

Introduction to Cultural Anthropology

ANT 2410, sect. 6974
M, W, F Period 8 (3:00-3:50)
Location: WEIL 0270

Instructor: Noelle Sullivan

Office: Grinter 493

Office Hours: Mon. 1:30-2:45, Thurs 10:00-11:30

Or by appointment

Email: acacia@ufl.edu

Listserv: FALL-6974-L@lists.ufl.edu

Wiki: <http://culanthrof09.wetpaint.com/>

E-Learning website: <https://lss.at.ufl.edu/>

Teaching Assistant: Karen Kirner

TA Office Hours: By appointment only

TA email: kirnerk@ufl.edu

Course Description:

This course will provide an overview of theories, topics and controversies within the field of cultural anthropology. The topics explored will introduce students to ways that people all over the world think about, move through, and interact within an increasingly complex world. While this course will touch on peoples all over the globe, it will also provide students with an opportunity to use cultural anthropological (ethnographic) methods to critically explore the world(s) in which they live.

Objectives:

By the end of the course, students should be able to 1) identify some of the major issues that concern cultural anthropologists and how anthropologists think about them, 2) use ethnographic methods in order to begin to explore how people interact with and make meaning about the world, and 3) critically reflect on how global processes and interconnections have affected cultures throughout the world.

Course supplies:

Texts:

- Spradley, James & David McCurdy, eds. (2008) *Conformity and Conflict: Readings in Cultural Anthropology* (13th edition) Boston: Allyn and Bacon. *Please note:* Prior editions do not contain the same readings, and I will not make accommodations for those students who buy the wrong edition.
- Bourgois, P & Schonberg, J. *Righteous Dopefiend*. U of California Press 2009. [This text will be referred to as "the ethnography" and will appear as "E:" in the reading list under the course schedule]

Texts are available for purchase from Goering's Books, 1717 NW 1st Ave. Students are strongly encouraged to use Goering's for purchasing their texts as some other bookstores in the area have the wrong editions or stock the Spradley text as a package along with another text *which you are not required to purchase*. Texts are also available on reserve at UF Library West.

Web Materials: Other readings will be provided for download via e-Learning or are available for download from ARES.

Other Materials: You must have a supply of 3x5 lined cards with you at each class.

Important Due Dates:

Create Wetpaint Account (and email TA with username): August 28th

Partnership Contract: Sept 4

Research Project Proposal: Sept. 18th by 3pm (via e-learning, turnitin & hard copy in class)

Online Reaction #1: Oct. 9th by 3pm (on wiki, email TA with URL)

Midterm: Oct. 12-14 (via e-learning)

Research reflection: Oct 30 by 3pm (via e-learning, turnitin & hard copy in class)

Online Reaction #2: Nov. 2 by 3pm (on wiki, email TA with URL)

Final Research Paper: Nov. 25th by 3pm (via e-learning, turnitin & hard copy in class)

Final Assessment (via e-learning): Dec 9th by 3pm

Outline of Grading Scheme:	Points	Approx. %
Midterm Assessment	50 points	(17%)
Final Assessment	50 points	(17%)
Project Proposal	10 Points	(3%)
Research Reflection	20 Points	(6%)
Final Paper	70 Points	(23%)
Reaction Cards	25 Points	(8.5%)
Wiki Responses	25 Points	(8.5%)
Online Reactions	50 Points	(17%)

Grading:

No grades will be discussed via email. If you have a problem or a question about your grade, please make an appointment to come speak with the instructor or stop by during office hours.

Grading Scale:

<i>Percentage</i>	<i>Grade</i>	<i>Percentage</i>	<i>Grade</i>
91-100	A	73-75	C
88-90	A-	70-72	C-
85-87	B+	67-69	D+
82-84	B	64-66	D
79-81	B-	60-63	D-
76-78	C+	59 and below	is failing.

Assessments and Assignments: Assessments and assignments are meant to evaluate your critical thinking skills and your ability to express your ideas through writing.

Assessments: (100 points)

All assessments (tests) are administered via *E-Learning* and are written assessments (i.e. there are NO multiple choice questions).

There will be two assessments: one mid-term and one final. Each assessment is worth 50 points. Students will write the assessments over a series of days as outlined below and submit them online to e-learning. Make-up assessments are only granted in exceptional circumstances. Absences during assessment days motivated by illness or family emergencies must be officially excused by

University authorities and presented to the instructor **BEFORE THE TEST**. Students should make all efforts to take the assessments on the days scheduled.

