

Introduction to Social Anthropology ANTH S-1600

Harvard University
Department of Anthropology
Summer 2005

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and/or **by appointment (preferable)**

Time: Tues./Thurs. 1:00-3:30
Room: William James Hall Rm.105

Course Description:

The course explores anthropological approaches to society, culture, history, and current events. Lectures, readings and films explore social and cultural diversity through a range of themes: social organization, ideology, religion, exchange, subsistence, gender, land use, ethnicity, ethnic conflict, and local/global inter-relations. The themes are illustrated through detailed studies of Muslim women in North Africa, ethnicity and ethnic conflict in Bosnia and Rwanda, ritual exchange in the South Pacific and Pacific Northwest, and political organization in Southeast Asia. The instructor also reviews his current applied research on contemporary indigenous responses to political, economic and ecological changes in Latin America, with special emphasis on the Amazon Basin. Students are regularly asked to grapple with anthropologists' past and present intellectual and ethical challenges.

(Note: This course is designed to cover the material for Anthropology 1600, Department of Anthropology, Harvard University)

Course Requirements:

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| • Mid-term exam | Thursday – July 22 |
| • Final exam | Tuesday -- August 16 (1:30 PM) |
| • Research paper (7-10 pages) | Due by 6 PM on the last day of class (Thurs. August 11) |
| • Three short (1-2 page) “response” papers | Due July 7, July 14, and August 4 |
| • Class participation | |

The course may also include 1-2 feature-length films. They will be shown during the evening (dates to be determined) and will be followed by class discussion. Inability to attend these films will NOT affect grades.

Grading:

Grades will be determined by following percentages.

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| 1. Mid-term exam | 205% |
| 2. Final Exam | 30% |
| 3. Short Paper | 20% |
| 4. Class participation | 15% |
| 5. Map Quiz/Response Papers | 15% |

Required Readings

Students are expected to complete all readings listed in the syllabus. Readings listed for each class should be completed *before* class. This will allow students to understand the lectures more easily and to participate more effectively in class discussions.

The following texts are required. They are available for purchase “on-line” or at the Harvard COOP Bookstore. Copies are also available on Reserve at Lamont Library and Tozzer Library (11 Divinity Ave).

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| Abu-Lughod, Lila | <i>Veiled Sentiments: Honor and Poetry in Bedouin Society</i> |
| Leach, E.R | <i>Political Systems of Highland Burma: A Study of Kachin Social Structure</i> |
| Mauss, Marcel | <i>The Gift</i> |
| Macdonald, Theodore | <i>Ethnicity and Culture among New “Neighbors:” The Runa of Ecuador’s Amazon Region</i> |
| Maybury-Lewis, David | <i>Indigenous Peoples, Ethnic Groups, and the State</i>

<i>The Savage and the Innocent (The book is out of print. Several copies will be on Reserve at Tozzer Library)</i> |
| "Course Pack" | Includes the articles by: J. Anaya, R. Carneiro, F. Barth, C. Geertz, C. Levi-Strauss, T. Turner. (Purchase “on-line” at www.hpps.harvard.edu . Search for Instructor [Macdonald] and Course [Anthropology S-1600] to purchase. Orders available at Science Center within 24 hours.) |

Schedule

• Week 1

Early “Anthropologists:” From Utopians, Romantics, and/or Racists to Ethnographers

Tues: June 28

Malinowski	"Introduction" (on Reserve, Tozzer Library)
Abu-Lughod	Chapter 1
Maybury-Lewis	Begin <i>The Savage and the Innocent</i> (finish before mid-term exam)

Earning a Living: Subsistence and Exchange

Thurs. June 30 (film: "*First Contact*") *Readings:*

Carneiro	“Slash-and Burn Cultivation among the Kuikuru”
Macdonald	Chapters 1-2
Mauss	<i>The Gift</i> (read <i>Forward and</i> pp.1-46)

• Week 2

Kinship, Social Organization, and the Evolution of Political Systems

Tues. July 5 (*Map Quiz*)

Readings:

Leach	Chapters 1-IV (pp. 1-100)
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Thurs. July 7(film: “*A Poor Man Shames us All*”)

Readings:

Leach	Chapter V (pp. 101-195)
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(*1st Response paper due --July 7*)

• Week 3

Kinship, Social Organization, and the Evolution of Political Systems (cont.)

Tues. July 12

Readings:

Leach	Chapters VI-X (pp. 197-292)
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Culture: Myth, Ritual, and Symbolism

Thurs. July 14 *Readings:*

Levi-Strauss	"The Myth of Asdiwal"
Geertz	"Religion as a Cultural System"
Macdonald	Chapter 3
Leach	Review pages 264-278

(*2nd Response paper due – July 14*)

- **Week 4**

Culture: Myth, Ritual and Symbolism (cont.)

Tues. July 19

Readings:

Geertz

"Deep Play: Notes on the Balinese Cockfight"

"Thick Description: Toward and Interpretive Theory of Culture"

Thurs. July 21 **Mid-term exam**

- **Week 5**

Ethnicity and Ethnic Groups

Tues. July 26 (*Topics for short-paper due*)

Reading:

Barth

"Introduction"

Identity: Ethnic Groups-- Nationalism and/or Human Rights?

Thurs. July 28

Readings:

Maybury-Lewis

Indigenous Peoples, Ethnicity, and the State
Chapters 1 and 2

- **Week 6**

Interpreting "Ethnic Conflict"

Violence: The Balkans and Rwanda/Burundi

Tues. Aug 2 (Film: "*We Are All Neighbors*")

Readings:

Maybury-Lewis

Indigenous Peoples, Ethnicity, and the State
Chapters 3, 4, and 5

Interpreting "Ethnic Conflict"

Nonviolence: Indigenous Movements in Latin America

Thurs. Aug 4

(film: "*The Kayapo*")

Readings:

Macdonald

Chapters 4-10

Macdonald and Anaya

"Awas Tingni"

(*3rd Response paper due –Aug 4*)

- **Week 7**

Current Issues of Culture and Identity: Indigenous Peoples

Tues. Aug. 9

(film: "*Kayapo out of the Forest*")

Readings:

Turner

Abu-Lughod

“Representing, Resisting, Rethinking”

Begin reading: *Veiled Sentiments*, Chapters 1-4

Current Issues of Culture and Identity: Gender

Thurs. Aug. 11

Readings:

Abu-Lughod

Finish: *Veiled Sentiments*, Chapters 4-8

August 11 -- Short Paper Due in class (or by 6 P.M. in the instructor's office)

- **Week 8**

Final Exam

Tuesday Aug 16 -- 1:30 PM (Room to be announced)