

ANTHROPOLOGY 2105: SOCIAL ISSUES  
PERSPECTIVES IN ANTHROPOLOGY

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This course has been designed to address contemporary cultural issues and the contribution of anthropology to the understanding of contemporary life. In the beginning, the basic concepts, perspectives, and methods of cultural anthropology are surveyed. We will explore the way contemporary societies organize around ethnic, kinship, and gender considerations. We will look at contemporary issues in childhood socialization and the important connection between language and culture. After this, we will explore the importance of belief systems and discuss current economic and political perspectives within the context of a world system.

REQUIRED TEXTS:

*Anthropology 08/09* – Angeloni (Editor)

EVALUATION AND GRADING:

There will be three examinations. Each examination will cover roughly one-third of the course.

Grading:

First exam: 25%

Second exam: 35%

Third exam: 30%

Class Participation 5%

Total of 100 points for the final grade

Make-up Exams:

All make-up exams are given on Oct 27 ONLY. **NO EXCEPTIONS!** All make-up exams are written discussion-type questions.

Attendance Policy

A good attendance record, especially if combined with class participation, can work to a student's advantage. Although I will not keep a formal record of your attendance, it is important to realize that missing class will put you at a great disadvantage. Examination material is taken from class discussion and lecture as well as reading material. Since this course builds on itself, missing classes will hinder your understanding of future material.

Make friends with other students so that if you must miss class you can get notes from classmates. **It is my firm policy not to give students my own notes or overheads.**

Class Participation and Preparation

The expectation is that everyone will come to class prepared, that means you should read the assigned materials BEFORE class and be prepared to discuss topics related to the assigned material.

In order to obtain class participation points, you will be required to come to class with notes or questions from your readings that will help you participate during class discussions. While these notes/questions will not be collected every class period, they will contribute to class participation points when they are collected. So always come prepared!

The outcome of this course depends highly on your cooperation. Unless you come to class prepared and ready for active participation, we will not be able to have quality discussions.

Cultural anthropology lends itself to interesting classroom discussion. I encourage you to express your views and experiences as they relate to the subject matter. Please keep in mind that it is not quantity but quality that matters in class discussions. **Please respect your fellow students by giving them an opportunity to enter into the discussion. It is important that opinions (positive or negative) on the reading and lecture material be offered and discussed in a scholarly manner.**

## **Academic Probity**

Violations of academic probity will meet with a response in conformity with official school policy. Every KSU student is responsible for upholding the provisions of the Student Code of Conduct, as published in the Undergraduate and Graduate Catalogs.

All head attire must be removed during testing. Student spacing (empty seat between each student) is required during test days.

## **Other Stuff**

While I understand that travel logistics can be troublesome at times, please make an effort to arrive on time for class.

**I also request that cell phones be turned off during the class period.** The ringing of cell phones in a classroom environment is not only disruptive for me and your fellow students, but extremely rude!

Tape recorders are prohibited in class.

## **TOPIC SEQUENCES AND READINGS:**

Aug. 18  
Introduction

Aug. 20-25  
Concepts, Methodology and the Ethics of Fieldwork  
Richard Lee (2), Sterk (3), McFate (4), Miner (29)

Aug. 27-Sept. 8  
Kinship, Descent, Marriage  
Film  
Goldstein (16), Coontz (18), Nanda (19), Kristof (20)

### **Sept. 10 1<sup>st</sup> Test**

Sept. 15-17  
Childhood Socialization  
Scheper-Hughes (17), Grinker (27)

Sept. 22-24  
Gender and Systems of Stratification  
Williams (21), Small (22), Simmons (23)

Sept. 29-Oct. 1  
Language and Communication  
MacNeil (7), Tannen (8), Garland (38)

### **Oct. 6 2<sup>nd</sup> test**

Oct. 8-13  
Belief Systems  
Sosis (26), Del Guercio (28), Gmelch (30)

Oct. 15-22  
Subsistence Strategies/Economic and Political Perspectives in the World System  
Gadsby (12), Lappe & Collins (31), Diamond (32), Bodley (34), Hurd (36), Guterman (37), Sandall (39)

### **Oct. 27 3<sup>rd</sup> Exam**

## **Makeup Exam Oct. 27 ONLY**

This course syllabus provides a general plan for the course; deviations may be necessary. Any changes will be announced in class. It is the student's responsibility to make a note of any such change.