- The assessments will **not** be cumulative, but will draw equally from material from readings, in-class discussions, videos, and class lectures.
- Assessments will be administered through e-Learning on the days scheduled on this syllabus. Questions will be paragraph form and/or essay format.
- There will be no lecture the day(s) of a scheduled assessment. Students will take assessments in a place and with a computer of their choice.
- It is the student's responsibility to have a reliable internet connection and to ensure that computer operates e-learning without problems. Difficulties in accessing E-Learning are NOT valid excuses for an assessment being missed. **Be sure to save your answers as you do the assessment!!**

Ethnographic Research Assignment: (100 points)

All students will be required to conduct a research and writing assignment. This assignment can be done individually or in partnership with a fellow student. FEEL FREE to use the on-campus writing centre to help you with the writing process. This project will be conducted in 2 phases and will be discussed on the first day of class. The project description is available for download on the e-learning site for this class.

Participation: Despite the fact that this is a large, introductory course and many of you are taking it as a general education requirement, it is also a highly participatory course. Participation will occur both in –class and online. In order to be able to get anything out of the class and be able to succeed at engaging the material, you need to be prepared to participate. Responses are a means by which you can engage the material, but also each other.

In-Class Response Cards (25 points)

There will be *unannounced* response cards given throughout the semester. I may ask you to answer a question based on what you have heard in the lecture, seen in a video, or read for the class. These response cards *cannot be made up*. There will be 7 total response cards for the entire semester. Only the top 5 response grades will be counted towards the final grade. Each response will be marked out of a possible 5 points. You must have a supply of 3x5 cards at every class in order to fill these in.

Wiki Responses (25 points)

You will be required to upload brief responses to the wiki regarding the reading(s) or videos we cover in class. You will complete a total of 10 online wiki responses in the semester: 7 must be about the class readings (although you can do all 10 based on class readings if you like). A **maximum** of 3 responses may be done about videos seen in class. If you are responding to a reading, the response must be uploaded *prior to the beginning of class* at 3pm on the day of that class. You may choose which days you respond, but those responses must demonstrate that you've read for the class that day and you're responding or reacting to

something about the reading with your own ideas/opinions/confusions. You may also respond to the comments of another student for that class, but this response *must be substantive* and still demonstrate that you're familiar with the arguments or themes of the reading. If you are responding to a video, the response must be uploaded *by 9pm* the same day as the class in which the video was shown. Responses are worth 2.5 points each. Late responses are not counted. **Please email the TA at kirnerk@ufl.edu with your username and the URL where the response can be viewed after you upload it. Failure to notify TA of a response by 3pm on the date due may result in loss of points on the response.*

Online Reactions (50 points):

You will write two short reaction assignments (approximately 2 paragraphs) that will give you the opportunity to respond to some of the material and videos from class. They will be worth 25 points each. You will submit these responses *via email* to the instructor and then also upload the response to the class wiki for consideration and commentary from your fellow classmates and the instructor. Alternative, you may make a YouTube video in reaction and post it to the Wiki and email the URL to the instructor for credit on this assignment. **Please email the TA at kirnerk@ufl.edu with your username and the URL where the reaction can be viewed after you upload it. Failure to notify the TA of a response by 3pm on the date due may result in loss of points.*

Student Communication and Conduct:

One foundation of learning in this class is through exchange of ideas. This class is participatory in a variety of ways: through in-class discussion, through online interaction via the wiki, and through occasional small group discussions. The ethnographic project will also require that you interact with people outside of the classroom. Participation is crucial to learning in this class. Therefore, while course-related materials are expected to generate debate, all students are expected to treat other's contributions to the class or student projects in a respectful and professional manner. Feel free to disagree with each other or with the instructor(s)—but please keep it professional and respectful as is outlined in the UF Student Code of Conduct (<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/honorcodes/conductcode.php>). Students found being blatantly disrespectful will be asked to leave the class for the day, and meet with the instructor regarding proper conduct. Repeated offenses will be referred to the Dean of Students Office Student Conduct Office.

E-Learning:

This class makes extensive use of E-learning for doing tests, providing electronic copies of readings, uploading assignments, and important announcements. *All students are responsible for checking e-learning daily for class-related announcements.* "Not knowing" about a particular announcement or communication because a student did not check e-learning *will not be accepted as an excuse with regards to any assignment, assessment, or other class-related activity.* E-learning will be the main interface for class announcements. Be sure to check it often.

Attendance and Make-Up Work:

You are expected to be an active participant in this class and to participate in class and online discussions. Assessments, response cards, and reactions will draw from readings, lectures, discussions and videos. Lack of attendance on a particular date is not an excuse for poor performance on an assessment, a response card, an online response, or on the research assignment.

