

UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO
DEPARTMENT OF ANTHROPOLOGY
ANTHROPOLOGY 3301E
CONCEPTS OF SOCIETY AND CULTURE

This course will provide a comparative and historical view of anthropological approaches to the study of society and culture in order to examine different models of the relationship between social structure and cultural form. We will explore the various questions, ideas, and theories that have contributed to the way anthropologists have come to understand and explain this relationship.

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|-------------------------------|---|----------------|--|
| INSTRUCTOR: | Dr. Sherrie Larkin | TA: | Dina Najjar |
| TIME: | Thursday: 9:30 - 12:30 | OFFICE: | SSC 3436 |
| PLACE: | UC 204 | HOURS: | Thursday: 2:00 - 3:00 |
| Extra Discussion Room: | UC 137 | E-MAIL: | dnajjar@uwo.ca |
| OFFICE: | SSC 3328 | | |
| HOURS: | Tuesday: 1:00 - 3:00 | | |
| E-MAIL: | slarkin@uwo.ca | | |
| WEBSITE: | http://webct.uwo.ca | | |

BOOKS TO PURCHASE

Anna Lowenhaupt Tsing *In the Realm of the Diamond Queen: Marginality in an Out-of-the-Way Place.*

Course Pac: Contains required readings for the course (they are marked by an * below and the [CP numbers] refer to the page numbers in the Course Pac for each reading). There will be two separate course Pacs, one for each term.

There are also a few Journal Articles that are required reading for the course. You can access these online through Weldon. If you have any problem with the online Journals, email me or Dina and we will help.

MARKS WILL BE CALCULATED AS FOLLOWS:

| | | |
|----------------------------------|-------------|-----|
| Discussion Papers (6 at 5% each) | | 30% |
| Midterm 1 | November 10 | 10% |
| Midterm 2 | February 9 | 10% |
| Essay | March 15 | 30% |
| Final Exam | TBA | 20% |

PREREQUISITES FOR THIS COURSE:

At least 0.5 from Anthropology 2211F/G, 2212F/G, 2214F/G, 2216F/G, 2217F/G, 2218F/G, 2219F/G 2222F/G or the former 213F/G, and registration in Year 3 or 4 in any module.

Unless you have either the prerequisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you will be removed from the course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

DISCUSSION PAPERS:

During the year, you will be required to write at least six very short papers (1-2 pages) in which you discuss some aspect of the material we are covering in class, readings, or videos. You may only submit your discussion paper when you attend the discussion session for which the paper will be written. i.e. *if you do not attend a discussion group, we will not accept your paper*. We will discuss this further in class.

DISCUSSION GROUPS:

The class will be divided into four small discussion groups: Groups A, B, C, D. The groups will be scheduled to meet nine times during the year, always the last hour of class on Thursdays (See Schedule below). At these meetings, each of you will take part in discussions and submit a short discussion paper that will be worth 5% of your total mark at the end of the course. You are allowed to miss three meetings; in other words, you must attend six of the nine. However, if you attend all nine meetings and submit nine discussion papers, we will count the best six out of the nine. If you attend less than six discussion meetings, you will receive a mark of 0 for each meeting missed.

Schedule for Discussion Groups:

Groups A & B (Groups C & D do not have class on these dates)

| | |
|----------|-------------|
| Thursday | October 6 |
| Thursday | October 20 |
| Thursday | November 3 |
| Thursday | November 24 |
| Thursday | January 19 |
| Thursday | February 2 |
| Thursday | March 1 |
| Thursday | March 15 |
| Thursday | March 29 |

Groups C & D (Groups A & B do not have class on these dates)

| | |
|----------|-------------|
| Thursday | October 13 |
| Thursday | October 27 |
| Thursday | November 17 |
| Thursday | December 1 |
| Thursday | January 26 |
| Thursday | February 16 |
| Thursday | March 8 |
| Thursday | March 22 |
| Thursday | April 7 |

MIDTERMS:

Both midterms will take place in our regular class room during our regular class time. The format will be a combination of fill-in-the-blank, short answer and short essay.

ESSAY:

Your essay for this class will focus on a theme that relates to the course material or the work of a particular anthropologist. We recommend that you submit an essay proposal before you begin your research. The essay must be at least 2,500 words in length in order to meet the writing requirements for an essay course. You must submit both an electronic copy and a paper copy. Electronic copies are to be submitted to me as email attachments and paper copies can be handed in during class. A penalty of 2% per week day may be deducted for late papers, so plan to have them in on time.

