

Cultures of the World - Ant 150 - Spring 2009

Anthropology Department - Rollins College

Sections: ANT 150 3 / ANT 150 H1 Location: **CSS 222 - 135**

ANT 150 3 Tuesdays and Thursdays from 2:00-3:15 pm

ANT 150 H1 Tuesdays and Thursdays from 5:15-6:30 pm

Instructor: Ana Servigna **Email:** aservign@syr.edu

1. Course Description.

Cultures of the World is a course that studies, through five different monographs, part of the global cultural diversity. We will explore daily life, rites of passage, marriage, family, work, politics, social life, religion, ritual, and art among foraging, agricultural, and industrial societies. A main goal is to gain an understanding of peoples whose beliefs and customs are different, sometimes radically different, from ours. You are not required to change your own beliefs, but a purpose is to be challenged by social and cultural practices different from and even antithetical to your own.

Through a selection of texts, articles and films, the course studies reservation-dwelling Apaches in the US, indigenous hunter-gatherers in Belgian Congo, a community of Bedouins in the Western Desert of Egypt, urban workers and poor people in Brazil, and contemporary American society. These same works provide, respectively, a focus on girls' coming of age ceremonies and the craft of fieldwork, ecology, rites of passage for males in a warrior society, the significance of charismatic Christian sects for Brazilian Black people, especially women, and how others see American society.

2. Course Objectives.

The specific aims of this course are:

- a. to understand what anthropology is, and what makes it unique as a discipline;
- b. to learn about basic concepts and methods of cultural anthropology;
- c. to introduce you to a wide variety of peoples and cultures around the world and to help you understand how they live and why they live that way;
- d. to develop an attitude of respect toward peoples and cultures very different from our own;
- e. to analyze our own culture and its beliefs and values and life ways, as well as its relationship to other cultures;
- f. to examine a few contemporary global issues which affect the future of humanity;
- g. to gain an understanding of the historic and contemporary relationships between cultures;
- h. to prepare you to meet people and cultures different from your own with greater acceptance and understanding, and to prepare you to deal with other cultures in your future personal and professional life.

To help develop these ideas and understandings, we will be reading about a small sampling of world cultures, chosen from different parts and various levels of complexity. I encourage you to contribute your own experiences as a traveler and as a member of your own culture. The first step in gaining knowledge is inquiry, so I hope you will ask many questions, and I hope I can answer some of them.

3. Books/Reading Materials.

There are five monographs that make up the readings of ANT 150. Each provides a study of a different people, a different topic or "problem," and a different style of doing anthropology. You

can buy the recommended textbooks through Rollins Bookstore. If you have problems doing so, please contact me.

1. Farrer, Claire R. (1996). *Thunder Rides a Black Horse*. Waveland Press, Inc. Prospect Heights, Illinois.
2. Turnbull, Colin M. (1968). *The Forest People*. Simon & Schuster Inc. New York.
3. Abu-Lughod, Lila (1999). *Veiled Sentiments. Honor and poetry in a Bedouin Society*. University of California Press, Berkeley and Los Angeles, California.
4. Burdick, John (1998). *Blessed Anastácia. Women, Race, and Popular Christianity in Brazil*. Routledge, New York.
5. DeVita, Philip R. and Armstrong, James D. (eds) (2002). *Distant Mirrors. America as a Foreign Culture*. Wadsworth/Thomson Learning.

4. Office Hours.

Office hours are by appointment however I generally will be available on campus from 3:30 to 5:00 Tuesdays and Thursdays. You can also contact me at aservigna@rollins.edu or aservign@syr.edu.

5. Course Management.

- 5.1. **Late papers or assignments:** Papers and exams are due the day stipulated; the instructor does not accept late papers, late presentations or make-up exams unless there are circumstances of a very serious nature. Late papers and tests will be marked down.
- 5.2. **Class Attendance:** Attendance is mandatory. Your grade will in part be based upon your presence and active participation. However, I will allow two unexcused class absences without penalty. After two absences your final grade will be reduced 5 points from the final grade for every day missed. Also, if a student misses an excessive amount of class, they may be withdrawn. If you miss one of our film viewing classes, you will need to contact me.
- 5.3. **Class participation:** Students are expected to come to class with the assigned readings completed in advance, and to be prepared to discuss the main arguments and how they relate to the instructor lectures and student presentations.
- 5.4. **To pass this Course:** Remember that in order to pass this course ALL WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS AND ALL TEST MUST BE TAKEN. In other words, *every requirement listed on the syllabus must be met to fulfill the academic obligation to pass this course.*
- 5.5. **Academic courtesy:** All students are expected to follow simple rules of academic courtesy to your fellow students and instructors. Please come to class on time to avoid disrupting the class. Once class begins, you must refrain from personal conversations. You must put away all non-course reading materials (e.g. newspapers). Refrain from using computers for any non-course related activities. Turn off and put away all cell phones and electronic gadgets. If you have extraordinary circumstances that require you to keep any of them on please talk to me.

