

# **ANTH 201 INTRODUCTION TO CULTURAL ANTHROPOLOGY**

## **Section 3**

### **Course syllabus**

**Spring 1999**

Professor: Dr. Chris S. Beekman

Office: Lutz 238

Office Phone: 852-6864

Office Hours: Thursday 4-6pm, Friday 1-2pm

Anth. Dept. Office: AD 228

Class Time: 1:00-2:15pm TR

Class Location: DA 108

### COURSE OBJECTIVES

The discipline of Anthropology addresses broad questions about human behavior, including such diverse topics as the use of kinship as the basis of a political system, the importance of gender roles, and the functions of religion. But anthropology is also a science. It addresses these questions not through armchair speculation or predetermined notions of how society is “supposed” to work, but through the on-the-ground study of real human groups. In this class, we will be confronted by a great diversity of human lifestyles, beliefs and behaviors, and faced with the problem of teasing out general statements about humanity from these data. Through this comparative and broad-based approach, we hope to also learn something about ourselves and our own culture. As the semester progresses, students are asked to reflect upon not only the topics of the day, but also to ask themselves what the culture and society of peoples in places as distant as Africa, Melanesia and Asia can tell us about our own lives.

The course is divided into three parts. We will begin with how Anthropology originated through the application of 19th century discoveries in the natural sciences to the study of humans. This evolutionary paradigm strongly influenced early classifications of world societies, and we will spend several lectures looking at anthropology’s shifting orientation towards its subjects. We will follow this with a survey of societies organized very differently from our own, illustrated by examples from the Ju/’hoansi foragers of southern Africa, and the Sambia tribe of New Guinea. The second part of the course will focus on more complex groups structured by social ranking, exemplified by the kingdoms of Bali. From this point the course will be more topical, frequently returning to our case studies for illustration. We will examine the diversity of ways in which humans have conceptualized kinship, marriage, economics, religion, politics, and language. The course will culminate with a discussion of how traditional societies have changed through interaction with opportunistic colonial powers, and through developmental groups with more benign intentions but no less dramatic effects.

### EVALUATION OF STUDENT PERFORMANCE

There will be three examinations over the course of the semester, including the final exam. Each midterm will be worth 25% of your grade, while the final will be worth 30%. Exams are to be taken the day they are scheduled, and students cannot expect to skip class and make the exam up later at their leisure. Students with special needs or disabilities should inform the professor as soon as possible. Exams will cover the readings and class lecture.

A short (no more than 5 pages) written paper is required as part of this course, and will be worth 20% of the final grade. Details will be provided as the course progresses, but the paper will involve a focused comparison of the groups described in your readings. This is intended not only

to evaluate how your learning has progressed, but also to ensure that you do the readings.  
Academic dishonesty in any form will not be tolerated.

### REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS

*Cultural Anthropology*. William A. Haviland, Harcourt Brace, 1999.

*The Dobe Ju/'hoansi of New Guinea*. Richard Lee, Harcourt Brace, 1993.

*The Sambia: Ritual and Gender in New Guinea*. Gilbert Herdt, Harcourt Brace, 1987.

*The Balinese*. Stephen J. Lansing, Harcourt Brace, 1995.

### COURSE ORGANIZATION AND READINGS

<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Readings</b>
Jan. 12 (T)	Introduction to the course, and to Anthropology	
Jan. 14 (R)	Evolution and Culture in the History of Anthropology	Haviland Ch. 1,2
Jan. 19 (T)		
Jan. 21 (R)	Degrees of Sociopolitical Complexity: Foragers	Haviland Ch. 6, Lee Ch.1-4
Jan. 26 (T)	Film - "The Hunters"	
Jan. 28 (R)	How does one do Anthropology? Ethnography	
Feb. 2 (T)	Tribal Society and Kinship	Haviland Ch.9, Herdt Ch.1-3
Feb. 4 (R)		
Feb. 9 (T)	FIRST MIDTERM EXAM	
Feb. 11 (R)	Chiefdoms, Ranking, and Stratification	Haviland Ch.10-11, Lansing Ch. 1,2
Feb. 16 (T)	Peasants and States	
Feb. 18 (R)	Marriage and the Family	Haviland Ch.8, Lee Ch.6
Feb. 23 (T)		
Feb. 25 (R)	Production, Exchange and Distribution	Haviland Ch.7, Lee Ch.7
Mar. 2 (T)		
Mar. 4 (R)	Religion and Symbols	Haviland Ch.13, Lansing Ch. 3 (and review his Ch. 2)
Mar. 9 (T)	Film - "The Three Worlds of Bali"	
Mar. 11 (R)	SECOND MIDTERM EXAM	
Mar. 16 (T)	NO CLASS. SPRING BREAK	
Mar. 18 (R)	NO CLASS. SPRING BREAK	
Mar. 23 (T)	Medical Anthropology	Haviland 393-409, Lee Ch.8
Mar. 25 (R)	NO CLASS	

Mar. 30 (T) - Law and Government

Haviland Ch. 12, Lee  
Appendix

Apr. 1 (R) - Language and Sociolinguistics

Haviland Ch.4

Apr. 6 (T) - Sex, Gender, and Enculturation

Haviland Ch.5, Herdt  
Ch.4-7

Apr. 8 (R)

Apr. 13 (T) - Colonialism, Culture Contact, and Change

Haviland Ch.14, Lee Ch.9,10  
Lansing Ch. 5

Apr. 15 (R)

Apr. 20 (T) - Race, Biology, and Culture

Apr. 22 (R) - Modern Anthropology and Development

Haviland Ch.15,16, Lee  
Ch.11,12, Lansing Ch. 4

May 5 (W), 2:30-5:00pm. FINAL EXAM