

UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO

ANTH 25G Introduction to Sociocultural Anthropology

Time and Place

Tuesdays 2:30 pm – 4:30 pm AND Thursdays 2:30 pm – 3:30 pm
MC - 110



Classroom in a Sahrawi Refugee Camp in Algeria – Photo by Randa Farah

The course introduces students to sociocultural anthropology, which tackles the various and complex dimensions of human life past and present. The course poses fundamental questions relating to the variations and similarities in the human condition, and how human societies are interconnected, even those that seem isolated, different and distant. We will learn about inequalities and hierarchies, the diverse ways we reproduce our social, economic and cultural lives and in turn, how the larger historical processes shape how we live and view the world around us. We will critically revisit important concepts such as 'progress,' 'livelihood', the 'nation-state,' 'identity,' 'violence' and 'family'. Most of all, we will question assumptions we hold about societies, including ours, and learn to see these historically formed and transformed.

Teaching Team

Instructor

Dr. Randa Farah

Office: SSC 3423

Phone: 661-2111 X-85088

Email: rfarah2@uwo.ca

Office Hours: Wednesdays 2:30 pm – 4:30 pm

Teaching Assistants

Leanne Bekeris: lbekeri@uwo.ca

Alison Deplonty: adeplont@uwo.ca

Ian Puppe: ipuppe@uwo.ca

Claire Venet-Rogers: cvenetro@uwo.ca

Textbook: R. Robbins & S.Larkin Cultural Anthropology: A Problem-Based Approach, Canadian Edition. Additional articles and relevant material will be posted on WebCT.

This syllabus, with the exception of assignments and evaluations, may be adjusted as required throughout the term. Students are responsible for attending class for information in this regard and for following announcements on WebCT.

Additional complementary, relevant and interesting articles and references might be posted on WebCT.

THIS SYLLABUS IS A MUST READ!

WEEK 1 Culture and Meaning Read: Chapter 1

Jan 10: Introduction to the course

Jan 12: What is anthropology?

WEEK 2 Culture and Meaning Read: Chapter 1 (cont'd)

Jan 17: Defining important concepts

Jan 19: In-class work and discussion

Documentary

WEEK 3 The Meaning of Progress and Development Read: Chapter 2

Jan 24: Challenging the concepts of “progress” and “development”

Jan 26: In-class work and discussion

WEEK 4 The Meaning of Progress Read: Chapter 2 (cont'd)

Jan 31: Challenging the concepts of “progress” and “development”

Feb 2: In-class work and discussion Reflection paper (one page)

Documentary

WEEK 5 The Construction of the Nation-State: Read Chapter 3

Feb 7: The Nation-State

Feb 9: In-class work and discussion

Documentary

WEEK 6 The Social and Cultural Construction of Reality: Read Chapter 4

Feb 14: How we view the world we make, and how the world makes us

Feb 16: In-class work and discussion

In-class reflection paper Feb 16

WEEK 7 Feb 21-25 *Reading Week*

WEEK 8 Midterm Exam

Feb 28: Midterm Exam

Mar 1: In-class work and discussion

Midterm Exam on Feb 28

WEEK 9 Patterns of Family Relations Read: Chapter 5

Mar 6: Family and kin

Mar 8: In-class work and discussion

Documentary

Essay Proposal Due March 8

WEEK 10 The Cultural Construction of Identity Read: Chapter 6

Mar 13: Identities

Mar 15: In-class work and discussion

WEEK 11 The Cultural Construction of Social Hierarchy Read: Chapter 7

Mar 20: Hierarchies

Mar 22: In-class work and discussion

Documentary

WEEK 12 The Cultural Construction of Conflict and Violence Read: Chapter 8

Mar 27: Conflict and Violence

Mar 29: In-class work and discussion

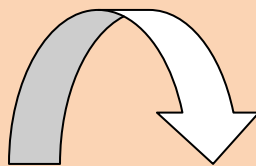
WEEK 13 The Cultural Construction of Conflict Read: Chapter 8 (cont'd)

April 3: Review and outstanding material to be covered.

April 5: Final review and discussion.