All assignments are known well in advance; therefore, opportunities for make-up assignments and tests *will only be granted in the most exceptional circumstances such as illness or family emergency*. If you feel that your situation fits these circumstances, please contact me **before** the assessment or due date and provide me with a written medical excuse or excuse from proper University authorities. *University policy states that opportunities for 'bonus points' must be provided to the entire student body. It is against the instructor's class policy to provide opportunities for 'bonus points' to individual students, so please do not ask.*

In cases where the assignment is uploaded to e-learning and turnitin, it is your responsibility to ensure that your paper has the proper extension (.doc, .docx or .pdf ONLY) and can be opened by me. Papers with the wrong extension, are corrupt, and those that otherwise don't open will be counted late until you provide a working version.

Papers will be marked down 3% for each day that they are late.

Needed accommodations for disabilities:

Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office. The Disability Resource Center will then provide documentation to the student, who is expected to meet with the instructor during office hours or by appointment, at which point s/he will provide the documentation and discuss the required accommodations. Students who wish to find out if they are eligible for services can contact the Disability Resource Center at www.dso.ufl.edu/drc.

University Counseling Services

Please be aware that the Counseling Center at the University of Florida has a variety of services that may be of use to you during the semester. This includes individual, group and couples counseling, as well as workshops for stress management and time management. For more information go to 301 Peabody Hall, or <http://www.counsel.ufl.edu>.

Cell Phone Policy

Please turn off your cell phones before the beginning of each class. If your cell phone goes off, you will need to leave the class and not come back for the rest of that day. Missing class due to being excused because of a cell phone is not an excuse for a poor grade, so please turn off your cell phones or leave them at home, but don't let them go off in class.

University Academic Honesty Policy

In meeting one of the major objectives of higher education, which is to develop self-reliance, it is expected that students will be responsible for the completion of their own academic work. A fundamental principle is that the whole process of learning and the pursuit of knowledge are damaged by cheating, plagiarism, and other acts of academic dishonesty such as

misrepresentation, conspiracy, bribery and fabrication. The use of any and all literature, notes, aids, or assistance from other sources should be clearly identified within any and all course assignments and assessmentinations. If you have any questions about how to properly cite the use of a source in your assignments, please ask me. **I take academic honesty very seriously and will immediately fail any student caught engaging in dishonest acts. Furthermore, the University will take severe action against any students acting dishonestly, including possible expulsion.**

Course Structure

The course is structured to include lectures, discussion, and videos. All videos shown in class are available via course reserve at Library West or online. Videos and discussions are examinable material for the midterm and final assessments.

Course Schedule and Reading List

All class readings can be found in the course textbooks (see above) or online and must be read before that day's class.

Week 1: Introduction to Cultural Anthropology

8/24 - Introduction of syllabus, class wiki (wetpaint), and ethnographic project

8/26 – VIDEO: Bosnia Hotel

8/28 – Spradley, “Ethnography and Culture” (text ch. 1) Geertz “thick description” **part iv only (pp. 13-16)** (available on e-learning and ARES)

Create Wetpaint account by 5pm on August 28th, email TA (kirnerk@ufl.edu) with your username (loss of 1% of final grade for each day late)

Week 2: Ethnography and the concept of “Culture”

8/31 – Gmelch, “Nice Girls Don’t Talk to Rastas” (text ch. 5), Sterk “Fieldwork on Prostitution in the Era of AIDS” (text ch. 4),

9/2 –Part 1 of VIDEO: Cannibal Tours

9/4 - Part 2 VIDEO: Cannibal Tours & Discussion

Partnership Contracts by hard copy due Sept. 4th by 3pm (If Applicable)

Week 3: Language and Communication

9/7 - Labor Day: No Class

9/9 - Boxer: Managing Meaning: The Military Name Game (Text ch. 6), Boehlke: “Tattoo Talk: ‘Juicing’ Customers” (Text ch. 8)

9/11 -VIDEO: Do you speak American?

