

# INTRODUCTION TO CULTURAL ANTHROPOLOGY

## Anthropology 101-012

### Fall 2009

#### Course Description

Anthropology 101-012 is an introductory, problem-based learning course in cultural anthropology. The three major themes of the course are: 1) how cultural anthropologists do fieldwork, 2) what they have learned about the different dimensions of culture, and 3) the kinds of cultural changes that are occurring in the world today. Within the problem-based learning format, these themes will be addressed through an in-depth consideration of six key questions of interest to cultural anthropologists.

The class will be run as a seminar with most periods devoted to discussion of issues related to the assigned readings. For good discussion everyone must come to class having done the readings and prepared to talk. Students who have not read the assigned materials will be asked to leave so that they can get the reading done and so that those who remain can engage in an informed exchange of ideas. To do well, students must attend all classes, review their notes thoroughly and consistently throughout the term, and demonstrate extra effort and pride in their work for all written assignments. Students should expect to study a minimum of two to three hours for every hour spent in class.

**Instructor:** Jill Neitzel

**e-mail:** [neitzel@udel.edu](mailto:neitzel@udel.edu) (all email messages to professor should have ANTH 101 in the subject line)

**Office:** Munroe 107; you can also drop off messages/papers to be put in my mailbox in Munroe 135

**Office Hours:** Mon, Fri 9:30-11:00, Tue, Thr 9:30-11:00; or see me before or after class, e-mail me, or make an appointment

**Phone:** 831-8755, 831-2802 (this is the Anthropology Dept. number where you can leave messages for me)

**Web Page:** [www.udel.edu/anthro/neitzel/](http://www.udel.edu/anthro/neitzel/)

**Supplemental Readings Password:** 6363

#### Required Textbooks

Bowen, Elenore – Return to Laughter

Kidder, Tracy – Mountains beyond Mountains: The Quest of Paul Farmer, a Man Who Would Cure the World

Morrison, R. Bruce, and G. Roderick Wilson – Ethnographic Essays in Cultural Anthropology: A Problem-Based Approach

van der Elst, Dirk – Culture As Given, Culture as Choice, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition

#### Assignments

3 exams – 100 pts/each

slang/gender exercise– 15 pts

closet exercise – 15 pts  
 change exercise – 15 pts  
 extra credit restaurant review – 15 pts  
 extra credit film review – 10 pts

**NO** make-up quizzes or exams will be given unless the student has a written excuse from the health center or has informed the instructor in advance about a legitimate, unavoidable absence.

Late required assignments will have penalty points deducted. The penalties will be 3 pts for after class on the due date, 5 pts for each additional day. Exceptions will be made only if the student has a written excuse from the health center or has made prior arrangements with the instructor. **NO** late extra credit assignments will be accepted.

## Grades

The UD academic honesty policy, defined at <http://www.udel.edu/stuguide/08-09/code.html#honesty> will be enforced for this course.

Grades for all assignments will be posted on Sakai at <http://www.udel.edu/sakai>.

Semester grades will be assigned on a scale of:

	B+ 87-89%	C+ 77-79%	D+ 67-69%	
A 93-100%	B 83-86%	C 73-76%	D 63-66%	F 0-59%
A- 90-92%	B- 80-82 %	C- 70-72%	D- 60-62%	

**Schedule** (For each class students should check the class web page to see if there are any assigned readings listed under “supplementary readings.” If yes, then those readings should be completed in addition to the ones listed below. Some readings may require a password, which is 6363)

Tue, 9/1 – introduction

### **QUESTION #1 – Culture and how to study it**

Thr, 9/3 – culture

read: van der Elst foreward – chapter 4

Tue, 9/8 – fieldwork

read: essays chapter 8 and supplemental reading on web page

Thr, 9/10 – culture and fieldwork case study

read: essays chapter 1,

video: Kuo hina e hiapo (Media Services VHS#8556 – 27 min))

Tue, 9/15 – language, gender, and student fieldwork

read: van der Elst chapter 5 and supplemental reading on web page

video: Invisible Rules (Media Services VHS#8200 – 35 min)

