

Off. Hrs.: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12
Phone: 739-4644(off), 942-3563(hm)

Texts: Robbins, Richard 1997. Cultural Anthropology. Itasca: Peacock.
Knab, Timothy 1995. The War of Witches. Boulder. Westview.

Course Description: This course is intended to provide an introduction to cultural anthropology. Anthropology is a very broad field - the systematic study of human beings. It aspires to describe and explain the similarities and differences between human groups and the stability, diversity and change within groups. Anthropologists are interested in all peoples, past and present.

Specifically this course is an introduction to what anthropologists have learned and how they study contemporary cultures. Culture is presented as a complex and dynamic mechanism by which human beings solve a variety of basic problems posed by existence.

Culture is defined as a system of concepts, ideas, values, attitudes and beliefs which are learned and shared within a human group. It is used to make things, to generate behaviors and interpret experience. It is a way of thinking about and looking at the world. Culture is symbolic and ideational. It is integrative - all parts are interrelated and constantly adjusting to one another. It is also adaptive, changing in response to circumstances.

Traditional cultural anthropology focused on "primitive societies" and less technologically-advanced groups. But in the last 50 years anthropology has moved to include the study of dominant cultures such as Japan and the United States. Thus while we will still follow the traditional terms and concepts of the discipline, one of the tests and much of the class discussion will focus on groups such as Americans from an anthropological perspective.

Course Objectives: 1) To develop a greater awareness of the role of culture in human experience. Specifically to help each of us to gain greater awareness of our own implicit assumptions, beliefs and values with the goal of developing a greater and more sympathetic appreciation of alternative ways of looking at and relating to the world. To limit Ethnocentrism!

- 2) To increase our understanding of similarities and differences between human groups, of how and why cultures and societies change in different ways under different conditions. To provide a basic theoretical perspective for thinking about socio-cultural change;
- 3) To provoke intellectual curiosity which will lead to a lifelong interest in the basic questions raised by anthropology;
- 4) To provide better questions, rather than a set of simplistic and useless pseudo-answers.

Modes of Instruction: 1) Lectures and discussions: The lectures will supplement but NOT repeat the material covered in the texts. Both lectures and textual materials will be on the exams, and you are responsible for BOTH. Attendance is mandatory if you want to pass the class.

- 2) Simulations: We will be doing several simulations this semester. You will be working in small groups and all members are expected to contribute their equal share to the group effort. These simulations have proved in the past to be very useful learning tools to get across sophisticated concepts, so your active participation is required. Attendance will be mandatory.
- 3) Films: Films will be shown during the semester. You will be responsible for viewing them - attendance is mandatory and will be taken. You will be writing several of the reaction papers based on the films.
- 4) Reaction papers: In lieu of doing "real" fieldwork we will be getting into some situations during the semester where I will expect you to look at the world through with an anthropologist's perspective. This will include some film-based situations.

Grading:

- 1) **Exams:** There **will** be 3 exams in **this** class. All **will** consist of a combination of objective and short essay questions. The 3 **exams** will **count** for 60% of your course grade.
- 2) **Research Paper.** You will have to **complete** a research paper on a topic of your choice-based on **the** course **material**. It must be **approved** by me or you may suffer the **consequences**. It **will** be from 6-8 pages in **length** (text) and will count for 20% of the course **grade**.
- 3) **Reaction papers:** You **will** have to **complete** 3 reaction papers based on situations we get into **during** the **semester**. Each paper **will** be from 2-4 pages and be your reactions to the questions posed. **Remember** a reaction paper is your **opinion** on a topic, not a research paper. The **reaction** papers are worth a total of 10% of your course grade.
- 3) **Class participation/Attendance:** In introductory **courses** to stay awake and interested **requires** a little effort, so participation is necessary both to understand the **material** and stay **conscious**. Various projects, such as the **simulations** also require not only your **physical attendance** but also some mental **effort**. This **will** count for 10% of your **course** grade.

THERE IS NO POSSIBILITY OF EXTRA-CREDIT WORK IN THIS CLASS

Grade Weight.	Exams(3).....60%	A= 90-100	D=60-69
	Reaction papers..... 10%	B= 80-89	F= -60
	Part/Attend.....10%	C= 70-79	
	Research Paper20%		

- Jan. 19: **Introduction**
 Ass: Read Robbins Ch.
 21: **Anthropology—Us/Them; ethnocentrism & cultural relativity**
 Ass: Read Knab ch 1
 24: **Culture**, ethnicity and concepts of social groups
 26: **Social identity**
 28: **Video**
 Ass: Read Robbins Ch. 2
 31: **Symbols, icons, commodities and perception**
- Feb. 2: **Perception and communication**
 4: **Sociolinguistics**
 7: **Proxemics & Kinesics**
 9: **Video**
 11: **Simulation**
 14: **Simulation**
 16: **Simulation / Review for EXAM I**
 18: **EXAM I** (Rob. Ch 1-2, Knab ch. 1)
 Ass: Read Robbins ch. 4
 21: **Holiday**
 23: **Kinship—who are kin and why?**
 25: **Marriage and family**
 28: **Kinship system logic**
 Ass: Read Robbins ch. 5
- March 1: **Individualism and the group**
 3: **The "self" or "me" and the group**
 6: **Gender and social roles**
 Ass: Read Robbins ch. 6
 8: **Social stratification**
 10: **Rank, class & caste**
 13: **Economics, Marx & social classes**
 15: **Economic systems and the "world economic order"**
 17: **Economics, culture and media**
 Ass: Read Knab ch 2-6
 20: **Symbolism and \$\$\$ image / review for EXAM II**
 22: **EXAM II** (Robbins Ch. 4-6, Knab ch 2-6)
 24: **Conflict**
 27-31: **Spring Break**
 Ass: Read Robbins Ch 7
- April 3: **Conflict and resolution**
 5: **Simulation**
 7: **Religious systems and belief**
 10: **Religion and segregation/inclusion**
 Ass: Read Knab ch. 7-afterword
 12: **Magic and the supernatural**
 14: **Video (magic)**
 Ass: Read Robbins ch 2
 17: **Culture change**
 19: **Ethnic identity and nationalism**

21: Holiday

Ass: Read **Robbins** ch. 8

24: the **Arts and** culture

26: **Geopolitics, identity** and control

28: **Development & Anthro.**

1: Aid **programs** and culture

3: **Culture change** and world culture

5: **Summary/Review** for EXAM III

9: EXAM **III, 10:30** (**Robbins ch.** 2,7-8, **Knab** all)

May