



Department of Anthropology
ANTH 1025G-001
Introduction to Sociocultural Anthropology
COURSE OUTLINE
WINTER 2017

Location: Social Science Centre SSC-2024; Time: Monday 7:00 - 10:00 PM

Professor: Douglas Campbell

Email: dcampb62@uwo.ca; Office: WSS 4133; Office Hours: Monday 4:00 - 5:00 or by appointment

Teaching Assistants:

Hana Ahmed – Email: hahmed88@uwo.ca; Office: TBA; Office Hours: TBA

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Prerequisite: none.

Antirequisite: Anthropology 1020E is an **anti-requisite** for this course, meaning that you cannot receive credit for taking both courses.

Introduction to Socio-Cultural Anthropology is a course about the diverse ways people participate in and contest some of the fundamental issues facing humanity. Throughout the course we will use 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 be expected to challenge assumptions and explore alternative ways of thinking and acting. It is not a tour of so-called “exotic” and “primitive” cultures. On the contrary, we will examine why such notions of exotica and primitiveness are problematic. Its aim is to make us rethink our assumptions about the unfamiliar, and question the familiar things we take for granted. This is what Socio-Cultural Anthropology does best.

Learning Outcomes: Upon successful completion of this course students will be able to:

- Analyse the underlying assumptions of our representational practices through which we form our ideas about ourselves and others
- Critically assess the effects of global processes to understand how societies are interconnected
- Gain an awareness of our mutual struggles for identity and self determination as contemporaries grounded in local specificities and experience
- Investigate the world with an anthropologically informed sensibility

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS

Assignment	Value	Due Date
Ethnographic Assignment	5%	January 30
Midterm Exam	20%	February 13
Summary / Response	10%	March 6
Create a Culture Paper	30%	April 3
Participation/Attendance	5%	- - -
Final Exam	30%	TBA

COURSE TEXTS

The following text is required for this course. The book is available at Western's [The Book Store](#) or as an eBook (cheaper) at <https://www.nelsonbrain.com/shop/search/9780176570163>.

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 on OWL

THE FOLLOWING IS A PRELIMINARY COURSE SCHEDULE ONLY: Version date Jan 3/17

COURSE SCHEDULE

Lecture # / Date / Topic / Readings from the text (SA) and OWL / Media

1. JANUARY 9

Topic: **Anthropologists! Anthropologists!**
Readings: SA - Putting the World in Perspective (iv-xi), Preface (xix)
Media: *TBA*

2. JANUARY 16

Topic: **Culture: You're Soaking In It**
Readings: SA - Chapter 1: Culture and Meaning
OWL – Minor, "Body Ritual Among the Nacirema"
Media: *Couple in the Cage, Meet the Natives*

3. JANUARY 23

Topic: **What Anthropology Is, and How It Does It**
Readings: SA - Chapter 2: Doing Fieldwork in Sociocultural Anthropology
Media: *Off the Veranda* (excerpt), *An Anthropological Introduction to YouTube*

4. JANUARY 30

Topic: **ETHNOGRAPHIC EXERCISE DUE**
The West and the Rest
Readings: SA - Chapter 3: The Meaning of Progress and Development
Media: *The Gods Must Be Crazy* (excerpt)

5. FEBRUARY 6

Topic: **Reality: What's Up with That?**
Readings: SA - Chapter 4: Constructing Realities
Media: *The Holy Ghost People* (excerpt), *Davis: Dreams from Endangered Cultures*

6. FEBRUARY 13

MIDTERM EXAM

7. FEBRUARY 27

Topic: **Relationships and More Relationships**
Readings: SA – Chapter 5: Constructing Families and Social Relationships
Media: *An American Family, The Things I Cannot Change, N'ai: Story of a !Kung Woman, Steps for the Future* (excerpts)

