

Anthropology / Sociology 103
GENERAL ANTHROPOLOGY
Fall - 1999

CLASS PERIOD-- 11:30-12:30 M,W,F

PROFESSOR-- Susan Kus

Office Hours -- M and F 10:20-11:20,

OFFICE-- 105 Clough

W 1:30-3 or by appointment

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 limitations -- as well.

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 (4-6 pages), a mid-term and a final exam, and viewing several films outside regular class time. Exams will include short answer and essay questions.

The essays will be in the style of a journal entry or a short exploratory piece. Should there be any question of style refer to the Style Guidelines of the journal, *American Anthropologist*. 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 submit a note to the instructor with your name, 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	40%
essays will	(lowest grade of 5 will be dropped - failure to complete all 5 result in a failing grade for the course	
	Mid-term exam.....	15%
	Final exam.....	25%

REQUIRED READING

- Basic Text: Nanda, S. Cultural Anthropology (Sixth Edition)
- Cultural Spradley, J & D. McCurdy Conformity and Conflict: Readings in Anthropology (Ninth Edition)
- Wormsley, W. The White Man Will Eat You!
- Campbell, A. T. Getting to Know Waiwai
- 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)
- (ed.), Briggs, J. "Kapluna Daughter," in Women in the Field, P. Golde Berkeley: U of California, 1970.
- City Snyder, G. "Re-inhabitation," in The Old Ways, San Francisco: Lights, 1977.
- lay out Raharijaona, V "Mihatsara Ivelan-tshihy: Taking time to properly

the mats.” Academie Malgache, Fianarantsoa, June 2,
1995.

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

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

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

COURSE TOPICS AND READING ASSIGNMENTS

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

DATE	LECTURE TOPIC	READING
Aug 25	Introductory remarks	
27	Becoming human	S&M (8)
Aug 30	Homo sapiens sapiens or “playing with a full deck”	*Rensberger Begin Wormsley
Sep 1	A world of symbols	Nanda (1), S&M (3)
3	Human “nature”? Essay #1 assigned	S&M (Part 1)
Sep 6	LABOR DAY	
8	“The Shock of the Other”	S&M (1)
10	Learning about the other Essay #2 assigned	*Briggs, S&M (4)
Sept 13	Fieldwork & Class discussion of Chapters 1-10 of Wormsley	Nanda (2 & 5)
15	Language	Nanda (4), S&M (6 and 7)
17	A concept of culture	Nanda (3)
Sep 20	An Ecology of earth and mind	S&M (9)
22	Living on sacred land	Nanda (6), *Snyder

	24	Class discussion of Chapters 11-20 of Wormsley Essay #3 assigned	
Sep	27	The consequences of agriculture	S&M (10 and 12)
	29	Family, friend and foe	Nanda (8 & 9), S&M (18 and 19)
Oct	1	Social relations	*Raharijaona, Begin
	Campbell,		
Oct	4	Gender	Nanda (10), S&M (20)
	6	Gender (cont.)	S&M (21 and 22)
	8	MIDTERM EXAM	
Oct	11	“A poor man shames us all”	
	13	The giving of gifts & Class discussion of Chapters 1-3 of Campbell	Nanda (7), *Kus, S&M (13)
	15	Is money the root of all evils?	S&M (14 and 16)
Oct	18	FALL RECESS	
	20	Power and prestige in non-Western societies	Nanda (11), S&M (26 and 27)
	22	“The Tightrope of Power”	
Oct	25	Power and prestige (cont.)	Nanda (12), S&M
	(28)		
	27	Psychological Anthropology	S&M (23)
	29	Class discussion of Chapters 4-8 of Campbell Essay #4 assigned	
Nov	1	Psychological anthropology	S&M (17)
	3	Social being determines consciousness	*Ridington, Nanda
	(13)		
	5	A world of meaning	Nanda (14)
Nov	8	“Songs of the 4th world”	S&M (29 and 30)
	10	A world of meaning (cont.)	*Davis-Floyd
	12	A world of meaning (cont.) Essay #5 assigned	
Nov	15	Culture contact	Nanda (15), S&M
	(32)		
	17	Fighting for meaning and dignity -- Viewing of “Dersu Uzala” 6-8:30 PM Media center - Wed or Thurs	Begin Kehoe S&M (31)
	19	NO CLASS (replaced by film)	

Nov	22	Fighting for meaning and dignity	S&M (33)
	24	THANKSGIVING RECESS	
	26	THANKSGIVING RECESS	
Nov	29	“In the Whiteman’s image”	
Dec	1	Discussion of Kehoe and film	
	3	Anthropology in Our World	Nanda (16), S&M (15
			and 34),
Dec	6	Anthropology in Our World	S&M (35 and 36)
	8	Concluding remarks	

INTRODUCTION TO ANTHROPOLOGY - A/S 103
 Prof. Kus FALL 1999

Please read the following course requirements, sign the bottom of this sheet and return in class.

- 1) Readings are to be completed before the class for which they are assigned.
- 2) Class participation contributes to a student’s involvement and interest in the course. Without class participation the highest grade you can earn is a B+. If there is some reason why you are unable to contribute to class discussions you are to speak to the instructor individually on this matter.
- 3) Class attendance is required. Since I consider the material covered in lectures to be critical to your understanding and appreciation of the discipline of anthropology, excessive unexcused absences can be grounds for failure of this course despite passing grades on exams and papers.
 - a) More than 2 unexcused absences can lower your grade by a “degree” (e.g, from a “B” to a “B-”), and an additional unexcused absence will lower your grade by an additional “degree”.
 - b) 4 or more unexcused absences will result in a failing grade for the course.
 - c) You are to keep a record of your absences (including date and reason). Upon returning to class after an absence, you should submit a note to the instructor with your name, the date of the absence(s) and the reason for the absence.
- 4) 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.
- 5) Failure to adequately complete any assignment or to take any exam will result in a failing grade for the course.

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

7) If you are having problems concerning class readings, assignments, lectures, etc. it is your responsibility to seek out help from the instructor.

8) The instructor endeavors to maintain regular office hours and can accommodate requests for meetings outside the regularly scheduled office hours. Please take advantage of individual attention available during these hours. Remember, you do not need to be having problems to come see the instructor during office hours.

I HAVE READ AND UNDERSTOOD THE ABOVE LISTED COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND ADVICE.

NAME: _____
DATE: _____
CLASS: FALL - 1999 -- Intro Anthro A/S 107 -- Prof. Kus