ANTHROPOLOGY 2280F-650
Economic Anthropology
COURSE OUTLINE
Fall 2020

Instructor: Christine Kennedy
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Credit value: 0.5 credit

Mode of delivery: For 2020/2021 this course will be conducted online. It is asynchronous, meaning that students will be provided with a variety of lesson materials and activities that can be done throughout the week, although there may be tasks that must be completed by specific times.

Calendar Course Description: This course explores the economic lives of people across a variety of cultures. Topics will include social and political economy, economics and morality, gifts and exchange, labour and production, commodities and consumption, fair trade, and concepts of land and mortgage.

Antirequisites: None.

Prerequisites: At least a 0.5 Essay course in any faculty.

Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. The 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.

Territorial Acknowledgement: Western University is located on the traditional lands of the Anishinaabek, Haudenosaunee, Lūnaapéewak, and Attawandaron peoples. The First Nations communities in closest proximity to the University are: Chippewas of the Thames First Nation, Oneida Nation of the Thames, and Munsee-Delaware Nation.

Course Syllabus:

This course examines how people in different societies make a living. Economies, as we will see, are not isolated from other parts of social life. How people produce, exchange and consume goods and services are shaped by cultural practices and social and political institutions. We will discuss various theoretical approaches used by anthropologists to explain economic behavior, and the differences between economic anthropology and economics. We will further explore how global processes and connections affect people’s economic lives and how local people, influenced by their cultural background, cope with and respond to changes.
Topics will include: social and political economy; production and labor; consumption and commodities; exchange and gifts; economics and morality; fair trade; concepts of land and mortgage; neoliberalism; and migration and labor.

*A detailed syllabus including specifics on assignments, a week-by-week breakdown of topics and assigned readings, and further course specific information will be available on the course’s OWL site in September before the first day of class.*

**Course Materials:**


The textbook and additional required readings (such as journal articles and non-textbook chapters) can be accessed through the “Course Readings” feature on the OWL course website.

**Evaluation (subject to change):**

*Details on assignments and quizzes will be included in the full syllabus which will be available on the course’s OWL site in September before the first day of class.*

**Forum Postings**

*Forum Postings #1 (first half of the term) – 20%*

*Forum Postings #2 (second half of the term) – 20%*

The purpose of the forums is for students to discuss the readings and engage with other students’ thoughts. The forums provide us with the opportunity to learn from each other.

Students are required to make *at least 2 substantial contributions* to the forums each week. The contributions should be thoughtful, well-supported, clear and coherent, no longer than 2 paragraphs (per contribution), but contain more than 2 or 3 sentences. Your posts need to engage with the readings (and films). I am looking for evidence that you have read, understood and thought about the book chapters and journal articles.

**Quizzes – 10% total**

Students are required to complete quizzes on a weekly or bi-weekly basis. The quizzes will consist of multiple choice and true/false questions, and will cover readings, lessons material and films.

**Paper – 30%**

I will provide a list of topics from which you can choose one for your paper. The paper is supposed to be 1,500 to 1,700 words in length (excluding the reference list). You are expected to incorporate
points from different class readings and anthropological publications that are not class readings (i.e., articles in peer-reviewed journals, scholarly books, and/or book chapters, published between 1999 and 2020).

**Final Exam – 20%**
The final exam will be a take-home essay exam.

**Course Specific Conditions Required to Pass this Course:**
In order to pass an essay course, the student must exhibit some minimal level of competence in essay writing and the appropriate level of knowledge of the content of the course.

In order to pass this essay course, students need to submit the written assignments (i.e., the paper and the forum postings) and receive a passing grade on the paper and either forum postings #1 or forum postings #2.

**Statement on Seeking Special Accommodations:**
No accommodations will be granted retroactively more than 10 days after an assignment’s due date or a missed quiz or test. Please see your academic counsellor immediately if you will be seeking accommodations based on medical or compassionate grounds.

**Statement on Plagiarism:**
Students must write their assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing. It is also a scholastic offence to submit the same work for credit in more than one course. Plagiarism is a major scholastic offence.

**Institutional Statements and Policies:**
All students should familiarize themselves with Western's current academic policies regarding medical accommodation, accessibility, plagiarism and scholastic offences in Western’s Academic Calendar by clicking on this link: [http://westerncalendar.uwo.ca/academicPolicies.cfm?SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=](http://westerncalendar.uwo.ca/academicPolicies.cfm?SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=)