

ANTH 303; Cultural Anthropology
Carrier 211
8:00 AM – 9:15 AM TTh
Fall 2012
University of Mississippi

Dr. Kate McGurn Centellas

Office: Leavell Hall 116

Office Hours: Tu Th 10:00-12:00 or by appointment

Email: kmcentel@go.olemiss.edu

Office Phone: 915-7129

Course Description

What is distinctive about cultural anthropology? What are some key concepts and practices that belong to the study of culture and the discipline of cultural anthropology? Where did cultural anthropology come from and why should we care? What relevance does cultural anthropology have in today's society? This semester addresses these questions. We cover: important schools of thought and traditions of analysis in anthropology; discuss the discipline's emergence as a distinctive scholarly field; grasp key concepts and approaches within cultural anthropology; and explore the relevance of cultural anthropology to understanding contemporary global issues. Throughout the course we discuss not only *what* topics anthropologists study and *why*, but also *how* they investigate a particular issue, e.g. anthropological methods and their application.

Objectives

By the end of the course, students will:

1. Understand the history of cultural anthropology and why it is relevant to contemporary cultural anthropology
2. Identify key traditions and schools of thought within cultural anthropology and how they have influenced one another over time
3. Discuss foundational anthropological concepts from different perspectives (economy, society, gender, etc.)
4. Understand the components of ethnographic practice
5. Be able to read and critique contemporary ethnography, as well as practice writing ethnographically

Course Structure

This course is structured in 3 parts:

1. Introduction, history, and classical forms of cultural anthropology (weeks 1-3)
2. 20th & 21st Century approaches to anthropology (weeks 4-8)
3. Doing, Reading, and Writing Ethnography (weeks 9-end)

ANTH 303

Dr. K.M. Centellas

Fall 2012

Throughout each section we will describe key areas of anthropological investigation such as economy or religious belief. We also integrate a discussion of ethnography throughout each section, with a more extensive discussion occurring in the final unit.

Required Readings

The following books are available at the campus bookstore or via Amazon. I have indicated the abbreviation I use in the course schedule next to the title. You are expected to bring your required readings to class on the day indicated! There are no assigned additional articles or readings beyond what is listed here. However, as the course proceeds I may encounter interesting and relevant news stories, articles, video clips, etc. If so, I will announce it in class and provide a link via Facebook.

Erickson, Paul and Liam Murphy. 2008. A History of Anthropological Theory. Toronto: University Toronto Press Higher Education. (HoAT)

_____. 2010. Readings for A History of Anthropological Theory. Toronto; Toronto University Press Higher Education (Readings)

Langwick, Stacey A. 2011. Bodies, Politics, and African Healing: The Matter of Maladies in Tanzania. Bloomington, IN: Indiana University Press.

Leinaweaver, Jessaca. 2008. The Circulation of Children. Durham, NC: Duke University Press.

Rosman, Abraham et al. 2009. The Tapestry of Culture. New York: Altamira Press. (ToC)

Assignments & Grading

This course is evaluated via multiple different kinds of assignments, spread out over the semester:

2 midterm examinations:	15% each * 2 = 30%
2 written essays	10% each * 2 = 20%
2 homework assignments	5 % each * 2 = 10%
Quizzes and participation	20%
Final exam	20%

You will be provided with detailed assignment sheets for the essays, homework, and final exam. We will discuss the format of the midterms in class. The midterms cover ONLY the first 2/3 of the class, with the last 5 weeks of class devoted to forms of doing, writing, and analyzing anthropological materials.

Please be aware that any instance of plagiarism will result in a 0 for the assignment at minimum.

This course is graded on the +/- scale.

The scale is:

93-100: A
90-92: A-
87-89: B+
83-86: B
80-82: B-
77-79: C+
73-76: C
70-72: C-
69 and below: D
59 and below: F

If you are borderline, i.e. 79.5, the decision to round up or down will be based primarily upon your participation grade.

