

Instructor: Aletta Biersack
Instructor's office: 255 Condon
Instructor's office hours: H 2-5

Term: Winter 2005
Classroom: 125 McKenzie Hall
Class meeting time: UH 12-1:50

ANTHROPOLOGY 260

INTRODUCTION TO CULTURAL ANTHROPOLOGY

Course goals:

This course is the required course for those who declared a major in anthropology during or after fall 2003. It is designed to lay the foundations for the higher-level courses you will be taking in cultural anthropology. No 10-week introductory course could be comprehensive. The course selectively highlights some of the most important topics in anthropology yesterday and today and also gives students a sense of how anthropology has changed over the last century. A further goal of the course is to launch majors in the process of planning what they will do with the undergraduate degree. The two main possibilities are getting a job and going on to graduate school. To aid students in beginning to think this through, a representative of the UO Career Center will make a presentation in the class the last week of the course and the topics that will be taken up toward the end of the course--medical anthropology, the anthropology of development, and applied anthropology--will help students start thinking about how they can deploy their undergraduate education on the job market.

Readings:

Cultural Anthropology, 3rd ed., by Barbara D. Miller; *Conformity and Conflict*, 11th ed., by James Spradley and David W. McCurdy. Both books are available at UO Bookstore. A copy of *Conformity and Conflict*, the 11th edition, has been put on reserve in the Knight Library, along with a copy of the Miller textbook, 2nd edition. Note that there is a reading assignment on the internet in week ten of the course.

Performance requirements:

There will be two exams: a midterm and a final. Each of these exams is divided into a short-answer segment, which will be taken on an in-class, sit-down basis, and an essay exam, which will be prepared as a take-home. The essay segment of each exam should be typed double-spaced, with 1-inch margins all around, and it should include a bibliography and appropriate citations. Students will receive a study sheet for the short-answer portion of each exam as well as the essay questions for each exam well in advance of the test date. They will also receive the essay question portion of each exam well in advance of the due date. I expect that some of you do well on short answer questions but poorly on essay questions, while others of you do well on essay questions and poorly on short answer questions. The trick will be to master both kinds of questions. Learn from your performance on the midterm where your weakness, if any, lies and try to correct it for the final. Note that, if your performance on the second exam is significantly better than your midterm performance, your final grade will count more than it would have counted had there been no improvement in performance. Even if you have been performing at a B level, if you ace the final, your grade could (all other things being equal) become an A. This

should motivate you to do very well on the final. The midterm will cover materials from the beginning of the course through 1/27; the final will cover all course materials, with the emphasis on the materials from 2/1 through 3/3.

Your grader is Ms. Jessica Lowen, a graduate student in the Department of Anthropology. She will post office hours when the midterm is returned to discuss your grade with you, should you wish. All substantive questions about the course should be referred to the instructor during her office hours (Thursdays 2-5), or in class or just after class.

Giving take-home exams does open the door to plagiarism, a very serious offense that is strongly sanctioned. The "Office of Student Life's Academic Dishonesty Policy" defines plagiarism in these terms: "Plagiarism is the inclusion of someone else's product, words, ideas, or data as one's own work. When a student submits work for credit that includes the product, words, ideas, or data of others, the source must be acknowledged by the use of complete, accurate, and specific references, such as footnotes [or parenthetical citations]." I encourage students in the class to get together and discuss the questions on the exam. This means that a certain amount of cross-fertilization is built into the testing process. However, your performance should be your own: a pulling together of materials you have read, lecture materials, class discussions, and discussions you may have had outside the classroom with your colleagues in the class. A thoughtful answer is always an individualized answer, one that represents personal synthesis and critique. So, in addition to the being on the lookout for unacceptable use of other people's writings, I will also look for any undue duplication across take-home exams. The best way to prevent undue duplication is to write in your own words, out of your own perspective, and in light of what you have learned in the course. I have already supplied the key web site on plagiarism: <http://libweb.uoregon.edu/guides/plagiarism/students/> You may also wish to look at the parallel web site for instructors: <http://libweb.uoregon.edu/guides/plagiarism/faculty> It will convince you, if you needed convincing, of how risky plagiarism is.

