

## INTRODUCTION to ANTHROPOLOGY

**Dr.MARTÍN**

**Spring 2007**

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Dept. Website: [www.fiu.edu/~socant](http://www.fiu.edu/~socant); Teaching assistant: Dusan Urgrina (dusanu@gmail.com)

Office Hours: M and W 11:30 AM to 12:30 PM; after class or by appointment via e-mail.

### **COURSE GOALS:**

This course is designed to introduce students to the discipline of anthropology. The course is structured to provide students with a basic knowledge of the discipline through the study of particular cultures and the practice of anthropology by students themselves.

**GRADING POLICY:** Students earn grades based on the following formula:

Mid-Term Examination = 33 1/3%

Final Examination = 33 1/3%

Working Group Presentation = 33 1/3%

Please note that grades are not negotiable. I will be glad, however, to review any graded work to analyze how a student's performance could be improved.

**EXAMINATIONS: Both examinations are multiple choice. All class materials may appear on the examinations i.e. all lectures, books, videos, discussions and working group presentations.**

**WORKING GROUP PRESENTATION:** Students will work in groups of approximately 10 students, investigating one of the themes listed on the syllabus and present their work to the class in a 30-minute presentation. Working Group Guidelines are available at [www.fiu.edu/~socant](http://www.fiu.edu/~socant) under my name.

**PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS:** Absence from class, late arrival to class and talking during class other than related to class discussion are unprofessional. All students are encouraged to participate in class discussions by asking questions and offering comments on course material.

**LATE ASSIGNMENTS or FAILURE to COMPLETE ASSIGNMENTS:** Absence from any examination or working group presentation will earn a 0 and be averaged into the calculations for the final grade. In the case of emergencies students are expected to contact me regarding their examinations or working group assignments.

**REQUIRED BOOKS:** The following books constitute the required reading for this course. All books are available from the FIU Bookstore. New and used copies may be available in other bookstores. Any problems with acquiring these books should be brought to my attention immediately.

(1) Belmonte, Thomas  
2005 (25<sup>th</sup> anniversary ed.) **The Broken Fountain**. NY: Columbia U Press.

(2) Ember, Carol R. and Melvin Ember  
2007 (12<sup>th</sup> ed.) **Cultural Anthropology**. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson/Prentice Hall.

(3) Jones, David E.  
1984 **Sanapia, Comanche Medicine Woman**. Long Grove, Illinois: Waveland Press.

(4) Kikumura, Akemi  
1978 **Through Harsh Winters**. Berkeley: Univ. of CA. Press.

**CLASS SCHEDULE and DUE DATES:**

Jan. 8: Explanation of syllabus and introduction.  
 Jan. 10: Selection of working groups.  
 Jan. 15: No class  
 Jan. 17: What is anthropology? Chapter 1 in Ember & Ember  
 Jan. 22: What is the concept of culture? Chapter 2 in Ember & Ember  
 Jan. 24: What is Anthropological research methodology? Chapter 4 in Ember & Ember  
 Jan. 29: Discussion, Belmonte's The Broken Fountain  
 Jan. 31: Marriage and Family, Chapter 10 in Ember and Ember  
 Feb. 5: Sex, Gender and Culture, Chapter 9 in Ember and Ember  
 Feb. 7: Discussion, Kikumura's Through Harsh Winters  
 Feb. 12: Dusan Ugrina lecture  
 Feb. 14: Mid-term examination  
 Feb. 19: Social stratification, Chapter 8 in Ember and Ember  
 Feb. 21: Religion and Magic, Chapter 15 in Ember and Ember  
 Feb. 26: The Arts, Chapter 16 in Ember and Ember  
 Feb. 28: Medical Anthropology, Chapter 19 in Ember and Ember  
 Mar. 5: Discussion, Jones' Sanapia  
 Mar. 7: Culture Change and Globalization, Chapter 17 in Ember and Ember  
 Mar. 12: Applied and Practicing Anthropology, Chapter 18 in Ember and Ember  
 Mar. 14: Global Social Problems, Chapter 20 in Ember and Ember  
 Mar. 19: No class, Spring Break  
 Mar. 21: No class, Spring Break  
 Mar. 26: Working Groups  
 Mar. 28: Working Groups (Dusan Ugrina)  
 April 2: Working Groups (Dusan Ugrina)  
 April 4: Working Groups  
 April 9: Working Groups  
 April 11: Working Groups  
 April 16: Working Groups  
 April 18: Working Group and Final Review  
**April 25: FINAL EXAMINATION; 12:30PM**

**WORKING GROUP TOPICS:**

Please choose one of the following as your working group:

1. Altered States of Consciousness: Practice and Substance
2. Culture and Gender
3. The Role of Music in Culture
4. Body Decoration and Personal Appearance
- 5. Shamanism**
6. An Anthropological View on Ethnic Conflict
7. Culture and the Environment
8. Native American Spirituality
9. Anthropological View of Religion in the Contemporary World
10. Culture and the Built Environment
11. Global Youth Culture
12. The Human Face of Immigration
13. The Cultural Meaning of Food
14. Anthropological Solutions to Contemporary Human Issues
15. Student generated ideas (must have at least 7 students)

Dr. Martín

#### GUIDELINES for WORKING GROUPS for CLASS PRESENTATIONS

**GOAL:** To produce a class presentation of 30 minutes on a pre-selected topic with all working group members contributing. Each member of the working group earns the same grade.

**CONTENT of PRESENTATION:** (a.) Explain what your topic is and why it is important. (b.) Analyze the topic critically including any debate concerning it. (c.) Remember to include two cultures as examples. (d.) Summarize and conclude. **Please note that a hard copy bibliography of sources employed in the presentation and a list of the participating students with their signatures are required the day of the presentation.**

**ADVICE for WORKING GROUPS:** Respect for all working group members and their opinions should be the basis of the conduct of the group.

A consensus model of decision-making is likely to be the most successful. Learn to listen, encourage quieter group members to participate and don't allow one or two people to dominate.

Try to delegate tasks based on group members' interests, abilities and expertise.

Remember to cooperate and solve your own group issues within the group should any arise. If a problem within the group proves irresolvable, I will make an intervention.

**MOTIVATION:** Remember the working group presentation represents 33 1/3% of your final grade and that all working group members will earn the same grade. Also remember that each class member selected her or his own working group,

**Please remember in use relevant sources for information, including non-web based sources, i. e. professional journals and books.**

**Please remember that requests for special equipment (portable computer, projectors, etc.) need to be made through me. I would need the name and panther number of the student who will be obtaining the equipment from the Media Equipment Office in the Greene Library. I will then forward students' requests to the ME Office. Please make these requests one week in advance of the date for which the equipment is needed.**