6. Requirements and Grading.

The course grade is the weighted sum of the individual grades earned in discussion, class participation and attendance, presentations on readings, mid term and final exam, class project

presentation and final project paper (8-10 pages). The discussion, class participation and attendance is worth 10% of the total course grade; the mid term and final exams, 15% each; presentation on readings, 10%; and the final project presentation 15% and final project paper, 35%.

- 6.1. **Class Presentation:** Every class, two students will be assigned to lead 20 minutes of the class (10 minutes each), using the material assigned for that particular day. Each student will be responsible for one presentation along the semester. An outline of the presentation (about one page in length) is to be provided by the presenter and it will be graded by the instructor. The presentation counts up to 10% of the final grade. It is important not only to describe what you read but to express your own reactions and interpretations of the reading.
- 6.2. **Final Project:** for this project you must first choose a community or group that has been already studied by different anthropologists. Once you have your community you need to prepare a selection of at least six (6) bibliographical references that describe and interpret sociocultural aspects of your chosen group. The references in your list should be primary sources and should come from refereed, peer-reviewed and professional research journals or books. Then you should prepare a final paper that reports a description of the group chosen and analyze/interpret one of the sociocultural aspects that you have researched (i.e. rituals, symbols, religion, marriage, etc). The paper should be 8-10 pages.
- 6.3. **Final project presentation:** In the final weeks of the class, you will present your research to the class. This presentation is to be between 10-15 minutes long. You are free to use whatever presentational techniques you find most suitable for your project.
- 6.4 **Examinations:** A mid term and final evaluation will be conducted in class. The exam consists of short essay questions.

7. Grading Summary.

1. Participation in Discussion Sections and attendance.....	10%	60 pts.
2. Presentation on readings.....	10%	60 pts.
3. Mid term exam.....	15%	90 pts.
4. Final exam.....	15%	90 pts.
5. Final project paper.....	35%	210 pts.
6. Final project presentation.....	15%	90 pts.
Total:		100% 600 pts.

Points	Grade	Percentage	Points	Grade	Percentage
600-575	A	100-95%	484-470	C	76-74%
574-550	A-	94-90%	469-450	C-	73-70%
549-530	B+	89-86%	449-435	D+	69-67%
529-515	B	85-83%	434-420	D	66- 64%
514-500	B-	82-80%	419-401	D-	63%
499-485	C+	89-77%	400 and below	F	

8. Honor Code.

Remember that as part of your matriculation you pledged to uphold the Rollins College Honor Code, therefore no plagiarism, cheating, unauthorized collaboration, fabrication, academic dishonesty, violation of testing conditions, lying, or failure to report an honor code violation are allowed. All work turned in for this class should be done by you. While you may receive help from acquaintances with words or short phrases, copying texts from other sources and claiming them as your own is considering cheating.

The following pledge is a binding commitment by the students of Rollins College:

The development of the virtues of Honor and Integrity are integral to a Rollins College education and to membership in the Rollins College community. Therefore, I, a student of Rollins College, pledge to show my commitment to these virtues by abstaining from any lying, cheating, or plagiarism in my academic endeavors and by behaving responsibly, respectfully and honorably in my social life and in my relationships with others.

This pledge is reinforced every time a student submits work for academic credit as his/her own. Students shall add to the paper, quiz, test, lab report, etc., the handwritten signed statement

"On my honor, I have not given, nor received, nor witnessed any unauthorized assistance on this work."

Material submitted electronically should contain the pledge; submission implies signing the pledge.

If you have any doubt about the Honor Code please consult the link:

<http://www.rollins.edu/academichonorcode>

9. Learning Disability:

Rollins College is committed to equal access and does not discriminate unlawfully against persons with disabilities in its policies, procedures, programs or employment processes. The College recognizes its obligations under the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 to provide an environment that does not discriminate against persons with disabilities. If you are a person with a disability on this campus and anticipate needing any type of academic accommodations in order to participate in your classes, please make timely arrangements by disclosing this disability in writing to the Disability Services Office at (box 2613) -Thomas P. Johnson Student Resource Center, 1000 Holt Ave., Winter Park, FL, 32789 or call 407-646-2354 for an appointment.