Late Policy

I do not accept late papers or requests for make-up midterms. The only exceptions are if you have a doctor's note or a note from your advisor.

Attendance & Participation

I do not take attendance in this class. However, I do not provide extensions, make-ups, or any other considerations for absences unless you have cleared the absence with me IN ADVANCE or have a doctor's note or a note from your advisor. There are no exceptions.

This course is both discussion and lecture based. Your participation in class activities is vital for your understanding (and enjoyment) of the material. A good participation grade is based on **engagement** with course themes in class. I encourage you to bring in examples from your lives, to mention anything that made you think of course topics, and to use course ideas to broaden your understanding of the world around you. Evidence for this includes: asking questions about the material; answering questions posed by myself and other students; referencing interesting or puzzling popular examples such as magazine articles or T.V. shows in discussion; posting to the Facebook page, and respecting others' opinions.

There is a Facebook page for this class.

Since many of us are on Facebook more than Blackboard we have a class page instead of a discussion board on Blackboard. One component of your participation grade is to post links, questions, and comment on the Facebook page. You may also post general questions about the course on the page. Please note: I do not need to be friends with all of you for you to access the page.

Just search for it and like it from your account. The page name is Ole Miss Anth 303 Fall 2012:
<https://www.facebook.com/OleMissAnth303Fall2012>

Technology Policy

I encourage you to use e-readers, digital versions of the texts, and so on. You may take notes in class via iPad, tablet, or laptop. However, the use of technology in class is **for class purposes only**. If I catch you texting, chatting, or watching Netflix in class I will a) ask you to leave and b) not allow you to use your device for the next class period.

Student Responsibilities

Along with the course readings, assignments, and class attendance, you are expected to know and understand the material on the syllabus. I **do not respond to** questions that are clearly answered on the syllabus or on Blackboard (e.g. "what's the reading?") Always check your syllabus, then Facebook and Blackboard, if you have a question!

In addition, there may be changes to the syllabus as the course proceeds. If this occurs, I will a) post an announcement on Blackboard b) announce the change in class and c) send an email to everyone informing them of the change.

Statement on Accommodations

I am happy to provide reasonable accommodations to students with disabilities when necessary. It is the responsibility of any student with a disability who requests a reasonable accommodation to contact the Office of Student Disability Services (915-7128). SDS will then contact the instructor through the student by means of an Instructor Notification of Classroom Accommodations form.

Office Hours

If you have questions, concerns, or ideas about the material come and talk to me. I prefer to work with students in person (not over email) whenever possible. I have an "open door" office hours policy, meaning you can come to my office during these times with no appointment. If you cannot make these times, send me an email and we can arrange an alternate time.

Blackboard and Email

You are expected to check your email. I will send reminders and important notices to your Ole Miss account. I have posted the syllabus on Blackboard and will post any additional handouts, worksheets, assignment sheets, etc. on Blackboard. I will add PowerPoints, additional materials, and handouts throughout the semester.

A heads up: I do not keep the late hours many of you do! Therefore, if you email me late at night (after about 8 PM) I will likely not receive or respond to your email until the next day.

