

WEC  
Prs

Chaminade University

Winter 2000

AN 200: CULTURAL ANTHROPOLOGY

Dr. Usha K. Prasad

Class Meetings: Saturday, 1230-1640, Ft. Shafter

Texts: Cultural Anthropology, 2nd Ed. 1997, by Richard H. Robbins

Course Description: In the most broadest sense anthropology is the study of humankind. This course is designed to provide an introduction to the subdiscipline of cultural anthropology, or the study of humans as cultural beings. Culture is unique to humans and cultural anthropologists are interested in comparing the similarities and differences that exist among human groups; this is known as the cross-cultural perspective. The textbook provides examples of the many variations found in behavioral similarities and differences in societies throughout the world. Culture is presented as a complex and dynamic mechanism by which human beings adjust to the variety of environmental and societal demands posed by existence. Culture is defined as a system of concepts, ideas, values, attitudes and beliefs that is learned and shared within a human group. It is: 1) used to make things, generate behaviors and interpret experiences; 2) a way of thinking about and looking at the world; 3) symbolic and ideational; and lastly, 4) culture is adaptive, changing to meet the needs of life's various circumstances.

Course Format:

The instructor will present materials from assigned course readings and other sources in a lecture format, while also encouraging students to participate in discussions. Videotapes will supplement lectures; these will be announced throughout the course. Students are expected to read all required materials before coming to class.

Course Objectives:

1. To increase our understanding of the varied similarities and differences that exist among cultures.
2. To gain a better understanding of ourselves as social beings who are completely reliant on learned and shared behavior.
3. To develop a greater awareness of the role of culture in human existence, and ask if is the way "my culture" does things the "only way".
4. To encourage critical thinking, especially in evaluating the validity of anthropological methods and investigations;
5. Give hands-on experience in conducting anthropological research.

Requirements and Grading:

The final course grade will consist of two (2) exams; an in-class, oral presentation (topic to be chosen with instructors consent); and class participation/attendance. Exams are based on lectures, reading, class discussions and videos. The second exam will not be cumulative. Attendance is mandatory for this class. Please note that absence from 2 class periods is automatically reported to the Registrar. The following shows the breakdown of the grading system for this course:

Exams	30% each (a total of 60%)
Oral Presentation	30%
Participation/Attendance	<u>10%</u>
	100%

## SCHEDULE

<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Required Reading(s)</u>
01-15-00	Review of the course Syllabus Introduction to the course/Anthropology Culture and Meaning	Robbins Chap I
01-22-00	From Prehistory to Colonialism to modern Industrial societies Video	Robbins Chap 2
01-29-00	Symbolism in human societies Family relations	Robbins Chaps 3 & 4
02-05-00	Cultural identity Review Session	Robbins Chap 5
02-12-00	EXAM #1 Video*	
02-19-00	Social hierarchies	Robbins Chap 6
02-26-00	Conflict, violence and warfare	Robbins Chap 7
03-04-00	Class Presentations <u>Video</u> * (if time permits)	
03-11-00	Cultural diversity Review session	Robbins Chap 8
03-18-00	EXAM #2	

Any changes to this syllabus will be announced in class.

\* Videos are to be announced