Papers that are late will be penalized at the rate of a letter grade for every half-day the paper is late. A paper that is late by only an hour will be dropped one letter grade, so it is in your interest to get your papers in on time. If you need to change the time and date of your exam, you will need to set this up well in advance with the instructor and in the context of a well documented reason.

There will also be focused classroom discussions from time to time. I have indicated three such discussions below, but there will be more. I will indicate what these are well no later than the class meeting before the discussions are to take place.

Your grade in the course will be determined as follows: attendance/participation (15%); midterm exam (35%), final exam (50%).

Important dates to remember:

1/25 Study sheet for the short-answer portion of midterm, together with the essay questions, handed out.

1/27 Review for the midterm

2/3 The sit-down portion of the midterm will be administered; your answers to the essay

questions you received on 1/25 should be turned in at the same time.

2/15 Return of the midterm; grader will establish office hours for those who wish to discuss the grade with her.

3/3 Study sheet for the short-answer portion of the final will be passed out, along with the essay questions for the final.

3/10 Review for the final

3/18 The sit-down portion of the midterm will be administered in 125 McKenzie at 8:00 am. Your answers to the essay questions will be due at the same time.

Resource people in the Department of Anthropology for undergraduate majors:

1) Dr. Diane Baxter, Undergraduate Advisor, Department of Anthropology (dbaxter@uoregon.edu, 373 Condon Hall, 346-5157)

2) Ms. Tiffany Brannon, Undergraduate Secretary, Department of Anthropology (tbrannon@uoregon.edu, 308 Condon Hall, 346-5102)

3) Your particular advisor (if you do not know who this is, please consult with Ms. Brannon)

Course of Study

Week one Introduction to the course

1/4 Introduction to the course, the instructor, the grader

For discussion: What attracted you to anthropology? What do you plan to do with your undergraduate major? What are your long-term goals?

1/6 Cultural anthropology and its methods

Read: Miller, chs. 1, 2

Film: *Bronislaw Malinowski, Off the Verandah* (in the film collection of the Department of Anthropology)

For discussion after the film viewing: What are the strengths and weaknesses of Malinowski's approach to anthropological research?

Week two Economic anthropology I

1/11 Read: Spradley and McCurdy, chs. 1-3; Miller, chs. 3, 4 ("Economies and Their Modes of Production," "Consumption and Exchange")

1/13 Read: Spradley and McCurdy, pp. 105-108; chs. 11, 13, pp. 159-162; chs. 15

Week three Economic anthropology II, social organization I

1/18 Film: *Maharajah Burger* (in the film collection of the Department of Anthropology)

For discussion after the film viewing: What do the South Asians in the film find offensive about the British response to mad cow disease? the "maharajah burger"? In the pecking order of world cultures, where do these South Asians place themselves? To what extent are these South Asians "globalized"?

Note that the Student Conservation Association will send a representative to talk to the class after our discussion. The representative will tell the class about SCA's internships in over 50 disciplines.

1/20 Miller, chs. 8, 9 ("Kinship and Domestic Life," "Social Groups and Social Stratification")

Week four Social organization II; midterm review

1/25 Spradley and McCurdy: pp. 213-215, chs. 21, 22; pp. 249-252; chs. 24, 25

NOTE: Review sheet for the short-answer segment of the midterm will be handed out; the essay questions for the midterm will also be handed out. The short-answer segment of the midterm will be administered in class on 2/3. Your answers to the essay questions you received on 1/25 are also due at this time.

1/27 Complete discussion of Spradley and McCurdy readings; review for midterm (will cover materials through 1/27)

Week Political anthropology I; midterm exam

2/1 Read Miller, chs. 10, 11 ("Politics and Leadership," "Social Order and Social Conflict")

Note that a representative of the Office of International Programs may come to the class to discuss UO's study abroad and/or global internships programs.

2/3 Sitdown short-answer portion of the midterm, administered in class; if there is time, we will go over the answers to this segment of the midterm before you leave the classroom.

