

***Cultures of the World – Ant 150 – Spring 2011***

Anthropology Department – College of Arts & Sciences - Rollins College

Section: ANT 150-H1 *Tuesdays 4:00-6:30 pm* – Cornell Hall 135

Classes start January 11, 2011 and end April 26, 2011

**1. Course Description.**

Cultures of the World is a course that studies, through different monographs and articles, 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, Yupiit in Alaska, Indian transgender men, rural Albanian women, contemporary American society, youth from Russia, China, Malaysia, Uganda, the Dominican Republic, and Canada's Baffin Island and women from African communities. This material provides, respectively: the craft of fieldwork, ecology, race, sex and gender, marriage customs, coming of age ceremonies, globalization 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 four books 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. ISBN: 978-0881338973, Retail: \$15.95.
2. Turnbull, Colin M. (1968). *The Forest People*. Simon & Schuster Inc. New York. ISBN: 978-1153483049, Retail: \$24.75.
3. Fienup-Riordan, Ann (2000). *Hunting Tradition in a Changing World*. Rutgers University Press. ISBN: 978-0813528052, Retail: \$25.95.
4. DeVita, Philip R. and Armstrong, James D. (eds) (2002). *Distant Mirrors. America as a Foreign Culture*. Wadsworth/Thomson Learning. ISBN: 978-0534556488, Retail: \$63.95.

Recommended/optional books:

- Simon, Scott (2005). *Tanners of Taiwan. Life Strategies and National Culture*. Westview Press.
- Fisher, Edward F. & Hendrickson, Carol (2003). *Tecpán Guatemala. A Modern Maya town in Global and Local Context*. Westview Press.

*Additional readings will be provided along the semester.*

#### 4. Office Hours.

Office hours are by appointment; however I generally will be available on campus from 3:30 pm to 5:00 pm on Thursdays. You can also contact me at [aservigna@rollins.edu](mailto:aservigna@rollins.edu) or [aservign@syr.edu](mailto: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, he/she may be withdrawn.
  - ✓ If you miss one of our film viewing classes, you will need to contact me; each film includes an activity that is graded and each student is required to complete them.
  - ✓ Each student is responsible for any information (lecture materials, assignments, schedule changes, handouts, etc.) given to the class, whether he/she is present or not. *Therefore regular attendance is very important.*
- 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. You should expect unannounced “pop quizzes” based on the assigned readings that will count toward your participation grade.
- 5.4. **To pass this Course:** Remember that in order to pass this course *all written assignments and all tests 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 their fellow students and instructor.
  - ✓ 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 and turn off and put away all cell phones and electronic gadgets.*

#### 6. Requirements and Grading.

The course grade is the weighted sum of the individual grades earned in class discussions and participation, attendance, presentations on readings, midterm and final exam, class project presentation and final project. The discussion, class participation and attendance is worth 15% of the total course grade; the midterm and final exams, 20% each; presentation on readings, 10%; and the final project presentation 5% and final project paper, 30%.

- 6.1. **Class Presentation:** Every class, two students will be assigned to lead 10 minutes of the class (5 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 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. **If you are miss your presentation day you will get a failing grade on this assignment.**

- 6.2. **Final Project:** For this project you will participate in a “Culture Scavenger Hunt” in Orlando and surrounding areas, capturing images that represent material culture or manifestations of nonmaterial culture. You will need to take up to three (3) photographs for each of four (4) “anthropological categories” assigned—a total of 12 photographs (eg: food, clothes, transportation, technology, religion, rituals). Then you need to develop a description and analysis/interpretation of each image, one page long (for each of the 12 images, for a total of 12 pages) in Times New Roman font size 12 and double-spaced. (More details will be posted on Blackboard).
- 6.3. **Final project presentation:** In the final weeks of the class, you will present your project to the class. This presentation is to be 5 minutes long. You are free to use whatever presentational techniques you find most suitable for your project.
- 6.4. **Examinations:** A midterm and final evaluation will be conducted in class.
- 6.5. **Blackboard:** ANT 150 Blackboard web site contains announcements regarding classes, class handouts and power point notes. Your grades will be also posted on blackboard. Students are responsible for regularly checking their blackboard.

## 7. Grading Summary.

1. Participation in Discussion Sections and attendance.....	15%	90 pts.
2. Presentation on readings.....	10%	60 pts.
3. Midterm exam.....	20%	120 pts.
4. Final exam.....	20%	120 pts.
4. Final project paper.....	30%	180 pts.
5. Final project presentation.....	5%	30 pts.
Total:	100%	600 pts.

Points	Grade	Percentage	Points	Grade	Percentage
600-570	A	100 - 95%	461 - 444	C	76. <sup>83</sup> -74 %
569-540	A-	94. <sup>83</sup> - 90%	443 - 420	C-	73. <sup>83</sup> -70 %
539-522	B+	89. <sup>83</sup> - 87%	419 - 402	D+	69. <sup>83</sup> -67 %
521-504	B	86. <sup>83</sup> - 84%	401 - 384	D	66. <sup>83</sup> -64 %
503-480	B-	83. <sup>83</sup> - 80%	485 - 360	D-	64. <sup>83</sup> -60 %
479-462	C+	79. <sup>83</sup> - 77%	359 and below	F	60. <sup>83</sup> %

**The instructor does not round off grade averages, check the points range to determine your grade.**

## 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](http://www.rollins.edu).

### **10. Units.**

- UNIT 1. Culture and Meaning. Culture and Meaning.  
Modern Foraging and horticulturalist societies.  
Chiefdoms and the Industrial States.  
An Apache reservation-dwelling in the US.  
Apaches' Myths and rituals.
  