Course Schedule

Theme	Tuesday	Thursday	Additional Assignments & Materials
1. Introduction What is cultural anthropology?	8/21 Welcome & syllabus distribution	8/23 ToC, Chapter 1 Overview I (Readings)	
2. Where did cultural anthropology come from?	8/28 HoAT p. 1-47, ToC, Chapter 8 E.B. Tylor, "The Science of Culture," and L. H. Morgan, "Ethnical Periods" (2 & 3 in Readings)	8/30 HoAT p. 48-90 Durkheim, "Introduction," Weber, "The Sociology of Charismatic Authority," and Saussure, "The Nature of the Linguistic Sign" (7, 8, 9 in Readings)	
3. Fieldwork and classical anthropological schools of thought	9/4 ToC, Chapters 2 & 10 HoAT p. 93-110 Boas, "The Methods of Ethnology" and Kroeber, "What Anthropology is About" (Kroeber) (10 & 12 in Readings)	9/6 HoAT p. 111-134 Mead, "Introduction" and Benedict, "The Individual and the Pattern of Culture," (13 & 14).	Homework assignment #1 distributed on 9/6 Overview II in Readings recommended
4. 20 th & 21 st Century approaches I: Linguistics & cognitive anthropology	9/11 ToC, Chapter 3 HoAT 138-155	9/13 Levi-Strauss, "Structuralism and Ecology" and Sahlins, "Introduction" (15 & 17 in Readings)	Homework assignment #1 DUE in class 9/13
5. 20 th & 21 st Century approaches II: Ecology, Materialism, and Evolutionism	9/18 ToC, Chapters 4 & 5 Malinowski, "The Subject, Method, and Scope of this Inquiry," and	9/20 MIDTERM I	

	Gluckman, "Rituals of Rebellion in South-East Africa," (19 & 21 In Readings)		
6. 20 th & 21 st Century approaches III: Symbolic Anthropology	9/25 ToC, Chapter 9 HoAT p. 157-167	9/27 "Turner, "Symbols in Ndembu Ritual" and Geertz, "Thick Description: Toward an Interpretive Theory of Culture," (21, 25 & 26 in Readings)	Written assignment #1 distributed in class 9/27 Overview III in Readings recommended
7. 20 th & 21 st Century approaches IV: Feminism & Gender	10/2 ToC, Chapters 6 & 7 HoAT p. 168-172	10/4 Gal, "Language, Gender, and Power: An Anthropological Review," and Strathern, "Self-Interest and the Social Good: Some Implications of Hagen Gender Imagery," (27 & 28 in Readings)	Written assignment #1 DUE in class 10/04
8. 20 th & 21 st Century approaches V: Political Economy, Postmodernity, and Globalization	10/9 ToC Chapters 13 & 14 Said, "Knowing the Oriental," and Wolf, "Introduction" (29 & 30 in Readings)	10/11 HoAT p. 173-217 (skim, focus on vocab) Clifford, "Partial Truths," Ortner, "Theory in Anthropology since the Sixties," (34 & 36 in Readings)	
9. Doing, Writing, and Reading Ethnography I: Family, gender, ethnicity, local and global histories of power	10/16 MIDTERM II	10/18 Leinaweaver, J. The Circulation of Children. Pp. 1-36	
10. Doing, Writing, and Reading Ethnography I: Family, gender, ethnicity	10/23 Leinaweaver, J. p. 37-80	10/25 Leinaweaver, J. p. 81-133	Homework #2 distributed in class 10/25

11. Doing, Writing, and Reading Ethnography I: Family, gender, ethnicity	10/30 Leinaweaver, J. p. 134-end	11/1 Lock & Scheper-Hughes, "A Critical-Interpretive Approach in Medical Anthropology: Rituals and Routines of Discipline and Dissent," (38 in Readings)	Homework #2 DUE in class 11/1
12. Doing, Writing, and Reading Ethnography II: Medical Anthropology & Postcolonialism	11/6 Langwick, S. Pp. 1-58	11/8 Langwick. pp. 58 - 120	
13. Doing, Writing, and Reading Ethnography II: Medical Anthropology & Postcolonialism	11/13 Langwick pp. 121-174	11/15 NO CLASS, AAA Meetings	Written assignment #2 (book review) distributed in class 11/13
14. NO CLASS	11/20 NO CLASS	11/22 NO CLASS, Thanksgiving	
15. Wrap-up and review	11/27 Langwick to end.	11/29 Discussion, wrap-up, review, final exam prep.	Written assignment #2 DUE in class 11/27

FINAL EXAM Tuesday, December 4th, 2012 at 8 AM.