

ANTHROPOLOGY 3AC

Introduction to Cultural Anthropology

Spring 2019

Tu/Th 9:30-11:00

Hertz 320

Professor Charles Hirschkind

111 Kroeber

chirschk@berkeley.edu

Professor's Office hours: Monday 9:30-12:00

Graduate Student Instructors:

Ian Steele (ian.e.steele@berkeley.edu)

Dylan Fagan (dylan.fagan@berkeley.edu)

Rusana Cieply (rusana.cieply@berkeley.edu)

Gekka Chapman (chapman@berkeley.edu)

Caylee Hong (caylee_hong@berkeley.edu)

Kristin Sangren (ksangren@berkeley.edu)

Aleksandra Simonova
(simonova@berkeley.edu)

Julia Sizek (jsizek@berkeley.edu)

Head GSI: Ian Steele

Course Description

This course offers an introduction to the basic concepts, ideas, issues, and debates in cultural anthropology. As we will explore in the beginning of the course, the discipline of anthropology emerged at an historical moment in the late 19th century when the pragmatics of colonial administration became linked to the scientific ambition to document the varieties of human existence, when romantic exoticism became entwined with humanist universalism. Since the discipline's inception, anthropologists have dedicated themselves to exploring human societies in all of their diversity: the distinct cultures, politics, economies, and environments by which people have given shape to different ways of living, working, speaking, and understanding. While our scope in this class will be global, and will lead us to examine in some detail the heterogeneity of cultural forms found in non-Western societies, we will pay particular attention to various forms of politics, economics, and culture that exist within the US.

Student Responsibilities

Attendance: Attendance at discussion sections is required, and attendance records will be kept by your GSI. You are expected to participate actively in discussion section. Section attendance and participation will constitute 20% of your grade. If prolonged illness or emergencies require you to miss several sections, GSIs will expect you to provide advance notice and documentation. In addition, attendance at lectures is strongly encouraged. Many of the questions that will appear on the midterm and final exam will be drawn directly from lecture material. If you miss lectures, you are jeopardizing your success on exams.

Preparation

All reading assignments should be completed before your section meeting for the week indicated on the class schedule below. If possible, you should finish readings before the lecture as well; this will make the presentation much easier to follow.

Collegiality

It is expected that students will be attentive and respectful of their fellow students and of their instructor and GSIs. Please arrive at the lecture on time and wait until it has concluded before leaving. Sometimes a film will run slightly longer than the time allotted: please stay for the conclusion of the film. If you must leave, please keep in mind that others are watching and trying to listen, and exit as quietly as you can.

Grading

There will be both a midterm and final exam. Both exams are composed entirely of short essay questions. The in-class midterm exam will be held on *Tuesday, March 5th* and will draw from all of the material covered prior to that date in class lectures, guest lectures, discussion sections, readings, films, and videos. The final exam, scheduled for *Wednesday, May 15th*, will encompass everything covered since the midterm.

In addition to the exams, you will need to write a *Response Paper*, two double-spaced pages long, in which you discuss one of the assigned texts. In this paper, you will not simply summarize the text, but engage with it: take issue with an argument made by the author, elaborate on the importance of the analysis presented, draw a parallel with other texts, arguments, or issues discussed in the class. During the second week of class, your GSIs will select two of the course readings, one of which you will discuss in your Response Paper. The Paper will be due in lecture on *Tuesday, February 19th*.

Term paper: The paper is due April 23rd. There are no extensions. 8-12 pages double-spaced in length. You will be asked to compare, contrast, or integrate how two or more anthropologists approach a similar research topic. You will need to propose a possible paper topic to your GSI by February 19th by submitting a one-paragraph discussion of the research question that interests you. Your GSI will help you identify readings for the paper.

Overall grade calculus:

Discussion section participation:	20%
Response Paper	10%
Term Paper	20%
Midterm exam:	20%
Final exam:	30%

Required Readings

The following book is required and may be purchased at the ASUC Bookstore:

De Leon, Jason. 2015. The Land of Open Graves: Living and Dying on the Migrant Trail. Berkeley: University of California Press.

The remainder of the required readings for the course are compiled in the ANTHR 3AC COURSE READER, available at:

Krishna Copy Center, 2595 Telegraph Ave. (510 504 0675)

Schedule of Readings/Films

WEEK 1: Introduction to Class: An Anthropological Perspective?

Tuesday, January 22nd:

Introduction to Class, Review of Syllabus

Thursday, January 24th:

Bohannon, Laura. 1966. "Shakespeare in the Bush: An American anthropologist set out to study the Tiv of West Africa and was taught the true meaning of Hamlet." *Natural History* 75: pp. 28–33.

WEEK 2: Approaches to the Discipline

Tuesday, January 29th:

Rosaldo, Renato. 1993. "Introduction: Grief and a Headhunter's Rage." In Culture and Truth: The Remaking of Social Analysis. Boston: Beacon Press; London: Taylor & Francis.

Thursday, January 31st:

Ordóñez, Thomas. 2008. "The state of confusion: Reflections on Central American asylum seekers in the Bay Area." □ Ethnography 9 (1): pp. 35-60.

WEEK 3: Some Limits of Biological Explanation

Tuesday, February 5th:

Sahlins, Marshall. 2001. "Critique of the Vulgar Sociobiology." In The Use and Abuse of Biology. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press.

