Anthropology 1025F - 001
Introduction to Sociocultural Anthropology
Course Outline
FALL 2017

Location: Social Science Centre SSC-2032
Time: Monday 7:00-10:00 PM
Professor: Douglas Campbell
Email: dcampb62@uwo.ca
Office: WSS 4133 Office Hours: TBA
Teaching Assistant: Tamara Britton
Office: SSC-3303 Hours: TBA

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 self-determination as contemporaries grounded in local specificities and experience
- Investigate the world with an anthropologically informed sensibility

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS

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<th>Assignment</th>
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<td>Ethnographic Assignment</td>
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<td>Midterm Exam</td>
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<td>Summary / Response</td>
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<td>Create a Culture Paper</td>
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<td>Final Exam</td>
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COURSE TEXTS

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


Links to additional online readings will be made available on OWL.

The COURSE SCHEDULE may change as the course progresses. Readings and media may be updated to reflect current research and happenings. It may be adjusted to accommodate guest speakers or allow us to go where our curiosity takes us.

COURSE SCHEDULE: Version 1 - September 1, 2017

| Lecture # / Date / Topic / Readings from the text (SA) and OWL / Media / Guest Speaker |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1. SEPTEMBER 11 | **Anthropologists! Anthropologists!** | SA - Putting the World in Perspective (iv-xi), Preface (xix) | TBA |
| 2. SEPTEMBER 18 | **Culture: You’re Soaking In It** | SA - Chapter 1: Culture and Meaning<br>OWL – Minor, “Body Ritual Among the Nacirema” | Couple in the Cage |
| 3. SEPTEMBER 25 | **What Anthropology Is, and How It Does It** | SA - Chapter 2: Doing Fieldwork in Sociocultural Anthropology | Off the Veranda (excerpt), Mike Wesch TEDxNYED |
| 4. OCTOBER 2 | **ETHNOGRAPHIC EXERCISE DUE** | SA - Chapter 3: The Meaning of Progress and Development | Where to Invade Next (excerpt) |
5. OCTOBER 16
Topic: Reality: What's Up with That?
Readings: SA - Chapter 4: Constructing Realities
Media: Dreams from Endangered Cultures

6. OCTOBER 23 MIDTERM EXAM

7. OCTOBER 30
Topic: Relationships and More Relationships
Readings: SA – Chapter 5: Constructing Families and Social Relationships
Media: N’ai: Story of a !Kung Woman

8. NOVEMBER 6 SUMMARY / RESPONSE DUE
Topic: Constructing Identities I: Belonging
Readings: SA – Chapter 6: Constructing Identities
Media: Interview with Dan Jorgensen, Wendake: A Place Set Apart

9. NOVEMBER 13
Topic: Constructing Identities II: Genders, Sexualities
Readings: SA – Chapter 7: Social Hierarchies
Media: InterSexions (excerpt), Paradise Bent (excerpt)
Guest Speaker: TBA

10. NOVEMBER 20
Topic: Explaining the World - Consuming the World
Readings: SA – Chapter 8: Globalization, Neoliberalism, and the Nation-State
Media: Life and Debt
Guest Speaker: TBA

11. NOVEMBER 27
Topic: Explaining the World - Consuming the World (continued)
Readings: SA – Chapter 9: Resolving Conflict
Media: Rocks at Whiskey Trench (excerpts)

12. DECEMBER 4 CREATE A CULTURE PAPER DUE
Topic: Anthropology Meets World
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. Attendance grades are assigned at the discretion of the course instructor.

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. (Select something that stands out to say something about the 'culture' you observed.) 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. (You are reflecting on your experience as a researcher doing observational ethnography. How did it make you feel? What kind of biases or preconceptions can you recognize in your field notes?) 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: two pages minimum, three pages maximum, double spaced, not including attached fieldnotes. Due: October 2; Value: 5%

3. Summary / Response Assignment (10%)

Select and read one of the two articles posted on OWL in the Summary / Response folder. Each article is an anthropological analysis of the difficult social issues affecting the people the author worked with while conducting fieldwork.

There are two parts to this assignment. First, you are required to summarise the author’s argument. To do this you should describe the issue the author is addressing and clearly state how the author makes sense of the people’s lives. Second, you must write a personal response to the article. How has the article changed or
affected your own assumptions about the issues presented? What do you find compelling or problematic about the author’s argument? Are these issues important to you – if so, why? Do the social phenomena discussed in the article influence what you think about the human experience? What do you think about how the issues and people are represented? Do you agree or disagree with the author? Tell us how you feel and what you think.

Article 1: TBA
Article 2: TBA

- Make it clear you have read and understood the arguments presented by the author. You are responding to the author’s ideas about the issues raised in their article.
- Write in the first person when you are expressing your opinions.
- A bibliography is not necessary.
- You do not have to cite the article in your text unless you directly quote. For example:
  1. Bourgois questions “how can one understand the complicated ideological dynamic accompanying inner city poverty” (6).
  2. I agree that “indifference toward the suffering of some of their infants is understandable” (Scheper-Hughes 161).
- Length: 3 pages minimum, 4 pages maximum
- Formatting: double spaced, 12 point Times New Roman font, 1 inch margins, separate title page (name, student #, date, course, instructor’s name, title of article reviewed), no graphics, stapled
- Submit an electronic copy to OWL
- Hand in a hard copy at the beginning of the lecture
- Late hard copies can only be placed in the drop-box outside the main Anthropology office (SSC3326)
- A hard copy must be submitted for your paper to be graded

Due: November 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. You can use terms and concepts from the textbook or from lecture. The textbook provides a list of terms at the end of each chapter. 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. Please underline the term or concept as it appears in your paper.

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 will be provided during lectures for this assignment. Paper length: 6 pages minimum; 8 pages maximum. Double spaced. Due: December 4; Value: 30%.

- Formatting: double spaced, 12 point Times New Roman font, 1 inch margins, separate title page (name, student #, date, course, instructor’s name, title of article reviewed), no graphics, stapled
- Submit an electronic copy to OWL
- Hand in a hard copy at the in class, 7:00pm, April 3rd.
- Late hard copies can only be placed in the drop-box outside the main Anthropology office (SSC3326)
- A hard copy must be submitted for your paper to be graded

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**Writing Assignments:**

As an essay-designated course, writing assignments totaling a minimum of 1500 words 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 SSC3326. The drop box is cleared each morning and papers are date stamped at the start of working hours. Assignments left in personal mailboxes or under 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](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. An in-class mid-term exam (20%) will be held during our regularly scheduled class period on October 23, 2017. The final exam (30%) will be scheduled by the registrar during the examination period December 10-21, 2017. Exam questions will draw upon assigned readings and all lecture material including films, multi-media, and presentations by guest speakers. 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.

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 The Student Development Centre 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 or visit http://sdc.uwo.ca/writing/ for more information