Term essay due April 5

Please read on



I. ASSIGNMENTS AND MARKS

<u>ASSIGNMENT</u>	<u>DATE</u>
In-class written assignment 10%	Feb 16
Midterm Exam 20%	Feb 28
Paper proposal and bibliography 5%	March 8
Essay 30%	April 5
Final Exam 30%	To be arranged
<u>Attendance 5%</u>	
Total	100%

I. DETAILS

- 1. In-class written assignment 10%:** This is an opportunity for you to write a **two-page** paper in class, on a topic related to readings/lectures and/or documentary films. It will be a reflection paper; more details will be provided on that day.
- 2. Midterm 20%:** Is an hour and a half exam, held in class on February 28, it covers all material from week 1- 6: readings (chapters, 1, 2, 3 and 4), lectures, documentary films and ideas discussed in class. The midterm format is a combination of multiple choice and true and false.
- 3. Essay Proposal 5%:** Hand in a half page proposal identifying your essay topic and some of the questions you are plan to research and write about. Include a minimum of four references you have reviewed and plan to use in your essay (for the final essay a minimum of 6 references is required). The proposal implies you have to visit the library, that is, it should include 2 books.
- 4. Essay 30%:** Write a **six-page** term essay on a topic related to the themes covered in class. Choose a subject matter that you find interesting and eager to research further. An essay is neither a summary of books, nor a descriptive paper; rather, it involves posing a question and then taking a position or stance on your main question and supporting it with academic arguments and analysis. Use scholarly books and articles to analyze, discuss and support your arguments. It is important that you begin your research early in the term, since the essay requires reading, thinking and organizing your ideas. If you are not sure of what you want to write about, read abstracts and tables of content to help you identify a topic that inspires you. Or, review the themes covered in the course, the textbook, or scan anthropological journals and books. Before asking the teaching team for help, make sure you have done some research.

Essay should include:

- Introduction: this is where you state the main question raised in the paper. Example: *In this paper, I will examine the effects of armed conflict in the Congo on women's roles and status.... I will argue thatI will focus on the period between.....in a particular region.* Provide a general context to frame your paper and why you think it is an important topic.
- Discussion (body of the paper): this is where you make your arguments. Use subtitles carefully (but not too many): paragraphs are necessary to distinguish between main arguments and topics, but make sure they are related to your question. Remember to include only ideas and analysis that are

related to your topic. In other words, everything in the essay must relate to the question you posed in the introduction.

- Conclusion: summary of main arguments.

Essay length: six pages double-spaced, excluding bibliography (marks will be deducted if student exceeds maximum number of words or falls short of the minimum).

Essay Format: A title page is required that includes the title of the essay, your name and student number, page numbers, double space, font 12 Times New Roman, and do not enter a space between paragraphs!

Citation/References: When you quote or paraphrase an idea that is not yours, make sure you enter the reference within the text at the end of the idea, the citation within the text includes author, year and page(s), e.g.: (Smith 2005: 23-24). At the end of the essay include a bibliography where you list all your references. Use APA style, or any style you find in anthropological journals.

Style: Write clearly! Do not ramble or fill up your paper by reiterating the same idea. Use spell check AND read your paper before handing it in. Pay attention to spelling mistakes and do not confuse words such as 'there and their,' 'here and hear', etc. Do not use long direct quotes it is more effective to paraphrase. Finally, use gender neutral language, that is, she or he or s/he, humankind and not mankind.

Submission: *Please note a **hardcopy** of your paper should be handed in class and on time. In addition, an **electronic** version should be submitted to **Turnitin**.*

- 5. Final Exam 2 Hours:** The Final Exam covers material of weeks 9-13. This includes chapters 5-8, lectures, documentary films and any other materials covered during the period. Questions will be in the form of multiple-choice, true and false, but may also include short answers or definitions of terms. It will include a few questions related to general ideas learned from the beginning of the year. The date of the Final exam will be determined by the registrar.
- 6. Attendance 5%:** You are required to attend class every week. Detailed lecture notes will not be available on WebCT. If you have to miss class arrange with a classmate (not the instructor or TA) to share notes on lectures or films. An attendance sheet will be circulated every week. Come prepared to class. Marks will be deducted from the final grade if there are too many absences, with no permission from Academic Counseling.

II. IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Classes: If you miss more than 3 classes without excuse (a note from academic counseling) marks will be deducted from your final grade.

Exams: If you miss the mid-term and I do not receive a note from academic counseling telling me you have a valid reason you will get a zero. One make-up exam will be given to those with a note from academic counseling. It is the **students' responsibility to contact the TAs** to find out the dates and times for make-up exams.

Medical Reasons: In case of illness students **MUST** refer to the Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness at: (<https://studentservices.uwo.ca/secure/index.cfm>).

