

**The University of Western Ontario
Department of Anthropology**

**ANT 1025G/002: INTRODUCTION TO SOCIOCULTURAL ANTHROPOLOGY
Winter 2012 (Academic Year 2011-2012)**

Class Time: Mon 2:30-4:30pm & Wed 2:30-3:30pm
Class Room: SEB #2200

Instructor: Christine Kennedy
E-mail: csuck2@uwo.ca
Phone: (519) 661-2111 x 82541
Office hour: Mon 5:00-6:00pm, SSC #3438

Teaching Assistant:
Caleigh Farrell
Email: cfarrel@uwo.ca
Office hour: Wed 1:00-2:00pm, SSC #3325 (Anthropology Library)

Undergraduate Chair: Prof. Sherrie Larkin, SSC #3328, Phone: 519-661-2111 x 85084
Department Chair: Prof. Dan Jorgensen, SSC #3323, Main Dept. Phone: 519-661-3430

NOTE: *This syllabus may be adjusted as required throughout the term. All students are responsible for attending class for information in this regard.*

What is culture? Have we as humans progressed? Is race a biological fact or a social construction? Does globalization result in a westernization of the world? We will discuss these and other questions in this course, which introduces students to one of the subdisciplines of anthropology. Sociocultural anthropologists attempt to understand and explain worldviews and the everyday social and cultural lives of people in contemporary societies, including their own. Therefore, they are interested in diversities and similarities among human beings. In this course we will discuss concepts such as culture, progress and development, family, identity, race, nation, and globalization. Students will be encouraged to think critically about issues they encounter in their everyday lives, reflect on their taken-for-granted assumptions, articulate their opinions, and examine new ideas and approaches. The skills students acquire and/or built on in this anthropological course – such as critical thinking, communicating and taking on various perspectives – will be beneficial for their future career paths.

PREREQUISITE:
There is no prerequisite for this course.

COURSE EVALUATION

Short Paper	Feb. 1	15%
Midterm Exam	Feb. 13	15%
Proposal	March 14	10%
Research Paper	April 11	25%
Final Exam	TBA	30%
Participation		5%

EXAMS

Midterm Exam (Feb. 13) 15%

The midterm exam will consist of multiple choice, true and false, filling in the blanks and short answer questions. It will cover all lectures, readings and documentaries until the midterm (weeks 1 to 5).

Final Exam (TBA) 30%

The final exam will consist of multiple choice, true and false, filling in the blanks and short answer questions. It will cover all lectures, readings and documentaries since the midterm (weeks 6 to 14).

Notes on Exams

- If you miss the midterm exam and/or the final exam due to medical reasons or reasons of compassionate grounds, please submit adequate documentation to **Academic Counseling of your home faculty**. If you provide such documentation, I will accommodate your situation. (See also section "Other Course Information: Medical Notes".)
- If you **miss the midterm exam and/or the final exam** (without academic accommodation), I will assign a **mark of zero** for that exam. There will be no make-up exam.

ASSIGNMENTS

** Detailed assignment outlines (including format guidelines, style of citation etc.) will be posted on WebCT throughout the term.*

Short Paper (Feb. 1) 15%

In this short paper you are asked to critically discuss a question from a list I will provide. The short paper is expected to be 2 to 3 pages in length (ca. 500 to 800 words), double spaced, excluding the reference list. You can present your response in the form of a standard academic paper or choose a more creative format such as a letter to a magazine/journal, a journal entry, a dialogue or a story. Whatever format you choose, you are required to use (and cite) **at least one external anthropological source** (articles in peer-reviewed journals, scholarly books, and chapters in books, excluding textbooks) as well as the **class lectures, readings and/or documentaries**.

Proposal for the Research Paper (March 14) 10%

In this proposal you should present the topic of your research paper, your thesis/main argument(s)/research questions, and how you plan to address them as well as a preliminary bibliography. I will provide a list of topics for the research paper during the term. This proposal is expected to be about 150 to 200 words in length, double spaced, excluding the bibliography. The preliminary bibliography should include **at least 5 anthropological sources** (articles in peer-reviewed journals, scholarly books, and chapters in books, excluding textbooks), **3 of these sources** must be **annotated**. Annotated means that you outline the main arguments and issues addressed in the references and how they relate to the topic of your paper (approx. 2 to 3 sentences per reference). You are allowed to draw on the class readings **in addition** to the 5 scholarly sources. **Websites** are **not** allowed and will not be counted. If you think it is necessary for your argumentation to draw on particular websites, please obtain **prior permission** from me. The objective of this proposal is to get you to start working on your research paper early, to give you an opportunity to receive feedback, and to practice the annotation of scholarly sources.

