



Anthropology/Sociology 301
Psychological Anthropology



FALL 2004

CLASS PERIOD-- T, Th 9:30 – 10:45, 100 Clough

PROFESSOR-- Susan Kus

OFFICE-- 105 Clough

OFFICE HOURS –M, W 2-3, Th 10:45 – 11:30, or by appointment

COURSE STATEMENT

“The Primitive Mind” that is so empirically knowledgeable about the physical world that surrounds us (seen in skills as the use of medicinal plants, navigation of vast expanses of the Pacific, and astute observations of astronomical phenomena, for instance) also produces beliefs in witchcraft, totems and the efficacy of ritual, and integrates altered states of consciousness into societal norms. This “primitive mind” has fascinated European explorers, missionaries and “thinkers” from the time there has been sustained contact between European cultures and groups they have considered as “other.” From the beginnings of anthropology as an academic discipline, anthropologists have been interested in the relationship between “culture and personality”. Not only were many early anthropologists (of the 20’s, 30’s and 40’s) influenced by Freud’s work, but a few were actually trained as lay psychoanalysts. Freud, in turn, had read many of the available anthropological (and archaeological) works of the turn of the century. Anthropology and Psychology have some early and common roots

Today, anthropologists argue that rather than seeing the mind of “the other” as an imperfect or incomplete version of our own, a “primitive form”, we must approach it as an “alternative form.” In this course on Psychological Anthropology, we will be investigating questions such as: Do members of non-Western cultures “sense, feel and think” like members of Western cultures? Do individuals from a non-literate culture actually “reason” differently from members of a literate culture? How variable are indigenous theories of “personhood” and “personality”? Is one culture’s schizophrenic another culture’s saint? Are some psychological disorders specific to certain cultures? (For instance, our phrase “running amuck” comes from a Malay term used to describe an individual, most often male, who grabs a kris knife or machete and attempts to attack any person or animal in his path.) And how is it that close to 90% of the world’s populations (U.S. culture being in the minority) sanction some form of an “altered state of consciousness”?

This course is intended as a survey course of psychological anthropology. While time does not allow a complete survey or a comprehensive treatment of this fascinating field of inquiry, we will try to touch on some major topic including the history of relations between anthropology and psychology, classic problem orientations, and selected topics of interest in this field.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Class attendance is mandatory and class participation is strongly encouraged. Besides assigned readings, this course requires the completion of several short assignments, 2 papers, a midterm and a final exam (essay format, take-home.)

Late papers and assignments will not be accepted except in the case of very extenuating circumstances. Should such a case arise permission to turn in a late assignment needs to be obtained before the due date of the assignment.

Failure to adequately complete any assignment or to take any exam will result in a failing grade for the course. Absences and/or failure to participate in class can lower your grade. In the case of 3 absences a grade of “F” will be assigned for class participation. In the case of 4 or more absences, a failing grade will as a rule 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 day of the final exam.


GRADING

Class participation	10%
Short Assignment on “Senses”	5%
Short Assignment on “Learning non-aggression”	5%
Short Assignment on “Culture bound syndromes”	5%
Paper I.....	20%
Mid-term (Lutz essay).....	10%
Paper II.....	25%
Final Exam.....	20%

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 26	Introduction to the course	
Aug 31	Early history of the discipline and classic period	Bock (Prelude & 2-5)
Sept 2	Culture and Personality: More variables and more cultures	Bock (6, 8-9)
	Make choice of autobiography	

Sep 7	“Sense-ability” -- are we all taking in the same information?	Bock (1)
Sep 9	“Sensuality” -- are we all directing our attention in the same way?	Begin Lutz (complete for Sep 23) individual readings assigned from <u>Howe</u>
Sep 14 Sep 16	“Sensuality” (cont.) “The nature of” emotions and motivations	Jackson 1 Individual reading assigned from <u>Montagu</u>
Sep 21 Sep 23	Emotions & motivation (cont.) “Unnatural emotions” -- discussion of Lutz Midterm handed out	Rosaldo finish Lutz
Sep 28 Sep 30	Cognition: Language and Learning Orality and Literacy Midterm due	Bock (10), Basso Riddington, Ong
Oct 5 Oct 7	With mind, body and soul -- a concept of “ethos” Film	Briggs Begin Stoller&Olkes (complete for Nov 18 th)
Oct 12	Paper 1 presentations final paper topic approved by this date	
Oct 14	Taking stock	Shwartz
Oct 19 Oct 21	FALL RECESS Group discussion of possible final paper topics	
Oct 26 Oct 28	The cultural construction of person and gender "Hopi: Songs of the Fourth World"	Bock (7)
Nov 2 Nov 4	Symbols as lived and as thought Symbolic “efficaciousness” (rituals and psychotherapy)	Turner Csordas
Nov 9 Nov 11	The “abnormal” cross-culturally Culture-bound syndromes	Jackson 2 Individual assignments from <u>Simon & Hughes</u>
Nov 16 Nov 18	ASC -- Altered States of Consciousness Discuss Stoller and Olkes	Davis Finish Stoller&Olkes
Nov 23	Culture change and culture crisis	Stephen, Scheper-Hughes
Nov 25	 THANKSGIVING	