OTHER COURSE INFORMATION:

No electronic devices will be allowed in the classroom during tests and examinations.

"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)." "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 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>).

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

ACCESSIBILITY:

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. You may also wish to contact Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) at 661-2111 x 82147 for any specific question regarding an accommodation.

OUTLINE OF TOPICS AND READINGS FOR THE FIRST TERM

- WEEK 1** Sept 8 **Introduction**
- WEEK 2** Sept 15 **What Were We Thinking?**
Ideas and questions from early philosophers and explorers
- WEEK 3** Sept 22 **The Promise of Evolution?**
***Lewis Henry Morgan**. 1877. "Ethnical Periods." In *Ancient Society*, pp. 3-18. New York: Henry Holt and Company. **[CP 101-109]**
Karl Marx & Frederik Engels: *The Communist Manifesto*, which can be accessed on our web site.
Video: "The Origin of the Species"
- WEEK 4** Sept 29 **Kinship, Primitive Promiscuity and Evolution**
***Rivers**: "Introduction" to *The Todas*, pp. 1-17. Cambridge: Macmillan. **[CP 111-119]**
***Meyer Fortes**, 2006, "Morgan: the founding father." In *Kinship and the Social Order: The Legacy of Lewis Henry Morgan*, pp. 3-17. New Brunswick, U.S.A: Aldine Transaction. **[CP 23-30]**
Video: "Everything is Relative"
- WEEK 5** Oct 6 **Structure & Function: A Short Summary** *Discussion Groups A & B*
- WEEK 6** Oct 13 **Structure and Function Confront** *Discussion Groups C & D*
Order and Disorder
***E.E. Evans-Pritchard**, 1937, "The notion of witchcraft explains unfortunate events." In: *Witchcraft, Oracles and Magic among the Azande*, pp. 21-39. Oxford: Oxford University Press. **[CP 11-21]**
***Max Gluckman**, 1963, "Introduction." In *Order and Rebellion in Tribal Africa*, pp. 1-49. London: Cohen and West. **[CP 31-55]**
- WEEK 7** Oct 20 **Evolution is Reborn in the US** *Discussion Groups A & B*
Leslie White, 1943, Energy and the Evolution of Culture. *American Anthropologist* 45(3):335-356.
***Julian Steward**, 1955, "The Patrilineal Band" In *Theory of Culture Change: The Methodology of Multilinear Evolution*, pp.122-142. Urbana: University of Illinois Press. **[CP 141-151]**

SECOND TERM

WEEK 14 Jan 12 **The Power of Symbols**

***Mary Douglas**, 1966, "External Boundaries," in *Purity and Danger: An Analysis of Concept of Pollution and Taboo*, pp. 140-159. [Part 1 CP 1-10]

***Victor Turner**, 1967, "Introduction," in *The Forest of Symbols: Aspects of Ndembu Ritual*, pp. 1-16. [Part 1 CP 153-161]

Clifford Geertz, 1972, Deep Play: Notes on a Balinese Cockfight. *Daedalus* 101(1):1-37.

Sherry Ortner, 1973, On Key Symbols. *American Anthropologist* 75:1338-1346.

WEEK 15 Jan 19 **Peasants and the Nation-State** *Discussion Groups A & B*

***Eric Wolf**, 1966, "Peasantry and its Problems," in *Peasants*, pp. 1-17. [CP 139-147]

***Sidney Mintz**, 1973, A Note on the Definition of Peasantries. *Journal of Peasant Studies* 1(1):91-106. [CP 63-71]

***Sydel Silverman**, 1979, The Peasant Concept in Anthropology. *Journal of Peasant Studies* 7(1):49-173. [CP 107-117]

WEEK 16 Jan 26 **Political Economy** *Discussion Groups C & D*

William Roseberry. 1988. Political Economy. *Annual Review of Anthropology* 17:161-185.