Week six Political anthropology II; return of midterm

2/8 Miller, chs. 10, 11 ("Politics and Leadership," "Social Order and Social Conflict"), continuing discussion; Spradley and McCurdy, 29, 31

2/10 Miller, ch. 15 ("People on the Move"); Spradley and McCurdy, chs. 27, 28

Week seven Transnational anthropology, the anthropology of religion

2/15 Return of midterm; film or film clip, time allowing: TBA

2/17 Miller, ch.13; Spradley and McCurdy, chs. 34, 35

Week eight Medical anthropology; development anthropology I

2/22 Miller, ch. 7; Spradley and McCurdy, chs. 37

2/24 Miller, ch. 16 ("Development Anthropology"); Spradley and McCurdy, ch. 36

Week nine Development anthropology II; applied anthropology

3/1 Film: *The Kayapo: Out of the Forest* (IMC code: VT 03174)

3/3 Applied anthropology

Read: Miller, all the information on "lessons applied" (see p. xv, which lists all of them); Spradley and McCurdy, chs. 38

Study sheet for the short-answer segment of the final handed out. (Note that the final will cover materials from the beginning of the course through 3/3. It will therefore be comprehensive. The emphasis will be on the materials from 2/1 through 3/3, however.) The take-home essay segment of the final will be passed out on this day as well. The essay part of the final is due at the time you take the sitdown short-answer part of the final, on March 18th at 8 am.

Week ten Careers in anthropology; preparation for the final

3/8 Representative of the UO Career Center (Mr. Rick Guerra, Assistant Director) will be in class

Read:

Spradley and McCurdy, ch. 39

<http://uocareer.uoregon.edu/IMAGES/resumeguide.pdf>

Helpful internet sites for finding positions:

American Anthropological Association's Sites:
<http://aaanet.jobscontrolcenter.com/search/cfm>

<http://www.aaanet.org/careers/htm>

<http://www.usajobs.opm.gov/> (click on "working for America")

UN volunteer opportunities:

<http://www.unsystem.org/en/frames.alphabetic.index.en.htm> (click on United Nations Volunteers, World Volunteer Web)

Peace Corps:

<http://www.peacecorps.gov>

<http://www.peacecorps.gov/index.cfm?shell=pchq.jobs>

WorldTeach: <http://www.worldteach.org>

Global Citizens Network: <http://globalcitizens.org>

USAID: <http://www.usaid.gov/>

Operation Crossroads Africa:

<http://oca.igc.org/web/index.html> Northern Kentucky's list of organizations in their area hiring anthropologists:

<http://www.nku.edu/~anthro/careers.html>

United States Office of Personnel Management:

<http://www.usajobs.opm.gov/>

Society for Applied Anthropology:

<http://www.sfaa.nnet//sfaajobs.html>

<http://www.medanth.org/positions/>

<http://www.anthrotech.com/career/>

<http://www.saa.org> (Society for American Archaeology)

<http://www.csuchico.edu/anth/ABFA/> (American Board of Forensic Anthropology, Inc.)

<http://uocareer.uoregon.edu/career/carexp.asp>

<http://uocareer.uoregon.edu/career/tipsheets/ANTH.pdf>

Helpful site for exploring graduate school possibilities:

<http://www.anthro.net/> (Anthropology in the World Wide Net) (click on academic departments; read about the degree programs at U of Arizona, U of California-Berkeley, UCLA, U of California-Santa Cruz, Stanford, U of Washington, U of Michigan, U of Chicago, Columbia University, New York University, U of Texas-Austin, Indiana U)

Another way to learn about the various departments of anthropology by looking at the 2004-2005 AAA's *Guide to Departments of Anthropology* (available in 308 Condon Hall. Internet sites are supplied for each department profiled in this reference work.

3/10 Review for final and course evaluation

Finals week

3/18 10:15-12:15 The sit-down final will be administered in 125 McKenzie Hall at 8:00 am; your answers to the essay questions handed out 3/3 are due at this time as well.