Nov 30	Paper II presentations
Dec 2	Paper II presentations

Dec 7	Concluding remarks	Bock (postlude)
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FINAL EXAM DUE AT 1 PM on Monday December 13th

REQUIRED READINGS

Basic Texts (To be purchased):

Bock, Philip Psychological Anthropology: Continuity and Change in the Study of Human Action, 2nd edition

Lutz, Catherine Unnatural EmotionsStoller, Paul and Cheryl Olkes, In Sorcery's Shadow

Reserve Readings:

***Howe, David** (ed.) -- The Varieties of Sensory Experience: A Sourcebook in the Anthropology of the Senses. Toronto: University of Toronto, 1991

- (1) Jackson, Michael -- "Knowledge of the body", Chapter 8 in Paths Toward a Clearing, Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1989.

***Montague, Ashley** (ed.) -- Learning non-aggression: The Experience of Non-literate societies. New York: Oxford University Press, 1978.

Rosaldo, Renato -- "Introduction - Grief and a headhunter's rage," in Culture and Truth, Boston: Beacon Press, 1993.

Basso, Keith "Wisdom sits in places," in Senses of Place, S. Feld and JK. Basso (eds.). Santa Fe, School of American Research Press, 1996, pp. 53-90.

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

Ong, Walter -- "Some psychodynamics of orality", chapter 3 in Orality and literacy, London: Routledge, 1995.

Briggs, Jean "Expecting the unexpected: Canadian Inuit Training for an Experimental Lifestyle," in Ethos, 1993, Vol. 19, No. 3, pp.259-287.

Schwartz, Theodore "Anthropology and psychology: an unrequited relationship," in New Directions in Psychological Anthropology, T. Schwartz, G. White & C. Lutz (eds.) Cambridge: Cambridge University, 1992, pp. 324-349.

Turner, Victor -- "Encounter with Freud: The making of a comparative symbolologist," in The Making of Psychological Anthropology, G. Spindler (ed.), Berkeley: University of California, 1978, pp. 558-583.

Csordas, Thomas J. "Embodiment as a paradigm for Anthropology," in Ethos, 1 1990, 18:5-47.

- (2) Jackson, Michael -- "The Witch as a Category and as a Person", Chapter 9 in Paths Toward a Clearing, Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1989, pp. 88-101.

*** R. Simons & C. Hughes** (eds.) The Culture-Bound Syndromes: Folk Illnesses of Psychiatric and Anthropological Interest. Dordrecht, Netherlands: D. Reidel Publishing Company, 1985

Davis, Wade "Plants of the Gods," in his book Shadows in the Sun. New York: Broadway Books, 1998, pp. 155-168.

Stephen, Michelle Cargo Cults, Cultural Creativity, and Autonomous Imagination in Ethos, 1997, Vol. 25, No.3, pp. 333-358.

Scheper-Hughes, Nancy “Hungry bodies, medicine, and the state: Toward a critical psychological anthropology,” in New Directions in Psychological Anthropology, T. Schwartz, G. White & C. Lutz (eds.) Cambridge: Cambridge University, 1992, pp. 221-247.

Paper Assignments

Paper I (suggested length 7-10 pages)

Choose an autobiography of a non-Western individual from the list at the end of this syllabus in consultation with me. (If you have an alternative autobiography not on the list, speak to me about the possibility of using this source for your paper.) Use the following questions as a guide to structuring your first paper assignment.

