Berkeley: U of California, 1970.

Snyder, G. "Re-inhabitation," in The Old Ways, San Francisco: City Lights, 1977.

Raharijaona, V "Mihatsara Ivelan-tshihy: Taking time to properly lay out the mats." Academie Malgache, Fianarantsoa, June 2, 1995.

Kus, S. "Desires of the Heart and Laws of the Market Place." Smart Breakfast Talk, Rhodes College, November 1, 1995.

Ridington, R. "Fox and Chickadee", in The American Indian and the Problem of History, C. Martin (ed.), New York: Oxford U, 1987.

Davis-Floyd, R. E. "Ritual in the hospital: Giving birth the American Way," in Anthropology Glenview, Illinois: Scott, Foresman, 1990, (Chapter 47).

COURSE TOPICS AND READING ASSIGNMENTS

(readings are to be completed on or before the assigned days)

<u>DATE</u>	<u>LECTURE TOPIC</u>	<u>READING</u>
Aug 23	Introductory remarks	
25	Becoming human	S&M (8)
Aug 28	Homo sapiens sapiens or “playing with a full deck”	*Rensberger, S&M (23) Begin Wormsley
30	A world of symbols	FER (1), S&M (3)
Sep 1	Human “nature”? Essay #1 assigned	S&M (Part 1 and article 1)
Sep 4	LABOR DAY	
6	“The Shock of the Other”	S&M (4), FER (3)
8	Learning about the other	*Briggs, FER (5)
Sep 11	Fieldwork & Class discussion of Chapters 1-10 of Wormsley Essay #2 assigned	
13	Language	FER (6), S&M (6 and 7)
15	A concept of culture	FER (2 & 4)
Sep 18	An Ecology of earth and mind	S&M (9)
20	Living on sacred land	FER (7), *Snyder
22	Class discussion of Chapters 11-20 of Wormsley Essay #3 assigned	
Sep 25	The consequences of agriculture	S&M (10, 11, 12)
27	Family, friend and foe	FER (9 & 10), S&M (18 and 19)
29	Social relations	*Raharijaona, Begin Farrer ,
Oct 2	Gender	FER (11), S&M (20)
4	Gender (cont.)	S&M (21 and 25)
6	MIDTERM EXAM	
Oct 9	The giving of gifts &	FER (8), *Kus, S&M (2)
11	Class discussion of Chapters 1-3 of Farrer	
13	Is money the root of all evil?	S&M (14 and 16)
	“A poor man shames us all”	S&M (13)
Oct 16	FALL RECESS	

	18	Power and prestige in non-Western societies FER (12), S&M (26 and 27) “The Tightrope of Power”	
Oct	23	Power and prestige (cont.)	FER (13), S&M (28)
	25	Psychological Anthropology	S&M (5)
	27	Class discussion of Chapters 4-8 of Farrer Essay #4 assigned	
Oct	30	Psychological anthropology	S&M (17)
Nov	1	Social being determines consciousness	*Ridington, FER (14)
	3	A world of meaning	
Nov	6	“Songs of the 4th world”	S&M (29 and 30)
	8	A world of meaning (cont.)	*Davis-Floyd
	10	A world of meaning (cont.)	FER (15), Begin Kehoe
		Essay #5 assigned	
Nov	13	Culture contact	FER (16), S&M (32)
	15	Fighting for meaning and dignity	S&M (31)
		-- Viewing of “Dersu Uzala”	
		6-8:30 PM Media center - Wed or Thurs	
	17	NO CLASS (replaced by film Wed and Thurs.)	
Nov	20	Fighting for meaning and dignity	S&M (33)
	22	THANKSGIVING	
	24	THANKSGIVING	
Nov	27	“In the Whiteman’s image”	
	29	Discussion of Kehoe and film	
Dec	1	Anthropology in Our World	FER (17), S&M (15 and 34)
Dec	4	Anthropology in Our World	S&M (35 and 36)
	6	Concluding remarks	