8. MARCH 6 **SUMMARY / RESPONSE DUE**
 Topic: **Constructing Identities I: Belonging**
 Readings: SA – Chapter 6: Constructing Identities
 Media: *A Man Without Pigs, Rocks at Whiskey Trench* (excerpts)
9. MARCH 13
 Topic: **Constructing Identities II: Genders, Sexualities**
 Readings: SA – Chapter 7: Social Hierarchies
 Media: *InterSexions, Vocal Fry, Paradise Bent* (excerpt)
10. MARCH 20
 Topic: **Explaining the World - Consuming the World**
 Readings: SA – Chapter 8: Globalization, Neoliberalism, and the Nation-State
 Media: *Life and Debt*
11. MARCH 27
 Topic: **Anthropology Meets World**
 Readings: SA – Chapter 9: Resolving Conflict
 Media: *Trobriand Cricket, Bitter Paradise, Half Life* (excerpts)
12. APRIL 3 **CREATE A CULTURE PAPER DUE**
 Topic: **Sensibilities, Approaches, Questions?**
 Readings: TBA
 Media: TBA

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS:

1. Attendance and Participation (5%)

Attendance and participation in class is critical! An attendance sheet will be circulated each week. There will be in-class group discussions throughout the course that require your participation.

2. Ethnographic Exercise (5%)

To complete this written assignment you must first spend at least 30 minutes in UCC Centre Spot observing and taking fieldnotes. These fieldnotes will become the basis of your written assignment. After you have finished your fieldwork in UCC you will write an interpretive analysis of your own fieldnotes. This analysis should be reflexive, meaning you are being critical of your initial observations based on the analytical perspective you have gained throughout the course. It is highly recommended that you carry out your fieldwork by yourself so that your observations and your particular experience as a researcher are reflected in your written work. Length: 2 pages minimum, double spaced, not including attached fieldnotes. Due: January 30; Value: 5%

3. Summary / Response (10%)

Select one of the sets of articles posted on OWL in the Summary / Response folder. Each set of articles reflects a debate related to the themes of this course. These assignments will consist of a 2 page summary of the authors' positions and how the articles' relate to issues we have discussed or read about. You will also write a 2 page response to the article. This might include your own critique of the author's argument or how it has changed or affected your own assumptions or relationship to the ideas presented. What are your thoughts and feelings about the debate? What arguments are compelling? Do certain aspects of the debate

resonate with you more than others – if so, what are they? Are these issues important to you – why or why not? Do the social phenomena discussed in the article(s) influence your life or your perspectives on human experiences? Do you agree/disagree with one ‘side’ of the debate, or both sides? Tell us how you feel and what you think!

- Make it clear you have read and understood the arguments presented by the authors. You are responding to their ideas about the issues raised in their articles.
- Write in the first person when you are expressing your opinions.
- A bibliography is not necessary.
- You do not have to cite the article(s) in your text *unless* you directly quote. For example:
 1. Kondo questions whether it is “accurate to refer to selfhood, in Japan or elsewhere, as singular” (15).
 2. I agree that “cultural incompatibility is embedded in the representational system itself” (MacDougall 128).

Due: March 6; Value 10%

4. Create a Culture Paper (30%)

For this assignment, you will create your own culture, designing a history and environment, as well as political, economic, social, and belief systems. Your culture will experience dramatic social change due to the introduction of a new technology or transformative event. Your essay should detail how this change will affect your culture.

One half of the essay should describe your culture before the “change,” and the remaining half should discuss how the new technology or event altered the political, economic, social, and belief systems of your culture. The essay is about social change. The aim of the project is to enable you to use creative thinking while demonstrating your knowledge of anthropological concepts. Your culture may live wherever you choose; it must, however, “make sense.” By making sense, I mean that your culture cannot have great cities and subsist by hunting and gathering (unless you provide some mechanism that allows for that possibility).

You must incorporate **at least 10 anthropological terms, concepts or theories** that we have learned about in this course into your essay. Be sure to clearly demonstrate that you know what the term or concept means by incorporating the term or concept appropriately into your ethnographic description. Be sure to clearly state the term or concept so the person grading your work can give you credit for it.