One of the recurring issues in theoretical discussion in psychological anthropology and cross-cultural psychology is the tension between two perspectives that one can take in the study of the relationship of the individual to culture. One perspective would argue for the basic psychic unity of humans despite the influences of culture. The other position would argue for a cultural relativism that recognizes the major role that time, place and circumstance (i.e., society, culture and history) play in determining human perception, conception and behavioral expression. In reading the autobiography of an individual from another culture were you struck by any beliefs, behaviors, values or experiences that you might call “pan-human”? Were you struck, on the other hand, by any beliefs, behaviors, values or experiences that appeared so foreign to you that you had a difficulty in understanding or relating to them? Discuss some aspect of the relationship between the individual and culture as you came to understand, appreciate or question it from your reading.

Culture and society continually impose behavioral constraints and demands on the individual. Culture also serves as the context of meanings, values and beliefs available to the individual. Yet despite what seems to be continuous pressure to conform in behavior and belief to some anonymous social ideal, humans end up with individual personalities. Individuals often express their individuality in rejecting traditional cultural behaviors and values. Yet it is also possible to express individuality by embracing and personalizing social and cultural values and behavior giving them an individual style and understanding. Discuss these issues with respect to the individual whose autobiography you have read.

Psychological anthropologists are most often interested in observing individuals and understanding the human experience within the context of everyday life rather than in controlled test situations. Has reading the autobiography of an individual from another culture posed interesting questions for psychological anthropology that might not arise from controlled experiments or the study of Western individuals? Are there some questions that could not be

handled using more rigorous experimental or observational techniques? On the other hand, are there some questions that could lead to new and interesting studies amenable to quantitative or even experimental control? Discuss the relationship between naturalistic studies and controlled experimental studies.

Paper II (suggested length 9-12 pages)

Choose a research topic that involves some aspect of individual perception, cognition, motivation, and/or behavior, etc. within a cultural context of order of meaning. (Your autobiography from the previous assignment might be a useful starting point) You should present your proposed research topic in written form for approval as early as possible, and no later than October 12th.

Some possible grand themes within which you may fine tune your focus:

- socialization of gender roles (e.g., third genders, ritualized "homosexuality")
- dreaming
- culturally salient symbols
- abnormality
- altered states of consciousness
- language and the social construction of "reality"
- social institutions (e.g., religion, market economy) and the shaping of motivation, perception, self-understanding, values, alternative realities, etc.
- ritualized torture, scarification, etc.

SOME NON-WESTERN AUTOBIOGRAPHIES

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Browne, Martha Griffith, d. 1906.

Title: Autobiography of a female slave.

E444 .B887 1969B

Savala, Refugio.

Title: The autobiography of a Yaqui poet / by Refugio Savala
; edited with background and interpretations by
Kathleen M. Sands.

F1221.Y3 S28

Yogananda, Paramahansa, 1893-1952.

Title: Autobiography of a yogi, by Paramhansa Yogananda, with

a preface by W.Y. Evans-Wentz ...

B133.Y63 A3

Gandhi, Mahatma, 1869-1948.

Title: An autobiography : the story of my experiments with
truth / Mohandas K. Gandhi ; translated from the
original in Gujarati by Mahadev Desai

DS481.G3 A3 1993

Black Elk, 1863-1950

Title: Black Elk speaks; being the life story of a holy man
of the Oglala Sioux, as told through John G. Neihardt
(Flaming Rainbow). Illustrated by Standing Bear.

E90.B82 A3 1972

Black Hawk, Sauk chief, 1767-1838.

Title: Black Hawk : an autobiography / edited by Donald
Jackson.

E83.83 .B62

Gatheru, R. Mugo, 1925-

Title: Child of two worlds, a Kikuyu's story, by R. Mugo
Gatheru. Introd. by St. Clair Drake.

DT434.E26 G3 1967

Tret' i`akov, Sergei Mikhailovich, 1892-1939.

Title: A Chinese testament; the autobiography of Tan
Shih-hua, as told to S. Tretiakov.

DS721 .T72

Blowsnake, Sam.

Title: Crashing Thunder; the autobiography of an American
Indian edited by Paul Radin.

E90.C9 C9

Sugimoto, Etsu Inagaki.

Title: A daughter of the Samurai : how a daughter of feudal
Japan, living hundreds of years in one generation,
became a modern American / by Etsu Inagaki Sugimoto

DS825 .S8 1927

Blackman, Margaret B.

Title: During my time : Florence Edenshaw Davidson, a Haida
woman / Margaret B. Blackman.

E99.H2 D383 1982

Moon, Vasant.

Title: Growing up untouchable in India : a dalit

autobiography / Vasant Moon ; translated from the
Marathi by Gail Omvedt ; with an introduction by
Eleanor Zelliot.