***Eric Wolf**. 1982. "Introduction" in his book *Europe and the People Without History*, pp. 3-23. [CP 149-159]

WEEK 17 Feb 2 **The Feminist Critique and the Postmodern Challenge to Anthropology**

Discussion Groups A & B

***Paula Webster**, 1975, "Matriarchy: A Vision of Power," in *Toward an Anthropology of Women*. Edited by Rayna Reiter, pp. 141-156. [CP 129-137]

***Renato Rosaldo**, 1984, "Grief and a Headhunter's Rage: On the Cultural Force of Emotions," in *Text, Play, and Story: The Construction and Reconstruction of Self and Society*. Edited by Edward Bruner, pp. 178-195. [CP 97-105]

***Lila Abu-Lughod**, 1995, "A Tale of Two Pregnancies," in *Women Writing Culture*. Edited by Ruth Behar & Deborah Gordon, pp. 339-349. [CP 1-16]

***Mary Louise Pratt**. 2002. "Modernity and Periphery," in *Beyond Dichotomies*, edited by E. Mudimbe-Boyi, pp. 21-47. [CP 83-96]

WEEK 18 Feb 9

MIDTERM 2

WEEK 19 Feb 16 **The Problem with Culture** *Discussion Groups C & D*

Robert Brightman, 1995, Forget Culture: Replacement, Transcendence, Reflexification. *Cultural Anthropology* 10(4):509-546.

***Lila Abu-Lughod**, 1991, "Writing Against Culture," in *Recapturing Anthropology: Working in the Present*. Edited by R.G. Fox, pp. 137-162. [CP 7-20]

***Akhil Gupta and James Ferguson**, 1997, "Beyond 'Culture': Space, Identity, and the Politics of Difference," in *Culture, Power, Place: Explorations in Critical Anthropology*. Edited by A. Gupta and J. Ferguson, pp. 33-51. [CP 53-62]

READING WEEK: Feb 21-25

WEEK 20 Mar 1 **Agency and Power** *Discussion Groups A & B*

Sherry Ortner, 1984, Theory in Anthropology since the Sixties. *Comparative Studies in Society and History* 26(1):126-166.

Eric Wolf, 1990, Facing Power - Old Insights, New Questions. *American Anthropologist* 92(3):586-596.

WEEK 21 Mar 8 **Globalisation** *Discussion Groups C & D*

Ulf Hannerz, 1990, Cosmopolitans and Locals in World Culture. *Theory, Culture, and Society* 7:237-251.

Jonathan Friedman, 1990, Being in the World: Globalization and Localization. *Theory, Culture, and Society* 7:311-328.

Arjun Appadurai, 1990, Disjuncture and Difference in the Global Cultural Economy. *Theory, Culture, and Society* 7:295-310.

WEEK 22 Mar 15 **Ethnicity, Class, and Gender** *Discussion Groups A & B*

Carol A. Smith, 1995, Race-Class-Gender Ideology in Guatemala: Modern and Anti-Modern Forms. *Comparative Studies in Society and History* 37(4):723-749.

***Marisol de la Cadena**, 1995, "Women Are More Indian:" Ethnicity and Gender in a Community near Cadena," in *Ethnicity, Markets, and Migration in the Andes: at the Crossroads of History and Anthropology*. Edited by Brooke Larson & Olivia Harris, pp. 329-348. [CP 31-41]

Philippe Bourgois, 1988, Congugated Oppression: Class and Ethnicity among Guayame and Kuna Banana Workers. *American Ethnologist* 15(2):328-348.

***Jean & John Comaroff**, 1992, "Of Totemism and Ethnicity," in *Ethnography and the Historical Imagination*, pp. 49-67. [CP 21-30]

WEEK 23 Mar 22 Contemporary Fieldwork *Discussion Groups C & D*

*Stewart Muir. 2004. "Not Quite at Home," in *Anthropologists in the Field*. Edited by L. Hume & J. Mulcock, pp. 73-81. **[CP 73-81]**

Start reading *In the Realm of the Diamond Queen*, even though we won't start discussing it until next week. Read the "Opening" and "Part One," pp. 3-120.

WEEK 24 Mar 29 Ethnography in Out-of-the-Way Places

Discussion Groups A & B

Anna Lowenhaupt Tsing, 1993, "Part Two" in *In the Realm of the Diamond Queen: Marginality in an Out-of the Way Place*, pp. 121-205.

WEEK 25 April 5 Ethnography in Out-of-the-Way Places Continued

Discussion Groups C & D

Anna Lowenhaupt Tsing, 1993, "Part Three" and "Reprise" in *In the Realm of the Diamond Queen: Marginality in an Out-of the Way Place*, pp. 207-301.