- UNIT 2. Hunter-gatherers in Belgian Congo.  
Modern Foraging Environments and subsistence systems.  
Marriage customs and the Family.  
Rites of Passage in Cross Cultural Perspective
  
- UNIT 3. The Cultural Construction of Race.  
Social and Cultural Aspects of "Race" and "Ethnicity"
  
- UNIT 4. The Cultural Construction of Gender.  
Culture and Gender.
  
- UNIT 5. Globalization and cultures.  
Traditions in a Changing World.

**11. Schedule of Required Readings.**

Week 1	January 11	<b>UNIT 1. Anthropology &amp; Culture.</b> Culture and Meaning. The characteristics of culture. Modern Foraging and horticulturalist societies. Chiefdoms and the Industrial States. - DeVita & Armstrong (2002). <i>Distant Mirrors</i> . <b>Chapter 3.</b>
Week 2	January 18	An Apache reservation-dwelling in the US. Ethnography and Fieldwork. - Farrer (1996). <i>Thunder Rides a Black Horse</i> . <b>Chapters 1-4.</b> - Visit <a href="http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/weshallremain/native_now/">http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/weshallremain/native_now/</a> and watch the video clips on Language, Sovereignty and Enterprise. - Film: <i>Homeland Nation: Mescalero Apache</i> .
Week 3	January 25	Apaches' Myths and rituals. - Video online: <i>Sunrise Dance</i> <a href="http://anth.alexanderstreet.com.ezproxy.rollins.edu:2048/View/765464/Highlight/Sunrise%20dance/#Sunrise1">http://anth.alexanderstreet.com.ezproxy.rollins.edu:2048/View/765464/Highlight/Sunrise%20dance/#Sunrise1</a> - Farrer (1996). <i>Thunder Rides a Black Horse</i> . <b>Chapters 5-8.</b>
Week 4	February 01	<b>UNIT 2. Hunter-gatherers in Belgian Congo.</b> Modern Foraging Environments and subsistence systems. - Film <i>Pygmies of the rain Forest</i> . - Turnbull, Colin M. (1968). <i>The Forest People</i> . <b>Chapters 1-4.</b>
Week 5	February 08	- Turnbull, Colin M. (1968). <i>The Forest People</i> . <b>Chapters 5-9.</b>
Week 6	February 15	Rites of Passage in Cross Cultural Perspective - Film: <i>Coming of Age</i> . - Turnbull, Colin M. (1968). <i>The Forest People</i> . <b>Chapters 10-12.</b>
Week 7	February 22	Marriage customs and the Family. - Film: <i>Will you Marry Me?</i> - Turnbull, Colin M. (1968). <i>The Forest People</i> . <b>Chapters 13-15.</b>
Week 8	March 01	<b><u>Mid Term Evaluation.</u></b> <b>UNIT 3. The Cultural Construction of Race.</b> - Film: <i>The Power of an illusion</i> .
Week 9	March 08	<b>Spring Break (No Classes)</b>
Week 10	March 15	- AAA's Statement on Race. <a href="http://www.understandingrace.org/about/statement.html">http://www.understandingrace.org/about/statement.html</a> Social and Cultural Aspects of "Race" and "Ethnicity" <a href="http://www.understandingrace.org/about/response.html">http://www.understandingrace.org/about/response.html</a> - Nanda, S. and Warm, R. (2007). <i>Cultural Anthropology</i> . Chapter 13: Race & Ethnicity. <b>UNIT 4.- The Cultural Construction of Gender.</b> - Film: <i>Taboo – Sex and Gender (National Geography)</i> .
Week 11	March 22	- Nanda, S. and Warm, R. (2007). <i>Cultural Anthropology</i> . <b>Chapter 10. Gender.</b> <b>UNIT 5. Globalization and cultures.</b> - Fienup-Riordan, Ann (2000). <i>Hunting Tradition in a Changing World</i> . <b>Chapters 1-3.</b> <a href="http://www.yupik.com/index.html">http://www.yupik.com/index.html</a>
Week 12	March 29	- Film: <i>At the time of Whaling - The Drums of Winter</i> . - Fienup-Riordan, Ann (2000). <i>Hunting Tradition in a Changing World</i> . <b>Chapters 6-7.</b> - DeVita & Armstrong (2002). <i>Distant Mirrors</i> . <b>Chapter 4-6.</b>
Week 13	April 05	- DeVita & Armstrong (2002). <i>Distant Mirrors</i> . <b>Chapters 8-18.</b>

Week 14	April 12	Cultures of the World. <b><u>Individual projects presentations.</u></b>
Week 15	April 19	Summing up: What have we learned? Film: <i>Outsourced</i> . <b><u>Final project due.</u></b>
Week 16	April 26	<b><u>Final Exam.</u></b>