Week 4: Kinship and Family

9/14 - McCurdy, “Family and Kinship in Village India” (text ch. 19), Goldstein, “Polyandry: When Brothers Take a Wife” (text ch. 20)

9/16 - VIDEO: Daddy & Papa

9/18 - Scheper-Hughes, “Mother’s Love: Death without Weeping.” (text Ch. 18)

Technology in Culture Project Proposal Due Sept 18th 3:00 pm via email to instructor

Week 5: Identity, Gender and Race

9/21 – Fish: “Mixed Blood” (text ch. 25)

- 9/23 - Abu-Lughod, "Do Muslim Women Really Need Saving? Anthropological Reflections on Cultural Relativism and its Others." *American Anthropologist*, Sept 2002, Vol 104 no 3: 783-790. Available on e-learning or ARES.
- 9/25 - VIDEO: Barbie Nation

Week 6: Religion, Magic and Worldview

- 9/28 – VIDEO: Spirits for Sale
- 9/30 – Freed & Freed "Taraka's Ghost" (text ch. 30), Miner "Body Ritual among the Nacirema"
- 10/2 - Dubisch, "Run for the Wall" (text ch. 32)

Week 7: Technology studies

- 10/5–"Anthropologists Investigate Communications Technology" (text ch. 9), Turkle, S. "What are we Thinking about when we're Thinking about Computers?" *In Science Studies Reader*, M Biagioli, ed. Pp. 543-552. Available from e-learning and ARES.
- 10/7 - VIDEO: Anthropological Introduction to YouTube
- 10/9 – Franklin, "Making Sense of Missed Conceptions" *in Situated Lives*. Available from e-learning and ARES

Online Reaction to "Anthropological Intro to YouTube" &/or Turkle article due via email to instructor and uploaded to class wiki by 3pm Oct. 9th

Week 8: MIDTERM (No lectures this week)

- 10/12 – Midterm issued via e-learning at 3:00pm
- 10/14 - Midterm Assessment e-learning submission due by 3:00pm
- 10/16 – Homecoming (NO CLASS)

Week 9: Economic Anthropology

- 10/19–Patten, "Malawi versus the World Bank" (text ch. 17), Ehrenreich and Hochschild, "Global Women in the New Economy" (text ch. 15)
- 10/21 – "Why People Can't Feed Themselves" available via ARES or e-learning
- 10/23 - VIDEO: Consuming Kids

Week 10: Political anthropology

- 10/26 –Ferguson "The Anti-Politics Machine" available through e-learning; Sutherland "Cross-Cultural Law: The Case of the Gypsy Offender" (text ch. 26)
- 10/28 – VIDEO: Letters from the Other Side part 1
- 10/30 - VIDEO: Letters from the Other Side part 2 and discussion

Research Reflection October 30 by 3:00pm by hard copy in class and via e-learning and turnitin

Week 11: Transnationalism and Globalization

- 11/2 – Shandy, "New Americans: The Road to Refugee Resettlement" (Text Ch 34), Gmelch "Why Tourism Matters".
- Online Reaction #2: "Letters from the Other Side" due via email and to wiki by 3pm, Nov. 2*
- 11/4 - Condry, "Japanese Hip-Hop and the Globalization of Popular Culture" (text ch. 36) VIDEO: Life and Debt pt 1
- 11/6 - VIDEO: Life and Debt pt 2 & Discussion

Week 12: Anthropological dilemmas and ethics

11/9 – Scheper-Hughes, “Parts Unknown: Undercover Ethnography of the Organs-Trafficking Underworld”, *Ethnography* 2004, vol. 5(1): 29-73. Available at UF Library database SagePublications 2007

11/11 – Veteran’s Day: No Class

11/13 – Petryna, Adriana, 2005. “Ethical Vaibility, Drug Development and Globalizing Clinical Trials.” *American Ethnologist*, vol. 32(2). Available from AnthroSource.

Week 13: Ethnography: Righteous Dopefiend

11/16 – Selections

11/18- Selections

11/20 - VIDEO: TBA

Week 14: Ethnography: Righteous Dopefiend

11/23 - Selections

11/25- Selections. ***Final Research Paper Due*** by 3:00pm in class & on e-learning & Turnitin

11/27 – No Class (Thanksgiving break)

Week 15: Applied Anthropology

11/30 – Patten, “Medical Anthropology: Improving Nutrition in Malawi” (text ch. 38)

12/2 – VIDEO: TBA Final assessment available via e-learning by 4:00pm.

12/4 – No Class—work on final assessment

Week 16: Using Anthropology & Wrap Up

12/7 - McCurdy “Using Anthropology” (text ch 39), class evaluations

12/9 - ***Final assessment due via turnitin by 3pm***

Final Assessment Due by 3:00 pm on Dec 9th, hard copies of essays must be submitted to me at the beginning of class, and electronic copies must be received via e-Learning by 3:00pm on Dec. 9th. No extensions granted unless by excuse of University authorities due to illness or family emergency.