

Other People's Worlds – Anthropology 1000W-006(9362)
University of Connecticut, Spring 2015
MWF 9:05 AM – 9:55 AM

Instructor: Siavash Samei

Classroom: Oak Hall, room 301

Office: Beach Hall, room 451 (Zooarchaeology Lab)

Office Hours: Mondays 1:00–3:00pm, or by appointment

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I. COURSE OVERVIEW

In this course, you will be introduced to the perspectives and methods of cultural anthropology, the study of cultural variation among humans. You will learn about the practical difficulties and ethical dilemmas of doing ethnographic fieldwork. By comparing different societies and cultures with your own, you will acquire conceptual tools for understanding social and cultural change and current domestic and global issues. The writing component focuses on individual development in style, content, and most importantly, the process of revision. **This class is also appropriate for non-anthropology majors. In an increasingly globalized world, the topics addressed in this class are useful for students in all disciplines.** By the end of the course, students should be able to:

- Demonstrate understanding of the concept of culture, as it applies to anthropology
- Understand cultural relativism and be able to recognize its importance
- Describe the research methods used by cultural anthropologists
- Identify, describe, and compare the major structural types of human society
- Recognize the importance of religion, gender, social inequality, colonization, and globalization using a cross-cultural perspective
- Apply anthropological perspectives to contemporary problems
- Demonstrate improvement in writing over the course of the semester including developed written expression of critical thinking skills and research methods

II. REQUIRED TEXTS

Textbook:

Lavenda, R.H., and E.A. Schultz. 2011. *Core Concepts in Cultural Anthropology*. 5th ed. McGraw-Hill Press.

Ethnography:

Bourgeois, P. and J. Schonberg. 200. *Righteous Dopefiend*. University of California Press, Berkeley.

Other texts:

Articles posted online on HuskyCT

III. COURSE STRUCTURE

— Readings

To be successful in this class, you must do the readings. By doing the readings before attending the class for which they are assigned, you will have the ability to participate in discussion, a basis for understanding the lectures, and an opportunity to ask questions about the readings. The class format consists of lecture, discussion, in-class exercises, and films.

— **Assessments**

There are three non-cumulative assessments in this course. Each shall cover all assigned readings, films, and lecture slides. To be successful, you must complete the readings, watch the films, and come to class for the lectures. These assessments will contain a combination of multiple-choice and short-answer questions.

— **Presentations**

You and a partner will be responsible for a 15-minute long presentation on a pre-approved topic related to anthropology and current affairs. **This presentation will also form the basis of the topic for your first paper.** I will pair you up in the first week of classes. You will find detailed instructions on format and content of the presentations online on HuskyCT.

— **Writing**

Please come to class prepared to write. Bring your books, paper, your class binder and a writing utensil. “W” classes require students to write **a minimum of fifteen pages.** In this class, your writing will undergo revision for conceptual clarity and development of ideas, edited for expression, and proofread for grammatical and mechanical correctness. For the writing component of this class, you will be required to write three 5-page papers:

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|--|----------------|
| 1. First Paper | (1 draft only) |
| Anthropology and current affairs | |
| 2. Second Paper | (2 drafts) |
| Research topic of student’s choice building
on <i>The Righteous Dopefiend</i> | |
| 3. Third Paper | (2 drafts) |
| Anthropology beyond the classroom | |

For each assignment, you will receive specific instructions and formatting guidelines. “W” classes emphasize revision, and each version of a paper should be your best effort. Each paper will go through editing, giving you a chance to incorporate revisions. You will have opportunities to edit your work both inside and outside of class.

The writing portion of the course counts for 45% of your final grade. I will not grade drafts separately, but I will not accept papers without drafts from every stage of revision, and the quality of your early drafts will show me how seriously you take the writing process, and will therefore impact your final grade. You must submit the assignments on the due dates and times listed on the schedule. For every day that a paper draft is late without an approved excuse, I will drop one grade level from your final grade for that paper. **According to UConn policy, you cannot pass this W course unless you passing its writing components, regardless of your grades in the other components of the class.**

— **Library Assignment**

During the first week of classes you will be responsible for a group library assignment. The instructions for the assignment are available online on HuskyCT. This assignment is a critical tool for your research papers, as it will teach you how to find sources in the library stacks, how to access journal articles online, and how to find, navigate, and use the various scholarly databases like JSTOR available through the library website.

IV. GRADING

Assessments (3, each 10%):	15%	First Paper:	10%
Participation	20%	Second Paper:	15%
Presentation	10%	Third Paper:	20%
Library Assignment	10%		

A = 93 – 100%	A- = 90 – 92%
B+ = 87 – 89%	B = 83 – 86%
B- = 80 – 82%	C+ = 77 – 79%
C = 73 – 76%	C- = 70 – 72%
D+ = 67 – 69%	D = 63 – 66%
D- = 60 – 62%	F = 0 – 59%

V. COURSE POLICIES

— Make-ups

You can make up work for two reasons: non-emergency and emergency. Non-emergency excuses include athletic competitions and school activities. Emergency excuses may include family issues, accident, or illness. Whenever appropriate, you should obtain documentation certifying the reason for your absence and contact me as soon as possible to discuss how to make up your work.

— University Writing Center

All students are invited to visit the University Writing Center for individualized tutorials. Tutors work with writers at any stage of the writing process, from exploring ideas to polishing final drafts. You should come with a copy of the assignment you are working on, a current draft or notes if you are not yet at the draft stage, and ideas about what you want out of a session. You can drop in or make an appointment for a free, 45-minute session. For hours, locations, and more information, please go to www.writingcenter.uconn.edu.