Research Paper (April 11) 25%

In this research paper, you are asked to examine a specific topic that you choose from a list of topics I will provide. The paper is expected to be 7 to 8 pages in length (ca. 1800 to 2100 words), double spaced, excluding the reference list. You are required to use **at least 6 anthropological sources** (articles in peer-reviewed journals, scholarly books, and chapters in books, excluding textbooks). You are allowed to draw on the class readings **in addition** to the 6 scholarly sources. **Websites** are **not** allowed and will not be counted. If you think it is necessary for your argumentation to draw on particular websites, please obtain **prior permission** from me. If you want to have **comments** on your research paper, please **email me a copy** (in addition to submitting a hard copy in class).

You are required to attach the graded copy of your proposal to your research paper.

Notes on Assignments

- Assignments have to be submitted in class the day they are due.
- Make sure you keep extra copies of your assignments (in printed and/or electronic form).
- The **penalty for late assignments** is **3% per day**, including weekends. I will **not** accept papers **more than 7 days** after the due date. Please note that our TA **cannot** grant extensions.
- It is your responsibility to make sure that I receive your paper if you submit it late. You are **not allowed** to email me your paper, to deposit assignments in the TA's or my mailboxes, or to slip it under our office doors. For **late submissions**, please use the **drop box next to the Main Office in the Department of Anthropology, SSC #3326**. Please print the instructor's name clearly on the paper or envelope containing your paper.
- If you miss the deadline for an assignment due to medical reasons or reasons of compassionate grounds, please submit adequate documentation to **Academic Counseling of your home faculty**. If you provide such documentation, I will accommodate your situation. (See also section "Other Course Information: Medical Notes".)

- If you submit your paper **more than 7 days late or if you fail to hand in an assignment** (without academic accommodation), I will assign a **mark of zero** for that assignment. There will be no make-up assignment.

PARTICIPATION 5%

You are required to attend every class. I will circulate a sign-up sheet during each class, starting in the third week. You are also expected to participate in class discussions and exercises, which will be based on the lecture material, the documentaries and the readings. Therefore, it is important that you have read the assigned texts **before** class (i.e. by Monday of each week), otherwise meaningful discussions will be difficult.

REQUIRED BOOKS

Robbins, Richard H. and Sherrie N. Larkin

2007 Cultural Anthropology: A Problem-Based Approach. 1st Canadian edition. Toronto: Thomson & Nelson.

The book is available at The Bookstore at Western. For more information see the store's website (<http://www.bookstore.uwo.ca/>) or contact the store directly (phone: 519-661-3520).

You are also required to read several **journal articles**, which you can access online or which will be on reserve at the Weldon Library.

COURSE OUTLINE

Week 1

Jan. 9: Introduction

Jan. 11: Anthropology, Culture and Ethnography

Week 2

Jan. 16: Anthropology, Culture and Ethnography (cont.)

Readings: Robbins and Larkin: Chapter 1

Miner, Horace

1956 Body Ritual Among the Nacirema. *American Anthropologist* 58(3):503–507.

[available online]

Jan. 18: How to Write an Academic Paper

Week 3

Jan. 23 & 25: Progress and Development

Readings: Robbins and Larkin: Chapter 2
Turner, Terence and Vanessa Fajans-Turner
2006 Political Innovation and Inter-Ethnic Alliance: Kayapo Resistance to the Developmentalist State. *Anthropology Today* 22(5):3–10. **[available online]**

Week 4

Jan. 30 & Feb. 1: Systems of Meaning

SHORT PAPER DUE (Feb. 1)

Readings: Robbins and Larkin: Chapter 4
Bohannan, Laura
1966 Shakespeare in the Bush. *Natural History* 75:28–33. Reprinted in:
Kastan, David Scott, ed.
1995 *Critical Essays on Shakespeare's Hamlet*. New York: G.K. Hall; London: Prentice Hall International. Pp. 9–18 **[on course reserve at the Weldon Library; Call No. PR2807.C85 1995]**

Week 5

Feb. 6 & 8: Kinship

Readings: Robbins and Larkin: Chapter 5

Week 6

Feb. 13: MIDTERM EXAM

Feb. 15: Kinship (cont.)

