

ANT 2000: Cultural Anthropology

Spring 2006
9:30 – 10:45 (Tues/Thurs)
Room: GC 140
Office Hours: 3 – 6 pm Monday
& by appointment

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Course Description

In this introduction to Cultural Anthropology, we explore a variety of concepts and theories that help us to understand the similarities, differences, connections and *disconnections* experienced by world communities (including ourselves). We also learn about the field of Anthropology, including the type of research anthropologists conduct, as well as the methods and ethics of their research.

Course Requirements

The requirements for the course are as follows.

- **Lectures & Attendance:** Class attendance is required. Your exams will include material from the lectures. Coming into class late is very distracting. Therefore, if you are late please quietly sit down in the back of the classroom. We will use attendance sign-up sheets to determine attendance grades. (10%)
- **Examinations:** There will be two multiple choice exams. Each exam will cover ½ of the course. Exams include all texts, lectures and films. Make-up exams will be given only to those students who present a written certificate from a physician, the infirmary, or comparable legitimate reason. Incompletes will be given only under exceptional circumstances. Make-up exams will be in essay form, arranged by Dr. Ogden, and taken during the Teaching Assistant's office hours. (25% each)
- **Paper:** Participants will write a five-page reaction paper on Nathan's *My Freshman Year*. We will discuss the scope and directions for this paper in the class. (25%)
- **Yanomami Community Action Network:** Course members will join students at other North American universities in participating in the ongoing discussion over research conducted with the Yanomami peoples of the Amazon basin – surely the most ethically-problematic controversy in contemporary anthropology. Students will participate by signing in as members of the Yanomami Community Action Network; reading background information detailing the issue; writing a letter explaining their views on the issue; and grading letters written by students at another university. Top ranked letters will be sent to participants in the controversy requesting specific courses of action. (15%)

Required Texts

There are 3 required texts for this course. Two are available at the FIU bookstore, the third is available through the Public Anthropology website.

At FIU bookstore:

Nathan, Rebekah

2005 *My Freshman Year: What a Professor Learned by Becoming a Student*. Ithica, NY: Cornell University Press.

Spradley, James and David McCurdy, eds.

2006 Conformity and Conflict: Readings in Cultural Anthropology (12 edition).

Boston: Allyn and Bacon.

Borofsky, Robert, ed.

2006 Yanomami: The Fierce Controversy and What We Can Learn from It. Available at <http://www.publicanthropology.org/>

Policy on Plagiarism. As a reminder, plagiarism is cheating. Plagiarism includes not only directly copying someone else's words, but also using their ideas and insights without citing their work. The disciplinary action that will be taken in the case of plagiarism is explained in the section on "Academic Misconduct" in the Student Handbook. If you are uncertain about what constitutes plagiarism, see the following websites: "How to Recognize Plagiarism (Indiana University) at <http://www.indiana.edu/~istd/>.

DATE	TOPIC	READING	OTHER
Jan. 10	Course Introduction		GET BOOKS
Jan. 12	Anthropology's Four Fields	Spradley 1, 2	
Jan. 17	Culture	Spradley 3; Nathan Preface, 1	
Jan. 19	Ethnography	Spradley 4, 5; Nathan 2	
Jan. 24	Language & Communication	Spradley 6, 7 Nathan 3	
Jan. 26	Non Verbal Communication	Spradley 8; Nathan 4	
Jan. 31	Language and Gender	Spradley 9; Nathan 5	FILM
Feb. 2	Environmental Anthropology	Spradley 10, Nathan 6	
Feb. 7	The Earth's Limits	Spradley 11, Nathan 7	
Feb. 9	Subsistence & Environment	Spradley 12	PAPER DUE
Feb. 14	Economics: The Gift	Spradley 13	
Feb. 16	Global Economy	Spradley 14	
Feb. 21	Informal Economy	Spradley 15	
Feb. 23	Kinship & Family	Spradley 16, 17	
Feb. 28	Kinship & Family Midterm Review	Spradley 18, 19	
Mar. 2			MIDTERM
Mar. 7	Identities	Spradley 20, 21	
Mar. 9	Identities	Spradley 22, 23	
Mar. 14	Yanomami Project: Intro.	Front Matter (online)	
Mar. 16	Yanomami Project	Borofsky 1, 2, 3	FILM
SPRING BREAK		Borofsky 4, 5, 6	
Mar. 28	Yanomami Project		
Mar. 30	Yanomami Project		
Apr. 4	Religion & Magic	Spradley 27, 28	
Apr. 6	Religion & Magic	Spradley 29, 30	
Apr. 11	Globalization	Spradley 31	
Apr. 13	Globalization	Spradley 32, 33	
Apr. 18	Applied Anth.	Spradley 34, 35	
Apr. 20	Exam Review		
April 25	Tuesday 9:30 – 12:15		FINAL EXAM