**DUE: slang/gender exercise**

- Thr, 9/17 – fieldwork case study  
 read: Bowen foreword – chapter 6
- Tue, 9/22 – fieldwork case study  
 read: Bowen chapters 7 – 14  
 video: Lagos/Koolhaas (Media Services VHS#9360 – 55 min)
- Thr, 9/24 – fieldwork case study  
 read: Bowen chapters 15-21

## **QUESTION #2 – Perceptions and beliefs about reality**

- Tue, 9/29 – food fieldwork and religion  
 read: van der Elst chapters 9-10  
 video: segment of A World of Food (Media Services DVD#763 – 10 min)  
**DUE: extra credit restaurant review**
- Thr, 10/1 - religion case study  
 read: essays chapter 3  
 video: Strange Spirit: One Country's Occupation (Media Services VHS#6433 – 40 min)
- Tue, 10/6 – religion and death  
 read: essays chapter 10  
 video: Rites of Death (Media Services VHS#5210 – 47 min)
- Thr, 10/8- oral tradition  
 read: essays chapter 9  
 videos: The Loon's Necklace (Media Services VHS#6310 – 10 min),  
 Dreamtales (Starlore) (Media Services VHS#6129 – 7 min)

Tue, 10/13 – **Exam #1**

## **QUESTION # 3 – Making a living**

- Thr, 10/15 – hunter-gatherer subsistence  
 read: essays chapter 2  
 video: clip from Patterns of Subsistence: Hunter-Gatherers and Pastoralists (Anthro VHS#83 – 15 min)
- Tue, 10/20 – agriculture and progress  
 read: supplemental readings on web page  
 video: clip from Patterns of Subsistence: Agriculture (Anthro VHS#84 – 15 min)
- Thr, 10/22 – globalization of products  
 read: supplementary readings on web page  
**DUE: closet exercise**  
 video: 1<sup>st</sup> ½ Estamo Aqui (Media Services DVD#186 – 30 min)
- Tues, 10/27 – globalization of people  
 read: essay chapter 7  
 video: 2<sup>nd</sup> ½ Estamos Aqui (Media Services DVD#6186 – 28 min)

## **QUESTION #4 – Social relations**

Thr, 10/29 – families

read: van der Elst chapter 6, essays chapter 4

video: Marriages in Heaven (Media Services DVD#1894 – 27 min)

**DUE: extra credit film review of Monsoon Wedding** (Media Services DVD#1422)

Tue, 11/3 – non-kin relations and stratification

read: van der Elst chapter 7, essays chapter 5

video: clip from Age, Common Interest, Stratification (Anthro VHS#92 – 15 min)

Thr, 11/5 – stratification and politics

read: supplemental readings on web page

video: Home (Anthro DVD#229 – 20 min)

Tue, 11/10 – violence

read: essay chapter 6

video: Against My Will (Media Services VHS#8952 - 50 min)

### **QUESTION # 5 – Applying anthropology**

Thr, 11/12 – applied anthropology case study

read: Kidder parts 1-2

video: 1<sup>st</sup> ½ Child Survival: The Silent Emergency (Media Services VHS#7205 – 30 min)

Tue, 11/17 – applied anthropology case study

read: Kidder chapters 3-4

video: 2<sup>nd</sup> ½ Chile Survival: The State of Emergency (Media Services VHS#7205 – 29 min)

Thr, 11/19 – applied anthropology case study

read: Kidder part 5 – afterword

video: Crisis Control: Stemming the Spread of HIV/AIDS (Media Services DVD#2035 – 26 min)

Tue, 11/24 – **EXAM #2**

Thr, 11/26 – **NO CLASS**

### **QUESTION #6 – Culture change**

Tue, 12/1- change

read: supplemental readings on web page

**DUE: change exercise**

Thr, 12/3 – change

read: van der Elst chapter 11

Tue, 12/8 – advice for a changing world

read: van der Elst chapter 12 and supplemental readings on web page

TBA – **EXAM #3**

NOTE: Your final exam day and time **ABSOLUTELY CAN NOT** can not be changed except for the most compelling circumstances. Do **NOT** make your travel plans until you have checked the final exam schedule.