

INTRODUCTION TO CULTURAL ANTHROPOLOGY

Anthropology 101-011

Spring 2008

Course Description

Anthropology 101-011 is a rigorous, introductory 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. In addition to the textbook, students will read two case studies to gain a more in-depth understanding of fieldwork, culture, and culture change. Students will also have first hand experience doing fieldwork and interpreting the results.

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 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 (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, Wed, Fri 10:00-11:45am; 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/

Supplemental Readings Password: 6363

Required Textbooks

Dettwyler, Katharine – Dancing Skeletons: Life and Death in West Africa

Miller, Barbara – Cultural Anthropology, 4th edition

Quinn, Daniel - Ishmael

Assignments

2 quizzes – total 50 pts

2 exams – total 200 pts

5 short fieldwork exercises – total 50 pts

extra credit restaurant review – 20 pts (required for honors section; honors students will

have the option of doing 2 film reviews for extra credit)

NOTE: Attendance is mandatory and will be recorded intermittently throughout the semester. Absent students will have 3 pts deducted from their semester point total. Exceptions will be made only for students who have legitimate excuses and who have informed the instructor in advance.

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 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.

Grades

Grades for all assignments will be posted on WebCT (www.udel.edu/mycourses).

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, 2/12 - introduction

Thr, 2/14 – culture

read: Miller chapter 1

Tue, 2/19- methods

read: Miller chapter 2 and entries on class web page

Thr, 2/21 - communication

read: Miller chapter 12

video: Language and Communication (Anthro #85VHS)

DUE: UD slang fieldwork

Tue, 2/26 - production

read: Miller chapter 3

video: Patterns of Subsistence: Hunter-Gatherers (Anthro #83VHS),

Patterns of Subsistence: Agriculture (Anthro #84VHS)

- Thr, 2/28 – exchange
 read: Miller chapter 4
QUIZ 1
- Tue, 3/4 – birth/death
 read: Miller chapter 5
- Thr, 3/6 - enculturation
 read: Miller chapter 6
 video: Culture and Personality (Anthro #86VHS)
- Tue, 3/11 - gender
 read: entries on class web page
 video: Invisible Rules (Media Services VHS #8200)????
DUE: UD gender exercise
- Thr, 3/13 – disease
 read: Miller chapter 7
 video: Lost Generations (Media Services VHS #7951)
DUE (honors students only): Mali research
- Tue, 3/18 – Dancing Skeletons
 read: Dettwyler chapters 1-7
 video: Mali (Media Services VHS #9694)
DUE (honors students only): Mali research
- Thr, 3/20 – Dancing Skeletons (con'd)
 read: Dettwyler chapters 8-14
 video: The Bambara Kingdom of Segou (Media Services VHS #3156)
DUE (honors students only): Mali research
- Tue, 3/25 – for honors students and students who did extra credit only
DUE: restaurant review
 read: supplemental reading
 video: A World of Food (Media Services #763DVD)
- Thr, 3/27 – **MIDTERM EXAM**
- Tue, 4/1 – NO CLASS
- Thr, 4/3 – NO CLASS
- Tue, 4/8 – kin groups
 read: Miller chapter 8
DUE (honors students only): Monsoon Wedding extra credit film review
- Thr, 4/10 - non-kin groups
 read: Miller chapter 9
 video: Age, Common Interest, Stratification (Anthro #92VHS)

Tue, 4/15 - stratification and political organization
 read: Miller chapter 10

Thr, 4/17 – conflict
 read: Miller chapter 11
 video: We Are All Neighbors (Media Services #8224VHS)

Tue, 4/22 – conflict (con'd)
 read: entries on class web page
QUIZ 2
DUE (honors students only): Crash extra credit film review

Thr, 4/24 – religion
 read: Miller chapter 13
 video: Religion and Magic (Anthro #98VHS)

Tue, 4/29 - art
 read: Miller chapter 14
 video: The Arts (Anthro #100VHS)
DUE: UD clothes exercise

Thr, 5/1- migration
 read: Miller chapter 15
 video: The Latino Family (Media Services VHS #6026)

Tue, 5/6 - globalization
 read: entries on class web page
 video: Geraldo off Line (Media Services VHS #7887)
DUE: closet exercise

Thr, 5/8 - development
 read: Miller chapter 16
 video: Anthropologists at Work (Anthro #76VHS)

Tue, 5/13 – Ishmael
 read: Quinn parts 1-6 and entries on web page

Thr, 5/15 – Ishmael (con'd)
 read: Quinn parts 7-13 and entries on web page

Tue, 5/20 – progress and lessons for living in today's world
 read: entries on class web page
DUE: change exercise

TBA – FINAL EXAM

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

STUDY TIPS

If you've ever spent hours studying only to discover you haven't retained anything the next day, the following tips may help you to study more effectively.

When & Where to Study

- It is recommended to study two hours for every hour spent in class.
- Establish a study schedule for each class and stick to it.
- Don't pull an all-nighter. You will retain more without wearing yourself out if you study in more regular, shorter sessions.
- Identify gaps in your schedule that can be used for studying. For example, the time between classes or waiting for a bus is perfect for reviewing notes.
- Set up a study area in a quiet place. Be sure to have everything you may need within reach.

Staying Focused

- Start each study session by setting goals. Prioritize your work by deadlines and by the amount of time the material will take to get through.
- Break up a study session with short breaks to stay alert. Get up and move around. Try incorporating breathing and stretching exercises to really get a fresh start.
- Eliminate distractions such as television or radio noise. Noisy roommates? Try the library or another study area on your campus.
- Make sure others respect your study time; learn to say no to demands that will interrupt it.
- Don't overdo it. Only do what is appropriate.