If you miss a test/exam for medical illness, written medical documentation is required: such documentation must be submitted by the student directly to the appropriate Faculty Dean's office and not to the instructor. It will be the Dean's office that will determine if accommodation is warranted.

Plagiarism: Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea, or a passage from another author they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offence (see Scholastic Offence Policy in the Western Academic Calendar).

“Scholastic offences are taken seriously. Refer to the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following Web site:

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf.”

“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>).”

Late Assignments: 2% of your essay grade will be deducted for each day you are late in submitting the paper, no assignments will be accepted five days (including weekends) after the due date.

If you have special needs, make sure you inform student services at the beginning of the term, so I can accommodate your special needs, if and when necessary.

The Syllabus: You are required to read all the information in this syllabus, please do not ask your TAs questions the answers of which are found here.

Website: There is a website for this course (**WebCT**). The syllabus, lecture outlines, important announcements, other relevant information and grades will be posted on WebCT. Brief lecture outlines will be posted after class. You may download these on your computer, but you are not allowed to make these public, send it to others not in class, or download onto other websites.

Reading: You are required to come to class prepared, meaning all readings must be done in time and as indicated in the course outline.

Emailing instructor and TAs: Please do not email me or the TAs unless it is an urgent issue. You should use office hours if you have questions or need guidance and help. We all have different office hours which will allow you to see at least one of us during a given week.

Laptops: You are allowed to use laptops to take notes in class, but nothing else. Turn OFF your cell phones and all electronic devices while in class. You are not allowed to tape-record or video anything during class.

Class Environment: Students may have different and sometimes opposing views on topics we raise. This is healthy, but express your opinion with respect.

Anthropology Department Information

Undergraduate Chair: Prof. Sherrie Larkin, SSC 3328, Phone: 519-661-2111 x85084

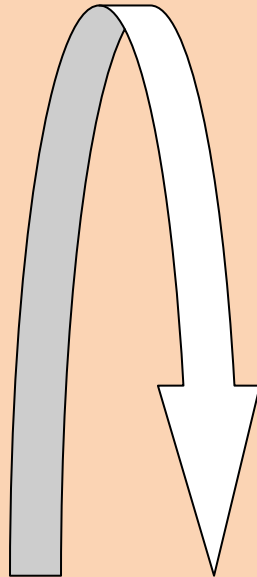
Department Chair: Prof. Dan Jorgensen, SSC 3323, Dept. Phone: 519-661-3430

Anthropology website: <http://anthropology.uwo.ca/about.html>

Take a look at some of our Minors, including

Minor in Refugee and Migrant Studies: <http://anthropology.uwo.ca/siop.html>

A Summary Table is provided below



TIME-TABLE

WEEK	DATE	LECTURE	READING	FILM	ASSIGN'T	EXAM
WK 1	Jan 10	Introduction to the course	X	X	X	X
	Jan 12	What is anthropology?	Chapter 1	X	X	X
WK 2	Jan 17	Defining concepts	Chapter 1	Yes	X	X
	Jan 19	Discussion	Chapter 1	X	X	X
WK 3	Jan 24	Progress & development	Chapter 2	X	X	X
	Jan 26	Discussion		Yes	X	X
WK 4	Jan 31	Progress & development	Chapter 2	Yes	X	X
	Feb 2	Discussion			X	X
WK 5	Feb 7	The Nation-State	Chapter 3	Yes	X	X
	Feb 9	Discussion			X	X
WK 6	Feb 14	Constructions of Reality	Chapter 4	X	X	X
	Feb 16	Discussion		X	In-class	X
WK 7	Feb 21	Reading Week	X	X	X	X
	Feb 23	Reading Week	X	X	X	X
WK 8	Feb 28	Midterm Exam	X	X	X	Exam
	Mar 1	Discussion	X	X	X	X
WK 9	Mar 6	Family	Chapter 5	Yes	X	X
	Mar 8	Discussion		X	Essay propos	X
WK 10	Mar 13	Identities	Chapter 6	X	X	X
	Mar 15	Discussion		X	X	X
WK 11	Mar 20	Hierarchies	Chapter 7	Yes	X	X
	Mar 22	Discussion		X	X	X
WK 12	Mar 27	Conflict/Violence	Chapter 8	X	X	X
	Mar 29	Discussion		X	X	X
WK 13	April 3	Conflict/Violence	Chapter 8	X	X	X
	April 5	Final Review		X	Essay	X

FINAL EXAM: Exam Period