

CHAMINADE UNIVERSITY
AN 200⁴⁰ – Cultural Anthropology

Fall Semester, October-December 2000

Course Description

The purpose of the course is to introduce the student to the basic theories, findings, and applications of cultural **anthropology**. The broadest definition of anthropology is the comparative study of humankind, across the globe and over its **entire** evolution and history. The **sub-discipline** of cultural anthropology is the comparative study of human behavior in society in so far as people are influenced by the rules of their culture and **tradition**. Central to the method of cultural **anthropology** is a comparative **perspective** that highlights the **similarities** and differences in human behavior, customs, institutions, and **practices**. Following the conceptual design of the textbook, the course **assumes** that the best learning occurs with the use of concrete examples drawn from diverse life situations and the life-experiences of the students. Accordingly, the course will stress the learning about other cultures and the reflective appreciation of one's own culture.

Instructor

Eric Casino, Ph.D., is a social anthropologist, formerly senior research fellow at the East-West Center. He earned his doctorate from Sydney University, after doing fieldwork among Muslims in the Southern Philippines. He has extensive experience in research, teaching, and international business consulting in the Philippines, Southeast Asia, Australia, and the United States. Major academic interests include philosophical foundations of the social sciences, the role of ethnicity studies in multicultural **societies**, assessing social impacts of development **projects**. Office hours will be announced; course-related counseling by appointments. **Contact telephone: 544-9456. Email: casinoe@wwdb.org.**

Required Text:

Cultural Anthropology. A Problem-Based Approach. Second Edition. By Richard H. Robbins (Ithaca, Illinois: F.E. Peacock Publishers, 1997).

Handouts.

Course Objectives

1. To increase understanding and appreciation of cultural differences and similarities that mark human behavior in society.
2. To increase reflective knowledge of ourselves as the product of social and cultural factors.
3. To encourage critical thinking as an individual living in a multicultural world; and to develop balance between respect for differences and responsibility for cooperation to achieve goals beyond restricted group interests.
4. To gain some experience in the methods of participation observation.

Course Grading

Weekly reports	30%
Term Paper	30%
Final Exams	40%

Teaching-Learning Methods

Each student is responsible for

- (1) getting familiar with the syllabus
- (2) a detailed understanding the textbook's contents,
- (3) doing the scheduled readings and assignments,
- (4) actively participating in the weekly online discussions
- (5) producing a mini-ethnography

Web Proficiency

Since this course is based almost entirely on using Internet applications, it is the student's responsibility to learn how to use the Internet, send email, and use the WebBoard program. There are online tutorials available for all of these applications.

WebBoard Participation

This course is structured so students will learn not just from reading the book, but also from doing the assignments, from the sharing of personal observations, experiences, and reflections, as well as from the instructor's inputs. There will be weekly group discussion carried out on the WebBoard focusing on topics and problems from the textbook or from related exercises. You must contribute to each discussion in order to earn points.

Requirements and Procedures

Students are expected to invest serious learning efforts at (1) reading and absorbing both conceptual and empirical **information** from the textbook; and (2) recognizing areas of relevance and **application** in the student's life-experiences.

(a) Weekly readings

The coursework extends over a period of ten (10) weeks, during which students are required to thoroughly **read** the eight (8) chapters in the textbook, one chapter per week. The week lasts from Sunday to Saturday during which a chapter is read and **discussed**.

(b) Weekly discussions and sharings

Weekly discussion consists in submitting a written description of real events and observations drawn from the student's life-experiences, observations, and reflections. Each student will be required to submit short "personal **reaction** diaries or journals" (no **more** than 1-3 pages long) related to assigned materials. Faithful implementation of these journal assignments will not only increase knowledge and analytical skills, but will also facilitate the **writing** of the main class paper in the form of a mini-ethnography. The pooling of these personal observations and reflections will produce a second layer of data and insights parallel to those of the textbook. Discussions can then move back and forth **between textbook** materials and shared materials, enriching all the participants in the course.

(c) Ethnographic exercise

In **addition** to the readings and discussions, each student is **required** to produce a mini-ethnography (5-10 pages long, double-space, with bibliography) generated from actual fieldwork, personal observations, **interviews**, and reflections.

Final Exams

Each student is responsible demonstrate knowledge of principles, concepts, and ethnographic examples covered in the textbook. Exams will have both **objective** items (multiple choice, etc.) and essay-type questions. Extra points for examples and illustrations **drawn** from outside the textbook.

(f) Email

An email directory of students in the class is provided so students can correspond with one another. It is essential that you let us know if your email address changes during the course. You need to regularly check your email and the WebBoard to maintain **communication** and **participation**.

Schedule and assignments

- The term **officially** begins on October 2.
- Orientation is on October 7 (Saturday)
- Final exams day is on December 9 (Saturday)
- The ten weeks of the course is computed from Sunday to Saturday.

Week 1 (Oct 1 - 7)

Review of the Syllabus

General Introduction to the course/Anthropology

Week 2 (Oct 8 -14)

Robbins Chap 1: Culture and Meaning

Week 3 (Oct 15 - 21)

Robbins Chap 2: The Meaning of Progress

Week 4 (Oct 22 - 28)

Robbins Chap 3: The Social and Cultural Construction of **Reality**

Week 5 (Oct 29 - Nov 4)

Robbins Chap 4: **Patterns** of Family Relations

Week 6 (Nov 4 -11)

Robbins Chap **5: The** Cultural Construction of **Identity**

Week 7 (Nov 12 -18)

Robbins Chap 6: The Cultural Construction of Social Hierarchy

Week 8 (Nov 19 - 25)

Robbins Chap 7: The Cultural Construction of Violent Conflict

Week 9 (Nov 26 - Dec 2)

Robbins Chap 8: The Cultural Construction of Cultural **Diversity**

Week 10 (Dec 2 - Dec 9)

General Review

Submission of class papers

Final Exams