

CULTURAL ANTHROPOLOGY

COURSE SYLLABUS: Anthropology 2

Reedley C. SOC 30

SEMESTER: Summer 2002

Daily 10:00-12:25 p.m.

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Dudley M. Varner

(Break: 11:15-11:25)

VOICE MAIL / MESSAGES: 559-434-5492

E-mail: dudley_varner@yahoo.com

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

- 1) To introduce the science and sub-fields of Cultural Anthropology;
- 2) To explore the definitions and implications of the concept of Culture;
- 3) To consider the relevance and roles of Cultural Anthropology today;
- 4) To better understand and appreciate cultural diversity in humankind;
- 5) To help prepare students for other college courses and campuses; and
- 6) To promote analytical, critical and creative thinking.

TEXTBOOK 1) Cultural Anthropology: Understanding Ourselves and Others, by R.H. Crapo, 5th Ed., 2001, McGraw Hill Co. (The 4th Edition is not acceptable!)

TOPICAL SEQUENCE :

<u>DAY</u>	<u>DATES</u>	<u>TOPIC</u>	<u>CHAPTER</u>
I	M 6/3	Introduction to the Course Video: TC: "1 st Contact (New Guinea)" (½ hour)	(Syllabus)
II	T 6/4	Intro. to Anthropology Video: AAA "Anthropologists at work" (½ hour)	1
	<u>6/4</u>	<u><i>Last Day to drop course for a full refund!</i></u>	
III	W 6/5	The Concept of Culture Video: PBS NOVA: "Yanomami (Amazon)" (1 hour)	2
IV	Th 6/6	Biology and Culture Video: TLC "Human Sexes: Different but Equal" (3/4 hour)	3
	<u>6/6</u>	<u><i>Last Day to drop course without a "W" grade!</i></u>	
V	F 6/7	Personality and Culture Videos: PBS "The Mixtec (Oaxaca)" (<u><i>Study List I</i></u>)	4
VI	M 6/10	Ethnomusicology Videos: PBS Nature "Song of the Earth"/"American Roots Music" (1½ hours)	
VII	T 6/11	Language and Culture Video: "Kevin Costner: 500 Nations (California/Plains)" (3/4 hour)	5
VIII	W 6/12	<u><i>First,</i></u> a Video: THC: "Easter Island" (3/4 hour) <u><i>then, Exam I (50 min.)</i></u>	
IX	Th 6/13	Religion and Culture Video: THC "Hawaii's Goddess Pele" (3/4 hour)	6
X	F 6/14	Aesthetics and Culture (<u><i>Study List II</i></u>) Video: TLC "Human Animal: Beyond Survival" (3/4 hour)	7
	<u>6/14</u>	<u><i>Last day to drop course with a "W" grade!</i></u>	
XI	M 6/17	Social Organization and Kinship Video: TLC "Wildest of Tribes: Naga (India)" (3/4 hour)	8
XII	T 6/18	Life Cycles Video: TLC "Human Sexes: Passages of Life" (3/4 hour)	9
XIII	W 6/19	Marriage and Family Video: TLC "Human Sexes: Patterns of Love" (3/4 hour)	10
XIV	Th 6/20	<u><i>First,</i></u> a Video: NGS "Australian Aborigines" (1 hour) <u><i>then, Exam II (50 min.)</i></u>	

XV	F 6/21	Political Systems <i>(Study List III)</i>	11
		Video: PBS "Legacy: Central/Meso America" (1 hour)	
XVI	M 6/24	Economic Systems	12
		Video: TLC "Wildest of Tribes: Mentawai (Sumatra)" (3/4 hour)	
XVII	T 6/25	Environment and Adaptation	13
		Video: PBS "Nature: The Aztecs" (1 hour)	
XVIII	W 6/26	Cultural Evolution/Contemporary World <i>Written reports due!</i>	14
		Video: PBS "Legacy: Western Barbarians" (1 hour)	
XIX	Th 6/27	Mexican Cultures/Course Conclusions/Review	
		Video: NGS "The Mexicans: Through Their Eyes" (1 hour)	
XX	F 6/28	<i>Final Exam (100 Minutes!)</i>	"ALL"

CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES: During each regular class meeting, there will be an interactive discussion and video presentations. Please **read** the assigned chapter **before** class! ***Be prepared to participate!***

EXAMS: Two 50 minute exams (50 points each) as scheduled during the semester, **plus** the 100 minute final exam (100 points). Exam questions will include true-false, multiple choice, matching, completion, short answer, and brief essays. (Study lists will be provided on Fridays before the exam. You may bring the filled-in study list to exams).

OTHER ASSIGNMENTS: Write **two** separate, two-three paged, double-spaced reports (about 5-600 words each) on topics selected from the list provided (evaluated up to 50 points each). ***These reports are due by 6/26/02.*** (Note: course grade will be an ***"Incomplete"*** unless all exams and reports have been submitted!)