Note: For additional information check the Academic Regulations at www.rollins.edu.

10. Units.

UNIT 1. The Idea of Culture.

Culture and Meaning. The characteristics of culture.

An Apache reservation-dwelling in the US. Ethnography and Fieldwork.

Apaches' Myths and rituals.

UNIT 2. Hunter-gatherers in Belgian Congo.

Modern Foraging Environments and subsistence systems.

UNIT 3. The Cultural Construction of Race.

UNIT 4. Bedouins in the Western Desert of Egypt.

UNIT 5. Urban worker in Brazil.

Explaining Social Stratification.

What Religion does in society.

11. Schedule of Required Readings.

Week 1	January 13	Introduction.
	January 15	UNIT 1. The Idea of Culture. <u>Culture and Meaning. The characteristics of culture.</u> -DeVita & Armstrong (2002). Distant Mirrors. Chapter 1
Week 2	January 20	<u>A Apache reservation-dwelling in the US. Ethnography and Fieldwork.</u>
	January 22	-Farrer (1996). <i>Thunder Rides a Black Horse</i> . Chapters 1-5.
Week 3	January 27	<u>Apaches' Myths and rituals.</u>
	January 29	-Farrer (1996). <i>Thunder Rides a Black Horse</i> . Chapters 6-8. -DeVita & Armstrong (2002). Distant Mirrors. Chapters 2.
Week 4	February 03	UNIT 2. Hunter-gatherers in Belgian Congo. <u>Modern Foraging Environments and subsistence systems.</u>
	February 05	- Film "Pygmies of the rain Forest". -Turnbull, Colin M. (1968). <i>The Forest People</i> . Chapters 1-5. -DeVita & Armstrong (2002). Distant Mirrors. Chapters 3-4.
Week 5	February 10	-Turnbull, Colin M. (1968). <i>The Forest People</i> . Chapters 6-10.
	February 12	-DeVita & Armstrong (2002). Distant Mirrors. Chapters 5-6.
Week 6	February 17	-Turnbull, Colin M. (1968). <i>The Forest People</i> . Chapters 11-15.
	February 19	-DeVita & Armstrong (2002). Distant Mirrors. Chapters 7-8.
Week 7	February 24	UNIT 3. The Cultural Construction of Race. - AAA's Statement on Race. http://www.understandingrace.org/about/statement.html
	February 26	- Social and Cultural Aspects of "Race" and "Ethnicity" http://www.understandingrace.org/about/response.html - Film: <i>The Power of an illusion</i> . Mid Term Evaluation.
Week 8	March 03	UNIT 4.- Bedouins in the Western Desert of Egypt. The Cultural Construction of Gender.
	March 05	- Abu-Lughod, Lila (1999). <i>Veiled Sentiments</i> . Chapters 1-3. - DeVita & Armstrong (2002). Distant Mirrors. Chapters 9-10
Week 9	March 10	S p r i n g B r e a k
	March 12	
Week 10	March 17	<u>Functions of Marriage and the Family.</u>
	March 19	- Abu-Lughod, Lila (1999). <i>Veiled Sentiments</i> . Chapters 4- 5. - DeVita & Armstrong (2002). Distant Mirrors. Chapters 11-12.
Week 11	March 24	- Abu-Lughod, Lila (1999). <i>Veiled Sentiments</i> . Chapter 6- 8.
	March 26	UNIT 5. Urban worker in Brazil. <u>Explaining Social Stratification.</u>
Week 12	March 31	- Burdick, John (1998). <i>Blessed Anastacia</i> . Chapters 1-3
	April 02	- DeVita & Armstrong (2002). Distant Mirrors. Chapters 13-14
Week 13	April 07	<u>What Religion does in society.</u>
	April 09	- Burdick, John (1998). <i>Blessed Anastacia</i> . Chapters 4-5 - DeVita & Armstrong (2002). Distant Mirrors. Chapters 15-16
Week 14	April 14	<u>Cultures of the World.</u>
	April 16	Individual projects presentations.
Week 15	April 21	<u>Summing up: What have we learned?</u>
	April 23	Final exam.
Week 16	April 28	Final paper due.
	April 30	