

## SEMESTER AT SEA COURSE SYLLABUS

Anthropology

Fall 2008

### **ANTH 101Z: Introduction to Anthropology**

Lower Division

Tracy Bachrach Ehlers

No Prerequisites

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### COURSE DESCRIPTION

Cultural Anthropology has been said to be the most humanistic of the social sciences and the most scientific of the humanities. The intellectual reach of anthropology is largely due to its emphasis on a comparative, cross-cultural perspective for confronting basic questions about human existence. In this class, we will attempt to grapple with these questions within a classroom and in-country culture that promotes active learning and critical thinking about peoples of the world, particularly those whom we visit during the semester-long voyage. Our focus will be on how the conditions in which people live impact survival strategies, social organization, and ideology. At least half our emphasis will be on the impact of globalization in both traditional and more modern societies. We will rely upon case studies (books and articles) and our own in-country field experiences for much of our ethnographic data and analysis.

### COURSE OBJECTIVES

1. To define culture and the general features of societies that are useful for explaining cultural differences and similarities.
2. To understand the importance of environment and technology in the evolution of patterns of adaptation.
3. To be aware of demographic pressures and their role in various modes of production.
4. To consider different modes of economic exchange and political organization.
5. To understand domestic organization and its links to gender relations.
6. To become familiar with and apply the basic guidelines of ethnographic research.
7. To recognize the utility of cultural anthropology in the study of globalization.
8. To appreciate how cultural diversity is essential for social development and change.

## TOPICAL OUTLINE OF COURSE:

### Class 1: Introduction to Cultural Anthropology

Read:

1. Kottak – Before: The Sixties (Annual Editions)
2. Chagnon – Doing Fieldwork Among the Yanomamo (reserve)
3. Bagish – Confessions of a Former Cultural Relativist (reserve)

Video: A Man Called Bee

### Class 2: Ethnographic Fieldwork

Read:

1. Barley – The Innocent Anthropologist
2. Sterk – Tricking and Tripping (AE)

### Class 3: Culture Concept, Enculturation, Ethnocentrism

Read:

1. Bohannan – Shakespeare in the Bush (AE)
2. Simmons – Where Fat Is a Mark of Beauty (AE)
3. Scheper-Hughes – Death without Weeping (AE)
4. Linton – One Hundred Percent American (AE)

### Class 4, 5, 6 Native Peoples of Namibia

Read:

1. Lee – The Dobe Ju/'hoansi, Chapters 1-8, Appendix A,
2. Eaton et al – Woman the Gatherer (reserve)

Videos: The Hunters, The Meat Fight

### Class 7-8: Apartheid and Social Change

Read:

1. Lee – Chapters 11, 12, 13
2. Draper - !Kung Women: Contrasts in Sexual Egalitarianism (reserve)

Video: N!ai - The Story of a Young !Kung Woman

### Class 9: Making a Living - Adaptive Strategies

Read:

1. Harris – The Riddle of the Sacred Cow (reserve)
2. Nelson – Understanding Eskimo Science (AE)

Video: Salamanders - A Night at the Phi Delt House

### Class 10 -11: Kinship, Descent, and Marriage – Focus on India

Read:

1. Nanda – Arranging a Marriage in India (AE)
2. Goldstein – When Brothers Share a Wife (AE)
3. Small – Our Babies, Ourselves (AE)
4. Coontz – What's Love Got To Do with It? (AE)

## **Class 12: Midterm Exam**

### Class 13-14 Colonialism and Ethnic Relations

Read:

1. Achebe – Things Fall Apart

Film: New Tribes Mission

### Class 15-16 Modernization and Change – Focus on China

Read:

1. Evans – The One-Child, Maybe-One-More Policy (reserve)

2. Dollar – Child Care in China (reserve)

3. Sung – Biocultural Conflict (reserve)

### Class 17 Japanese Cultural Norms

Read:

1. Kristof – Who Needs Love? (AE)

2. Whiting – You’ve Gotta Have “Wa” (reserve)

### Class 18-19 Population, and Hunger

Read:

1. Lappe – Why Can’t People Feed Themselves (AE)

2. Diamond – The Arrow of Disease (AE)

3. Small – A Woman’s Curse (AE)

### Class 20-21 Development and Gender

Read: Markandaya – Nectar in a Sieve

### Class 22 Indigenous Peoples in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century

Read:

1. Bodley – The Price of Progress (AE)

2. Hurd – Rangers by Birth (AE)

3. Sandall – What Native Peoples Deserve (AE)

### Class 23 Review for Final Exam

## **Final Exam**

## **FIELD COMPONENT:**

The fieldwork component of this course is based on the development of ethnographic Fieldnotes that will result in a more comprehensive Research Portfolio toward the end of the trip. Throughout the semester, students in the field will collect cultural impressions and data responding to assignments and queries posed in class. These are not journals but short essays prompted by assigned questions that emerge from the topics we have discussed in preparation for this visit. These Fieldnotes will reflect students' immersion and participation in the culture visited.

Students are required to complete at least three Fieldwork practica. One of these must be led by Prof. Ehlers. The other two Fieldwork practica may be led by another faculty member or on your own. But in all cases, practica must come from the list below.

### **SUGGESTED PRACTICA:**

BRAZIL:	Cachoeira (FDP); Service: Calabar Community
NAMIBIA:	Township and Diamond Tour; Ovahimba Tribe
SOUTH AFRICA:	Khayelitsha Township; Township Music
INDIA:	Socioeconomic Problems in Chennai (FDP); Working Women's Forum
MALAYSIA:	Ethnic Communities; Kampung Village
VIET NAM:	Indigenous Music/Jazz Fusion (FDP); Ben Thanh Market
HONG KONG:	Women in the Marketplace (FDP)
CHINA:	Being a Foreign Service Officer- Consular Visit (FDP); Tasting the Daily Life of a Shanghai Citizen

## **METHODS OF EVALUATION**

Final exam: 25%

Midterm exam: 25%

Fieldnotes: 25%

Research Portfolio: 25%

**REQUIRED TEXTS:**

Nigel Barley: The Innocent Anthropologist – Notes from a Mud Hut.  
Waveland. ISBN 15777661567  
2000 \$15.50

Richard Lee: The Dobe Ju/'hoansi.  
Wadsworth. ISBN 0155063332  
2002 \$20.00

Chinua Achebe: Things Fall Apart.  
Penguin. ISBN 0141023304  
2006 \$20.00

Markandaya, Kamala: Nectar in a Sieve. Signet Class.  
ISBN 0451168364  
2002 \$10.00

Elvio Angeloni – Annual Editions Anthropology 08/09  
McGraw Hill ISBN 0073516279  
2006 \$22.00