GRADING PROCESSES: Individual student final letter grades will be determined by your position on a curve resulting from 300 points maximum (3 exam grades plus 2 report grades). **Unexcused absences totaling 5 classroom hours (two class periods!) may result in your course grade being lowered by one letter!** (*Also, signing the Roster and then leaving class; signing the roster on the class day before; or signing in for someone else, don't count!*)

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES:

1. **Do attend class regularly and on time!** Roll will be taken and excessive, **unexcused absences** (for example, **two** consecutively) may result in your being **dropped** from the class!
2. **Do not leave the classroom during class** unless it's an emergency! (*To do so is rude and inconsiderate of your instructor and fellow classmates!*)
3. **Do take notes on everything** that goes on in class! (*Especially class discussions and videos!*)
4. **Study for and take exams as scheduled!** (*Make-ups will be difficult and rare!*)
5. **Complete and submit all assignments when due!** (*Late papers may be reduced in grade!*)
6. **Please be very considerate of your instructor and fellow students!** (*Do come to class on time; Don't leave until class is concluded; Don't talk in class, etc.!*)
7. **Do not wear hats in the classroom!**
8. **Do turn off all cell phones and pagers** when in the classroom!
9. **Do Remember!** **What you get from** this class (*knowledge, grade, etc.*) will depend on **what you put into** the class (*attendance, effort, etc.*)!

RESEARCH and REVIEW REPORT TOPICS:

Select two topics (one from each section of this list) and write a two-to-three page, double-spaced (about 5-600 words) analytical (not just descriptive!) report on each topic. Each report will be worth up to 50 points. *(Use Anthropological terms and concepts when possible! No cover is necessary; just staple the pages together)* **Both reports are due June 26, 2002**

SECTION I, RESEARCH TOPICS (Choose one topic from this section!)

- 1) Spend an afternoon in a part of Fresno, Clovis, Reedley 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, Clovis, Reedley 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).
- 8) Describe and compare specific patterns of behavior (e.g. clothing styles, courtship, etc.) for your present (or recent) school campus and your work place. Do these patterns reflect any significant changes or trends?

SECTION II, REVIEW TOPICS (Choose a second topic from this section!)

- 1) Visit an Anthropology, Archaeology or tribal art exhibit at any museum (not paleontology, Western art, etc.) Write an analytical review of the exhibit, i.e. briefly describe it, discuss how well it is done, tell what you learned from it about the culture or cultures represented, etc. (Examples: Fresno City College Anthropology Museum, Pre-Columbian Mexico exhibit at the Fresno Art Museum, various exhibits at Artes-America, the African-American Museum, Fresno Metropolitan Museum, etc.)
- 2) Write an analytical review of a movie or video with an Anthropology theme, such as “Quest for Fire”, “Clan of the Cave Bear”, “The Emerald Forest”, “Ishi”, “The Gods Must Be Crazy (part 1 or 2)”, “Rapa Nui”, “The Mission”, “Cheyenne Autumn”, “At Play in the Fields of the Lord” etc. (***For other titles, get instructor’s approval!*** Remember, don’t just *describe* the plot of the movie or video; ***analyze*** it!)(video copies available...)
- 3) Read a major article in an Anthropology or Archaeology **journal** from the CSUF, RC, or FCC library (e.g. American Anthropologist, American Antiquity, Current Anthropology, Ethnology, etc.) Briefly summarize the article. What was there about the article that you did not understand? What steps did you follow to complete your understanding of the article? (**NOTE:** short, popular magazine or Internet articles are not usually acceptable, but you may ask the instructor about one)
- 4) Compose a dialogue (*not* a narrative) in which you try to explain the concept of culture to a friend or relative. **Be creative!**
- 5) If you were a space “Alien” anthropologist, how would you describe a football game, its functions, and motivation to “Alien” students, using anthropological terminology that you have learned in this course. (Obviously, this question requires that you “know” something about an “Alien” culture!)
- 6) Reviewing the headlines and content of front page newspaper articles, suggest two major changes that appear to be taking place in the non-material, non-technological, social or political aspects of American culture. Describe these changes and provide possible causes for them.
- 7) Review and list several Internet web sites on **one** specific Anthropological concept or topic, such as “cultural relativity”. Discuss how you evaluated the sites for accuracy.
- 8) Compose your own question similar to those above, and with the instructor’s prior approval, answer it accordingly.

STUDENT INFORMATION

COURSE: ANTHROPOLOGY 2, CAMPUS: Reedley, SEMESTER: Summer 2002

STUDENT'S NAME _____

MAILING ADDRESS _____

_____ ZIP _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS _____

PHONE NUMBER(S) _____ / _____, _____ / _____

NAME OF HIGH SCHOOL _____

CITY _____ YEAR GRADUATED _____

NAME OF OTHER COLLEGE(S) ATTENDED _____

NUMBER OF 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 A DARK PENCIL OR PEN!

