

# CULTURAL ANTHROPOLOGY

**COURSE SYLLABUS:** Anthropology 2 Reedley College  
**SEMESTER:** Fall 1998 Tues. & Thurs. 12:30-1:45 pm  
**INSTRUCTOR:** Dr. Dudley M. Varner Voice Mail 209/487-2765

**COURSE OBJECTIVES:**

- To introduce the science and subdisciplines of Cultural Anthropology;
- To explore the definitions and implications of the concept of Culture;
- To consider the relevance and roles of Cultural Anthropology today; *and*
- To understand and appreciate cultural diversity in humankind.

**TEXTBOOK:** Cultural Anthropology by R.H. Crapo. 4th Edition, 1996, Brown and Benchmark.

**TOPICAL SEQUENCE :**

<u>WEEK</u>	<u>DATES</u>	<u>TOPIC</u>	<u>CHAPTER</u>
I	8/18-20	Intro. to this Course and to Anthropology	1
II	8/25-27	The Concept of Culture	2
III	9/1-9/3	Social Organization	3
IV	9/8-10	Human Life Cycles	4
V	9/15-17	Gender and Culture	5
VI	9/22-24	Environment and Adaptation	6
VII	9/29-10/1	<u>EXAM I (50 minutes)</u>	-
VIII	10/6-8	Cultural Evolution	7
IX	10/13-15	Economic Systems	8
	10/16	<u>LAST DAY TO DROP COURSE WITHOUT A GRADE!</u>	
X	10/20-22	Marriage and the Family	9
XI	10/27-29	Kinship and Descent	10
XII	11/3-5	Politics and Culture	11
XIII	11/10-12	<u>EXAM II (50 minutes)</u>	-
XIV	11/17-19	Language and Culture	12
XV	11/24	Religion and Culture	13
XVI	12/1-3	Culture and Personality	14
		<u>WRITTEN REPORTS DUE!</u>	
XVII	12/8-10	Aesthetics and Culture	15
XVIII	12/17 (1 pm)	<u>FINAL EXAM (100 minutes)</u>	"ALL"

**CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES:** During each regular class meeting, there may be a lecture, interactive discussion, video or slide presentation, or any combination of these events. Read the assigned chapter before class! BE PREPARED TO PARTICIPATE!

RESEARCH and REVIEW REPORT TOPICS:

SELECT TWO TOPICS, ONE FROM EACH SECTION OF THIS LIST AND WRITE A TWO-PAGE, DOUBLE-SPACED ANALYTICAL REPORT ON EACH TOPIC. EACH REPORT WILL BE WORTH UP TO 50 POINTS. BOTH REPORTS ARE DUE ON DECEMBER 1, 1998.

SECTION I, RESEARCH TOPICS

- 1) Spend an afternoon in a part of Fresno, Reedley, Madera, or a nearby town, that strongly reflects a particular cultural or ethnic group. Describe and analyze what you observed that might reflect that cultural group. How does it differ from what you might observe in your own neighborhood? (i.e. "be a field anthropologist")
- 2) Interview a student from a foreign country on some limited aspect of his or her culture, such as religion, family life, or marriage customs. Assemble your data and write up a description, using the appropriate anthropological terminology. Be sure to include the town, country and region of your informant.
- 3) Visit at least two supermarkets in two culturally different parts of Fresno or other towns. Describe the differences in foods that are displayed. What do these differences tell you about the cultural or ethnic groups represented, in addition to what they eat?
- 4) If you are age 21 or older, select two different taverns, frequented by different kinds of clientele. What differences do you note in behavioral patterns such as degree of personal interaction, topics discussed, games played, TV programs watched, as well as kinds and amounts of alcoholic beverages consumed? (Be careful with this topic!)
- 5) Attend a rite of passage open to the public, e.g. a baptism, Bar Mitzvah, Bat Mitzvah, club initiation, wedding, funeral, etc. Describe the sequence of events. Are the relationships between the participants changed because of the ceremony? What difference would it make if there were no ritual?
- 6) Attend a major cultural, ethnic, or multi-cultural event or festival. Describe both the participants and visitors. What kinds of cultural behavior did you observe? Did any surprise you?
- 7) Listen attentively to a Rock N' Roll and to a Country N' Western music station. Describe and compare what appear to be the social and moral attitudes indicated in the songs. How do these differ or vary from what may be the accepted "norms" of our culture? Suggest the function that either type of music plays in our society. (Be sure to provide the call letters and/or names of the two stations to which you listen).

STUDENT INFORMATION

COURSE: ANTHROPOLOGY 2 SEMESTER: FALL 1998

STUDENT'S NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

MAILING ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE NUMBER(S): \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

NAME OF HIGH SCHOOL AND LOCATION: \_\_\_\_\_

YEAR GRADUATED \_\_\_\_\_

NUMBER COLLEGE UNITS COMPLETED SO FAR: \_\_\_\_\_

POSSIBLE MAJOR(S): \_\_\_\_\_

POSSIBLE MINORS(S): \_\_\_\_\_

OTHER SPECIAL INTERESTS: \_\_\_\_\_

PREVIOUS ANTHROPOLOGY/ARCHAEOLOGY COURSE(S):

REASON(S) FOR TAKING THIS COURSE:

WHAT IS THE MAIN THING YOU WANT OR EXPECT TO LEARN?

OTHER COMMENTS?

ON THE BACK OF THIS SHEET, PLEASE DRAW AN ANTHROPOLOGIST AT WORK, THAT IS, DOING SOMETHING "ANTHROPOLOGICAL". YOU MAY USE STICK FIGURES, BUT MAKE YOUR DRAWING **BIG**, FILLING UP THE WHOLE PAGE. PLEASE USE DARK PENCIL OR PEN!