HT720 .M66 2000

Sewid, James, 1913-

Title: Guests never leave hungry; the autobiography of James
Sewid, a Kwakiutl Indian [edited] by James P.
Spradley.

E99.K9 S4

Rojas, Juan.

Title: I spent my life in the mines : the story of Juan
Rojas, Bolivian tin miner / June Nash [editor].

HD8039.M72 B66513 1992

Brave Bird, Mary.

Title: Lakota woman / by Mary Crow Dog and Richard Erdoes.

E99.D1 M425 1990

Left Handed, 1868-

Title: Left Handed, a Navajo autobiography / [recorded and
edited by] Walter and Ruth Dyk.

E99.N3 L545

Morrison, Eliza, 1837-1921.

Title: A little history of my forest life : an Indian-white
autobiography / Eliza Morrison ; edited by Victoria
Brehm.

E99.C6 M74 2002

Sekaquaptewa, Helen, 1898-

Title: Me and mine : the life story of Helen Sekaquaptewa /
as told to Louise Udall ; illustrated by Phillip
Sekaquaptewa.

E90.S45 A3 1993

Katsu, Kokichi, 1802-1850.

Title: Musui's story : the autobiography of a Tokugawa
samurai / Katsu Kokichi ; translated, with an
introduction and notes, by Teruko Craig.

DS881.5.K285 A3 1988

Ngabidj, Grant, 1904-1977.

Title: My country of the pelican dreaming : the life of an

Australian Aborigine of the Gadjerong, Grant Ngabidj,
1904-1977 / as told to Bruce Shaw [by Grant Ngabidj].

GN666 .N53

Mitchell, Frank, 1881-1967.

Title: Navajo Blessingway Singer : the autobiography of Frank
Mitchell, 1881-1967 / edited by Charlotte J. Frisbie
and David P. McAllester.

E99.N3 M64 1978

Shostak, Marjorie, 1945-

Title: Nisa, the life and words of a !Kung woman / Marjorie
Shostak.

DT1058.K86 N57 1981

Brave Bird, Mary.

Title: Ohitika woman / Mary Brave Bird with Richard Erdoes.

E99.B8 C763 1993

Ongka.

Title: Ongka : a self-account by a New Guinea big-man /
translated by Andrew Strathern.

CT2950.O36 A36 1979

Satomi, My⁻od⁻o, 1896-1978.

Title: Passionate journey : the spiritual autobiography of
Satomi My⁻od⁻o / translated & annotated by Sallie B.
King.

BQ984.A69947 A3 1987

Sayers, Peig.

Title: Peig: the autobiography of Peig Sayers of the Great
Blasket Island. Translated into English by Bryan
MacMahon. Introd. by Eoin McKiernan. Illus. by
Catriona O'Connor.

DA990.B65 S4213 1974

Plenty Coups, Chief of the Crows, 1848-1932.

Title: Plenty-Coups, chief of the Crows / Frank B. Linderman.

E99.C92 P55 1962

Linderman, Frank Bird, 1869-1938.

Title: Pretty-shield : medicine woman of the Crows / by Frank
B. Linderman ; illustrated by Herbert Morton Stoops.

E99.C92 P745 1974

Bizarro Ujpán, Ignacio.

Title: Son of Tecún Umán : a Maya Indian tells his life story / James D. Sexton, editor.

F1465.2.T9 B59 1985

Talayesva, Don C., b. 1890.

Title: Sun chief; the autobiography of a Hopi Indian, edited by Lew W. Simmons. Foreword by Robert V. Hine.

E99.H7 T25 1967

Hughes, Louis, b. 1832.

Title: Thirty years a slave : the autobiography of Louis Hughes : from bondage to freedom : the institution of slavery as seen on the plantation in the home of the planter / with a new foreword by William Andrews.

E444 .H89 2002

Ekrem, Selma.

Title: Unveiled; the autobiography of a Turkish girl.

DR432 .E35 1934

Xie, Bingying, 1906-

Title: A woman soldier's own story : the autobiography of Xie Bingying / Xie Bingying ; translated by Lily Chia Brissman & Barry Brissman.

PL2765.I45 Z5213 2001

Saitoti, Tepilit Ole, 1949-

Title: The worlds of a Maasai warrior : an autobiography / Tepilit Ole Saitoti.

DT433.545.M33 S25 1991

Mountain Wolf Woman, 1884-1960.

Title: Mountain Wolf Woman, sister of Crashing Thunder; the autobiography of a Winnebago Indian

E90.M6 A3