

COURSE OUTLINE

Anthropology 1025F-001

Introduction to Sociocultural Anthropology

Fall 2018

Lectures: Mondays 7:00-10:00 p.m. Classroom SSC-2032

Instructor: Doug Campbell

Office: WSSB4133

Office hours: Please refer to the course site in OWL.

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Teaching Assistants: Please refer to the course site in OWL.

Credit value: 0.5 credit

Calendar Course Description: This course is an introduction to the tools and sensibilities anthropologists have developed to increase our awareness of the richness of human cultural expression, and to understand our place in shifting local and global contexts of power. We will challenge assumptions and explore alternative ways of thinking and acting. Its aim is to make us rethink our assumptions about the unfamiliar, and question the familiar things we take for granted.

Prerequisite(s): None.

Antirequisite(s): Anthropology 1020 (formerly Anthropology 1020E).

Course Syllabus:

Each week in lecture we will discuss different ways of what it means to be human through investigations of concepts like culture, identity, and power. We will focus on various people's local circumstances to understand the effects of global processes. We will incorporate anthropological theory and methods to gain understanding of social relations, beliefs, and behaviours, both familiar and unfamiliar. Lectures incorporate visual and audio media, and examples not found in the course text, so attendance is critical. This material will be included on the midterm and final exam. There are three written assignments. The first involves applying course concepts to assess what it means to take on the role of an anthropologist doing fieldwork. The second asks students to summarize and reflect

on a current anthropological debate. The third is an analysis of an excerpt from a classic ethnography. A full course schedule including a week-by-week breakdown of topics and assigned readings will be available on the course's OWL site before the first day of class.

Learning Outcomes:

Upon successful completion of this course, students will:

gain an awareness of the underlying assumptions of our representational practices which shape ideas about ourselves and others,

learn to apply anthropological analysis to assess the effects of global processes on people's local circumstances,

be inspired to investigate the world with an anthropologically informed sensibility and, be introduced to what sociocultural anthropologists do and how they do it.

Course Materials:

The following text is required for this course available at Western's [The Book Store](#) or as an [eBook](#) (cheaper).

Robbins, Richard H., Cummings, Maggie and McGarry, Karen. 2017 Sociocultural Anthropology: A Problem-Based Approach. Third Canadian Edition. Toronto: Nelson Education.

Links to additional online readings will be made available through the course's on-line OWL site before the first day of class.

Evaluation:

Written Assignments

Ethnographic Exercise (500 words, Due October 1, 10%)

To complete this written assignment you must spend at least 30 minutes in UCC Centre Spot observing and taking fieldnotes. These fieldnotes will become the basis of your written assignment. Your paper is a reflection on your experience as a researcher doing observational ethnography. Detailed instructions will be provided during lecture and on OWL.

Summary / Response Assignment (500 words, Due November 5, 10%)

A debate between anthropologists on a current issue will be posted on OWL. First, you are required to summarize the positions argued by the debaters. Second, you must write a personal response to answer how the debate changed or affected your own assumptions about the issues presented. Detailed instructions will be provided during lecture and on OWL.

Review Essay (1500 words, Due December 3, 30%)

Read the assigned excerpt from the selected ethnography. Incorporate course concepts to critically review how the ethnography either reinforces problematic representations, or leads to cross-cultural understanding. Detailed instructions will be provided during lecture and on OWL.

Unless a student receives accommodation for illness through Academic Counselling, late assignments will be penalized at the rate of 3%/day late for up to a total of 5 days (including weekends) following the due date. Late assignments will not be accepted after 5 days. Students who miss assignments worth less than 10% should contact the course instructor. Accommodations will be considered on a case-by-case basis. All inquiries about grades must be directed to the course instructor.

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (<http://www.turnitin.com>).

Midterm Exam (October 22, 2 hours in-class, 20%)

The midterm exam is made up of one essay question and several short answer questions. Students will have a choice of questions to answer. Students are required to address general themes and provide evidence from course materials to support their answers. Details of the exam will be provided in lecture. Use of electronic devices will not be allowed during midterm.

Final Exam – (3 hours, 30%)

The final exam will take place during the designated exam period for this course. The final exam is made up of two essay questions and several short answer questions. Students will have a choice of questions to answer. Students are required to address general themes and provide evidence from course materials to support their answers. Details of the exam will be provided in lecture. Use of electronic devices will not be allowed during the final exam.

Participation/Attendance

Participation or attendance will not be graded in this course. However, students are strongly encouraged to attend lectures to make the most of what this course offers as a learning opportunity. Lecture material is not duplicated in the course text and will be the basis for all exam questions.

Course Specific Conditions Required to Pass this Course

In order to pass this essay course, students must submit all three written assignments and receive a passing grade on two of three written assignments.

Course Specific Statements and Policies:

Statement on Seeking Special Accommodations:

No accommodations will be granted retroactively more than 10 days after an assignment's due date or a missed quiz or test. Please see your academic counsellor immediately if you will be seeking accommodations based on medical or compassionate grounds.

Statement on Plagiarism:

Students must write their assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing. It is also a scholastic offence to submit the same work for credit in more than one course. Plagiarism is a major scholastic offence.

Policy on Laptops and Cellphones in Class:

Laptops are permitted for note-taking in class only. Be sure that all cellphones are turned off at the beginning of class. The use of audio and video recording devices of any kind is not allowed during class.

Institutional Statements and Policies

All students should familiarize themselves with Western's current academic policies regarding accessibility, plagiarism and scholastic offences, and medical accommodation. [These policies are outlined with links to the full policies on the Anthropology website.](#)