— Academic Integrity

This class abides by the University of Connecticut academic integrity policy of The Student Code (http://www.dosa.uconn.edu/student_code.html). You are responsible for understanding the various forms of academic and scholarly misconduct described in the statement, **especially the policy on plagiarism**. You should meet with me if you have questions about when and how to cite. It would also be wise to consult a writing handbook or the Writing Center.

— Students with Disabilities

I encourage students who think they may need accommodations because of a disability to meet with me privately and confidentially early in the semester. Students should also contact the Center for Students with Disabilities as soon as possible to verify their eligibility for reasonable accommodations.

VI. COURSE SCHEDULE (on the next page)

While we will try to follow the assigned schedule, I reserve the right to change the topics and readings throughout the semester. The ethnography *The Righteous Dopefiend* is identified as R.S.

WK	DAY	DATE	TOPIC	AGENDA
Week 1	Wed	1/21	Course introduction	
	Fri	1/23	What is anthropology	Article: <i>Body Ritual Among the Nacirema</i> RS Chapter: Introduction: A Theory of Abuse
Week 2	Mon	1/26	Culture, ethnocentrism, cultural relativism	Article: <i>Circumcision, Pluralism, and the Dilemmas of Cult. Relat.</i> RS Chapters: Falling in Love & Intimate Apartheid Film in Class: <u>First Contact with a Tribe</u>
	Wed	1/28	Anthropological method and theory	Article: <i>Tricking and Tripping</i> RS Chapter: Addicted Bodies
	Fri	1/30	Library and Research Day	RS Chapters: Childhoods & Making Money
Week 3	Mon	2/2	<i>Writing workshop #1: thesis statements</i>	RS Chapters: Parenting & Male Love
	LIBRARY ASSIGNMENTS DUE BY MONDAY 2/2 AT 11:59pm			
	Wed	2/4	PRESENTATIONS DUE IN CLASS	
	Fri	2/6	PRESENTATIONS DUE IN CLASS	
Week 4	Mon	2/9	<i>Writing workshop #2: structure of arguments</i>	RS Chapter: Everyday Addicts
	Wed	2/11	Race, ethnicity, and nationalism	Article: <i>Mixed Blood</i> RS Chapter: Treatment
	DUE BY THURSDAY NIGHT 2/12 AT 11:59pm: <u>FIRST PAPER</u>			
	Fri	2/13	Race in America	Article: <i>White Privilege</i> RS Chapter: Conclusion
Week 5	Mon	2/16	Race in America	Film in Class: <u>13th</u>
	Wed	2/18	EXAM 1	
	Fri	2/20	Language and communication	

WK	DAY	DATE	TOPIC	AGENDA
Week 6	Mon	2/23	Language and communication	Article: <i>Lost in Translation</i>
	Wed	2/25	Language and communication	Film in Class: <u>Do You Speak American?</u>
	DUE BY THURSDAY NIGHT 2/26 AT 11:59pm: <u>FIRST DRAFT OF SECOND PAPER</u>			
	Fri	2/27	<i>Writing workshop #3: logical fallacies</i>	In-Class Assignment: Peer-Review
Week 7	Mon	3/2	Marriage and kinship	Article: <i>Death Without Weeping</i>
	Wed	3/4	Marriage and kinship	Article: <i>Arranging Marriage in India</i>
	Fri	3/6	Marriage and kinship	Film in Class: <u>Divorce Iranian Style</u>
Week 8	Mon	3/9	Political organization	Article: <i>The Origins of Inequality</i>
	Wed	3/11	Political organization	
	Fri	3/13	Political organization	Film in Class: <u>Guns, Germs, and Steel</u>
	DUE BY FRIDAY NIGHT 3/13 AT 11:59pm: <u>FINAL DRAFT OF SECOND PAPER</u>			
Week 9	Mon	3/16	NO CLASS; SPRING BREAK	
	Wed	3/18		
	Fri	3/20		
Week 10	Mon	3/23	EXAM 2	
	Wed	3/25	Modes of subsistence	
	Fri	3/27	Modes of subsistence	
Week 11	Mon	3/30	Modes of subsistence	Film in Class: <u>Grass</u>
	Wed	4/1	Origins of agriculture	Article: <i>The Worst Mistake in the History of the Human Race</i>
	Fri	4/3	Agriculture	Film in Class: <u>Guns, Germs, and Steel, part II</u>

WK	DAY	DATE	TOPIC	AGENDA	
Week 12	Mon	4/6	<i>Writing workshop #4: concise sentences</i>		
	Wed	4/8	Sex and gender	Article: <i>Strange Country This: An Introduction to North American Gender Diversity</i>	
	Fri	4/10	Sex and gender	Article: <i>Laws, Custom, and Crimes Against Women: The Problem of Dowry Death in India</i>	
Week 13	Mon	4/13	Masculinity and gender in America	Film in Class: <u>Tough Guys</u>	
	Wed	4/15	GUEST SPEAKER		
	DUE ON THURSDAY NIGHT 4/42 BY 11:59pm: <u>FIRST DRAFT OF THIRD PAPER</u>				
	Fri	4/17	<i>Writing workshop #5: style vs. substance</i>	In-Class Assignment: Peer-Review	
Week 14	Mon	4/20	Religion and ritual		
	Wed	4/22	Rituals and costly signaling	Article: <i>The Adaptive Value of Religious Ritual</i>	
	Fri	4/24	Rituals and costly signaling	Film in Class: <u>The Holy Ghost People</u>	
Week 15	Mon	4/27	Colonialism and globalization	Article: <i>Do Muslim Women Really Need Saving?</i>	
	Wed	4/29	Applying anthropology		
	Fri	5/1	Exam 3		
DUE BY MAY 7th AT 11:59pm: <u>FINAL DRAFT OF THIRD PAPER</u>					