Week 7

Feb. 20 & 22: READING WEEK – NO CLASS

Week 8

Feb. 27 & 29: Economic Systems

Readings: Freeman, Carla
1998 Femininity and Flexible Labor: Fashioning Class Through Gender on the Global Assembly Line. *Critique of Anthropology* 18(3):245–262. **[available online]**

Week 9

March 5 & 7: Identity

Readings: Robbins and Larkin: Chapter 6
Blackwood, Evelyn
1998 *Tombois* in West Sumatra: Constructing Masculinity and Erotic Desire. *Cultural Anthropology* 13(4):491–521. **[available online]**

Week 10

March 12 & 14: Social Hierarchy

PROPOSAL DUE (March 14)

Readings: Robbins and Larkin: Chapter 7

Week 11

March 19 & 21: Nation and Nation-State

Readings: Robbins and Larkin: Chapter 3

Week 12

March 26 & 28: Violence

Readings: Robbins and Larkin: Chapter 8

de Waal, Alex

1994 Genocide in Rwanda. *Anthropology Today* 10(3):1–2. [**available online**]

Week 13

April 2 & 4: Globalization

Readings: Ishkanian, Armine

2002 Mobile Motherhood: Armenian Women's Labor Migration in the Post-Soviet Period. *Diaspora: A Journal of Transnational Studies* 11(3):383–415. [**available online**]

Sylvain, Renée

2005 Disorderly Development: Globalization and the Idea of "Culture" in the Kalahari. *American Ethnologist* 32(3):354–370. [**available online**]

Week 14

April 9 & 11: Review

RESEARCH PAPER DUE (April 11)

NOTES ON CLASS SESSIONS, READINGS AND DOCUMENTARIES

Classes will consist of lectures, discussions, and exercises. I expect you to come to class prepared, i.e. have read the assigned texts because I will draw on (but not summarize!) them in lectures and discussions. You will also avoid the pressure to catch up before the exams if you read on a regular basis. I encourage you to ask questions and participate in the in-class discussions. Disagreement on issues is welcome because it will stimulate discussions but I expect you to listen and respond to your peers' opinions with respect.

I will further show **documentaries** throughout the term. They will be treated like lectures and will be covered in the midterm and final exams.

WEBSITE

There is a website for this course (<https://owl.uwo.ca>). It will contain course and assignment outlines, lecture slides, announcements, as well as links to useful resources. I will also post your marks there. Please **check the course website regularly** for announcements, outlines and other postings.

OFFICE HOUR AND EMAIL

If you have questions and concerns regarding your assignments or issues discussed in class, the TA and I are happy to talk with you during our office hours. If you email us, please give us at least 24 hours, Monday to Friday (until noon), to respond to your email. If you do not hear from us, please email us again. We will respond to weekend emails early in the next week.

OTHER COURSE INFORMATION

Note about Accessibility

Please contact me as soon as possible if you require material in an alternate format or if you require any other arrangements to make this course more accessible to you. You may also wish to contact Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) for any specific question regarding an accommodation.

Contact information for SSD:

Room: WSSB #4100

Phone: (519) 661-3031 or (519) 661-2147

Email: ssd@uwo.ca

Website: <http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/ssd/>

Electronic Devices

During class sessions, the use of **laptops** is **only** allowed for **note taking**. Cell phones, blackberries, iPods, MP3 players, and other such electronic devices must be turned **off** during class. The use of voice recorders is not permitted. No electronic devices of any kind (including laptops, cell phones, Blackberries, iPods, MP3 players, voice recorders etc.) will be allowed during examinations.

Scholastic Offences and Plagiarism

Scholastic offenses are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offense, at the following Web site: <http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/scholoff.pdf>.

Plagiarism refers to the submission of the work of another without giving credit to the original author and presenting it as your own work. Anytime that the thoughts or words of others are used, proper citations and references must be used. Western defines plagiarism in the Scholastic Discipline and Academic Sanctions section in the Handbook of Academic and Scholarship Policy (<http://turnitin.uwo.ca/>). See Scholastic Discipline and Academic Sanctions section in the Handbook of Academic and Scholarship Policy: <http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/scholoff.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>). Computer-marked multiple choice tests and/or exams may be subject to submission for similarity review by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating.

Medical notes

If you miss exams or assignment deadlines due to medical issues or reasons of compassionate grounds, you have to submit adequate documentation to **the Academic Counseling of your home faculty, not** to the instructor. If you provide adequate documentation, efforts will be made to accommodate your situation.

For the new medical note policy, see the following website:

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

For more information, please visit: <https://studentservices.uwo.ca/secure/index.cfm>. On this website you will also find an example of the Western Student Medical Certificate (SMC).

Support Services

Registrar's Services: <http://www3.registrar.uwo.ca/index.cfm>

Student Development Services: <http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/>

Writing Support Centre: <http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/writing/>