Correct use: The pastoralists on Tecano engage in dragon herding as a way of life. Because they are characterized by patrilineal descent, only males inherit dragons from their parents. Dragons are important to marriage arrangements because they are used for bridewealth: the groom and his family present them as gifts to the bride and her family before or during marriage.

Incorrect use: The pastoralists on Tecano practice patrilineal descent and bridewealth.

Detailed guidelines and a list of acceptable terms will be provided during lectures and posted on OWL for this assignment. Your paper will be 8-10 pages, double spaced. Due: April 3; Value: 30%.

Writing Assignments:

As an essay-designated course, all writing assignments in this course must be submitted and receive passing grades in order to pass this course. There are three writing assignments for the course: the Ethnographic Exercise, the Summary / Response, and the Create a Culture Paper. All assignments will be typed using a 12 point font (Times New Roman), with left/right and top/bottom margins set to 1 inch. The pages will be numbered. You must provide a separate title page with your name, student number, the date, the course information and the title of the assignment. The pages must be stapled together (no loose pages, no folders, no plastic covers). See “Paper Guidelines” posted on OWL for further information on requirements for writing assignments.

Handing in Writing Assignments:

You must provide a hard copy to be handed in at the beginning of class. An electronic copy is to be submitted through OWL. Late assignments can be placed in the drop box in the Anthropology Department outside SSC3026. The drop box is cleared each morning and papers are date stamped at the start of working hours. Assignments left in the instructor's or TAs' personal mailboxes or under our office doors will not be graded.

Late Penalties:

Note that you must complete the course requirements according to the timeline provided in this document as **no extensions will be granted**. Any assignments submitted after their respective due dates will be subject to a **late penalty of 2% of your final grade per day**, including non-class days, holidays and weekends. If you do not hand-in written assignments or do not write exams a mark of 0 (zero) will be assigned for that assignment or exam. There will be no make-up assignments or exams.

The only possible exceptions to the rules outlined here are cases in which compelling medical or compassionate grounds can be documented, and where academic accommodation may be allowed. In such cases adequate documentation must be submitted to Academic Counseling of your home faculty, according to the terms of the Senate policy regarding medical accommodation as specified at:

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf

Your TAs cannot grant extensions. Any questions about course grades must be addressed to the course instructor during office hours.

Exams:

There are two exams for this course. A mid-term exam (20%) will be held during our regularly scheduled class period on February 13, 2017. The final exam (30%) will be scheduled by the registrar during the examination period April 9-30, 2017. Assigned readings and all lecture material including films and multi-media are considered fair game for exams. The use of electronic devices is prohibited during exams.

Course Guidelines:

1. All electronic devices such as cell phones must be turned off. The use of audio and video recording devices of any kind is not allowed. You may use a laptop computer in class for taking notes only. You are NOT allowed to record or video anything during class.
2. Please limit email to the course instructor or TAs to questions about the course requirements and organization. If you have questions about the course content please come and see us during our office hours.
3. Please note that we will not tolerate language and conduct that is offensive, hateful, abusive and/or exclusive in this class; this applies to written assignments and exams as well.

Student Resources

Academic 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) at: http://anthropology.uwo.ca/undergraduate/course_information/academic_policies.html

Accessibility at Western:

Please contact the course instructor if you require material in an alternate format or if you require any other arrangements to make this course more accessible to you.

The University provides a number of excellent resources and services for students. Check out: [The Student Development Centre](#). They have staff members who specialize in assisting students with various disabilities to adjust to the university environment. These disabilities include, but are not limited to, vision, hearing and mobility impairments, learning disabilities, chronic illnesses, chronic pain, and attention deficit/hyperactivity disorders. Students who require special accommodations for disabilities should make a formal request through Student Development Services as early in the semester as possible.

Writing Support Centre:

At Western's [Writing Support Centre](#) you can make an appointment to consult one-to-one with a writing counsellor. Make a writing counselling appointment by calling 519-661-3655. There is also a [Drop-In Centre](#) at Weldon Library as well as [online resources](#) and [writing seminars](#) on various topics designed for undergraduates.