Thursday, February 7th:

Martin, Emily. 1991. "The Egg and the Sperm: How Science Has Constructed a Romance Based on Stereotypical Male-Female." Signs 16 (3): pp. 485-501.

WEEK 4: Race

Tuesday, February 12th:

W.E.B. Dubois, *Dusk of Dawn*, Chapter 5, "The Concept of Race," pp. 625-651 in WEB DuBois: Writings, Compiled by Nathan Higgins, 1986, NY, NY: Library of America.

Gould, Stephan J. 1977. "Why we should not name human races: a biological view." In Ever Since Darwin: Reflections in Natural History. New York: W.W. Norton and Co., pp. 231-236.

Thursday, February 14th:

Baldwin, James. 1973. A Rap on Race. Random House (Selected Chapters)

Film: The Stories We Tell

WEEK 5: Colonial Contexts

Tuesday, February 19th:

Hall, Stuart. 1996. "The West and the Rest: Discourse and Power." In Formations of Modernity. Hall and Gieben, eds. Cambridge: Open University.

Response Paper Due

Thursday, February 21st:

Porterfield, Todd. 1994 "Western Views of Oriental Women in Modern Painting and Photography." In Forces of Change: Artists of the Arab World. The National Museum of Women in the Arts, Washington D.C. (Pp. 58-71).

WEEK 6: Human Rights

Tuesday, February 26th:

Merry Engle, Sally. 2003. "Human Rights Law and the Demonization of Culture (And Anthropology Along the Way)." Political and Legal Anthropology Review

26 (1): pp. 55-76.

Thursday, February 28th:

Asad, Talal. "What Do Human Rights Do? An Anthropological Enquiry." *Theory & Event*, vol. 4 no. 4, 2000.

WEEK 7: Migration and Violence in the US Borderland

Tuesday, March 5th:

MIDTERM

Thursday, March 7th:

De Leon, Jason. 2015. The Land of Open Graves: Living and Dying on the Migrant Trail. Berkeley: University of California Press. (Part 1, pages 1-85)

WEEK 8: Migration and Violence in the US Borderland

Tuesday, March 12th:

De Leon, Jason. 2015. The Land of Open Graves: Living and Dying on the Migrant Trail. Berkeley: University of California Press. (Part 2, pages 89-201)

Film: Who is Dayani Crystal?

Thursday, March 14th:

2015. The Land of Open Graves. (Part 2, pages 89-201)

De Leon, Jason.

WEEK 9: Religion

Tuesday, March 19th:

Ralph, Michael, Aisha Beliso-De Jesus and Stephan Palmie. 2017. "Saint Tupac." Transforming Anthropology 25 (2): pp. 90–102.

Thursday, March 21st:

Orsi, Robert. 2004. "Snakes Alive: Religious Studies Between Heaven and Earth" In Between Heaven and Earth. Princeton: Princeton University Press (Chapter 6, pp. 177-204).

Film: Holy Ghost People

WEEK 10: SPRING BREAK!

WEEK 11: Music and Capital

Tuesday, April 2nd:

Feld, Steven, 2000. "Sweet Lullaby for World Music." Public Culture 12 (1): 145-171.

Thursday, April 4th:

Cowie, Jefferson and Boehm, Lauren. 2012. "Dead Man's Town: 'Born in the USA,' Social History, and Working-Class Identity." In Bruce Springsteen, Cultural Studies, and the Runaway American Dream. K. Womack, J. Zolten, M. Bernhard, eds. Burlington, VT: Ashgate Press, pp. 25-44.

WEEK 12: Speech Acts

Tuesday, April 9th:

Michelle Z. Rosaldo. 1982. "The Things We Do with Words: Ilongot Speech Acts and Speech Act Theory in Philosophy." Language in Society 11 (2) : pp. 203-237

Thursday, April 11th:

Susan F. Harding. 1987. "Convicted by the Holy Spirit: The Rhetoric of Fundamental Baptist Conversion." American Ethnologist 14 (1): pp. 167-181

WEEK 13: Science and Gender

Tuesday, April 16th:

Butler, Judith. 2001. "Doing Justice to Someone: Sex Reassignment and Allegories of Transsexuality." GLQ: A Journal of Lesbian and Gay Studies 7.4: 621-636.

Film: Sex Unknown

Thursday, April 18th:

Ann Fausto-Sterling, "The Five Sexes: Why Male and Female are Not Enough," The Sciences March/April 1993, pp. 20-24.

WEEK 14: Identity, Self, Medical Science

Tuesday, April 23rd:

Hacking, Ian. 1999. "Kind-Making: The Case of Child Abuse." In The Social Construction of What? Harvard: Harvard University Press. (pp. 125-162).

Term Paper Due

Thursday, April 25th:

Dumit, Joseph. 2003 "Is It Me or My Brain? Depression and Neuroscientific Facts." Journal of Medical Humanities 24 (1).

Film: Safe

WEEK 15: Regulating Moral and Medical Health

Tuesday, April 30th:

Foucault, Michel. 1979. Discipline and Punish: The Birth of the Prison. New York: Vintage Books, pp. 3-31.

Thursday, May 2nd:

Foucault, Discipline: pp. 135-169.

WEEK 15: READING WEEK—May 6th-May 10th (No classes)

Final Exam: Wednesday, May 15th from 11:30am-2:30pm