

ANTH 203: Introduction to Cultural Anthropology

Fall 2009 Section 001

Stevenson 1002, TuTh 5:25-6:40

Office Hours: Tu 10:30-11:30; W 11-noon

Dr. Richard J. Senghas

Office: Stevenson 2054C

707.664-2307 (rarely useful)

Richard.Senghas@sonoma.edu

REQUIRED TEXTS

Kottak, Conrad P. 2008. *Mirror for Humanity: A Concise Introduction to Cultural Anthropology*. 6th Edition. New York: McGraw-Hill College. ISBN: 978-0-07-340524-7.

Chavez, L.R. 1998. *Shadowed Lives: Undocumented Immigrants in American Society*. 2nd Edition. New York, NY: Harcourt Brace College Publishers. ISBN: 0-15-508089-X.

Lee, Richard B. 2003. *The Dobe Ju'hoansi*. 3rd Edition. Belmont, MA: Thomson Wadsworth. ISBN: 0-15-506333-2.

Steckley, John L. 2009. *White Lies about the Inuit*. Peterborough, Ontario, Canada: Broadview Press. ISBN: 978-1-55111-875-8

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The world is becoming an increasingly interconnected and interdependent place. The values, beliefs, and behavior of people far distant from us geographically can directly affect our lives in profound ways—as recent and current events dramatically demonstrate. As the world around us becomes more complex, however, our own views of our place in that world still rely on our own relatively limited experiences.

The discipline of anthropology strives to document, interpret and communicate the immense range of human cultural variation, as well as the range (or limits) to that variation. Anthropology helps us better understand and appreciate the world in which we live, an understanding that is increasingly critical for a successful and fulfilling life in today's interconnected and complex world.

- In this course we will discuss the concepts of *culture* and *society*, concepts central to the discipline of anthropology;
- We will look at different aspects of culture, drawing examples from around the world;
- We will discuss some of the historical changes that have led up to the making of the contemporary world and its relationships among different peoples;
- We will apply what we have learned by looking more in-depth at several societies, one in Africa, another a group within our own society, and a third, .

You will read things that may fascinate you and things that may disturb you. You may gain insights into other cultures and even into your own. By the end of this course, I hope you will have achieved a greater understanding of the sources of variation in today's world, a greater recognition of the range of worldviews of the peoples around you, and a greater appreciation of the diversity of human experiences that shape the lives of others, as well as yours.

SPECIAL NEEDS: To request academic accommodations due to a disability, please contact the Disability Services for Students office ((707) 664-2677 (voice), and (707) 664-2958 (TDD for hearing and voice impaired)). If you have a letter from their office indicating that you have a disability which requires academic accommodations, please present the letter to me so we can discuss the accommodations that you might need in this class.

It is the student's responsibility to make arrangements for special needs or accommodation issues in a timely manner, and certainly well before deadlines or exam dates. Accommodations cannot be made retroactively.

SSU POLICIES & PROCEDURES: Students are encouraged to review SSU policies and procedures regarding add/drops, cheating and plagiarism, grade appeals, access for students with disabilities and special needs, as well as the SSU vision statement regarding diversity. These can be reviewed online at:

<http://www.sonoma.edu/uaffairs/policies/studentinfo.shtml>

EXAMS

There will be 3 exams given during the semester. Exams may include any of the following formats: multiple-choice, matching, problem solving, short answer, definitions or essay. Exam questions will cover material from the text, lectures, handouts, films, and/or videos.

If you miss an exam, you will have to take a comprehensive make-up exam on Tuesday, December 15th, 5-6:50 PM. You will need to make arrangements for this with the instructor by the last day of class.

Be on time for exams. I will not handout an exam once students have begun taking the exam.

EVALUATION

- EXAMS: 60% of your final grade; **tentative exam dates: 10/1, 11/10, 12/10, make-up/final: 12/15**
- READING SUMMARY 10% of your final grade (further information will be provided in class);
- CRITICAL EVALUATION OF A READING 15% of your final grade (further information will be provided in class);
- PARTICIPATION/ATTENDANCE: 15% of your final grade. *Note: Attendance will be taken on a daily basis. Be sure to sign the attendance sheet every day you are here!!*

CLASSROOM ETIQUETTE

(borrowing from J. Wingard)

- 1: **Turn cell phones and beepers OFF before you come to class. If you MUST be reachable during the class for some reason, TELL ME BEFORE THE START OF CLASS.**
- 2: Come to class on time. If you must enter late, come in as unobtrusively as possible.
- 3: If you want to eat in class, bring enough for everybody. ;-). If you must eat, do so unobtrusively.
- 4: Once in class, please leave only if absolutely necessary. If you must leave early, do so unobtrusively.
- 5: If I see you talking, I will assume it is relevant to our class discussion and I will expect you to share your insights (which are always welcome and encouraged) with everybody.
- 6: Come prepared to participate productively and respectfully. Class time is valuable; let's not waste it.

CLASS PREPARATION

Budget ~6 hours for studying and homework for this course each week. Following is a suggested approach to reading the materials and preparing for class (after A. Wahrhaftig).

1. Before the week in which the material will be discussed in class, read through it all relatively quickly. Mark things that excite you, that you would like to talk about in class, that you would like to know more about. Mark the things that you don't understand, that you want to have explained, that seem unclear, and then ask about them in class. It is alright to not understand something when first grappling with it, otherwise, what's the use of having classes?! And if it is a question for you, it is also probably a question for other students who are too shy to ask.
2. After the week in which the material was discussed in class, reread it more thoroughly. Note how your understandings have changed. Perhaps you will want to write your ideas and reactions to the material.
3. Following this two step process will really "plant" the information in your head. Doing so, you should find your performance on tests and other assignments much improved.

You are encouraged to ask questions and class discussion is strongly encouraged.

Because of the budget cut furloughs, the instructor will be less available, and inevitably will not be able to provide as much feedback on performance. However, students will still be responsible for the same amount of course content and materials, *which will appear on the exams even if not covered in class*. Teaching assistants may be especially useful when the instructor is not available, but TAs are not authorized to address grading issues or permit exemptions or changes for any course requirements.

NOTE: When sending e-mail to your instructor or course TAs, include “ANTH203” in your subject line.

CHECK YOUR SSU E-MAIL ACCOUNT DAILY;

SEVERAL COURSE ANNOUNCEMENTS, UPDATES, & ASSIGNMENTS WILL BE SENT TO YOUR SSU ACCOUNT.