

GRANDE PRAIRIE REGIONAL COLLEGE
DEPARTMENT OF ARTS, COMMERCE AND EDUCATION
ANTHROPOLOGY 2070 3(3-0-0), WINTER 2007
INTRODUCTION TO SOCIAL AND CULTURAL ANTHROPOLOGY

Instructor: Dr. Laurie Nock

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Office Hours: Wednesdays and Thursdays, 1-2:30 p.m. Drop-ins welcome.

Prerequisite: Anthropology 1010

Calendar description: The comparative study of human society and culture, particularly non-western communities, with special attention to the family, social structures, economic and political institutions, religion and processes of change.

REQUIRED TEXTS: ONE OF

Alkire, William H. (1989 – 1965). Lamotrek atoll and inter-island socioeconomic ties. Waveland.

Bascom, William (1984 – 1969). The Yoruba of southwestern Nigeria. Waveland.

Klima, George J. (1985 – 1970). The Barabaig: East African cattle-herders. Waveland.

Lee, Richard B. (2002). The Dobe Ju/'Hoansi. Thomson-Wadsworth.

Sutherland, Anne. Gypsies: the hidden Americans. Waveland.

Other readings may be assigned during the term.

RECOMMENDED TEXT

An introductory anthropology text. At least one will be on reserve in the library; consult the instructor about your choice.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course has three main purposes:

- 1) to establish an anthropological framework which can be used to facilitate an understanding of the diverse cultures of this world, and to apply this framework to specific cultures;
- 2) to study a variety of topics in cross-cultural perspective; and
- 3) to introduce students to a variety of research methods used by anthropologists.

REQUIREMENTS AND EVALUATION

Students will often be called upon to report on their learning activities (comments on readings, discussion of assignments and/or reflections of course content in life outside the classroom) and there will also be in-class assignments timed at the instructor's discretion; some of these may require a modest amount of work prior to class. These reports and assignments will be worth 25% percent of the final course grade. As a bonus "in-class" assignment worth ten points, students may meet with me for an in-depth writing tutorial on one of their assignments (or to discuss any topic related to the course) at any point during the term before the last week of classes. Ample opportunity to earn points will be provided, so there will be no make-ups for in-class work.

For in-class assignments and reports ONLY, calculate your mark as a percentage of total marks obtainable. All other assignments are marked on the alpha scale.

Alpha grade	4-point equivalent	Percentage
A+	4.3	80-100
A	4.0	76-79
A-	3.7	73-75
B+	3.3	70-72
B	3.0	67-69
B-	2.7	64-66
C+	2.3	60-63
C	2.0	55-59
C-	1.7	50-54
D+	1.3	45-49
D	1.0	40-44
F	0.0	< 40

Three written assignments are required, each worth 25% of the final course grade (75% in total). These are ethnographies, ethnologies, and reports on research methods. They are marked using the alpha scale. One of each kind of assignment must be submitted. If more than the required assignments are submitted, the best marks will be used in calculating the final grade. Assignments must be submitted by 3 p.m. Monday of the week they are due, except for one late paper, which can be submitted as late as Monday of Week 14. For due dates and more detailed descriptions, see below. E-mailed assignments are not accepted. The instructor will store students' assignments until the second week of the following academic term, when they will be discarded.

YOU MAY WISH TO KEEP TRACK OF ASSIGNMENTS AND MARKS HERE.

ASSIGNMENT

MARK

Ethnography

Ethnology

Research Methods

IN-CLASS ASSIGNMENTS AND REPORTS

For this portion of this the course ONLY, calculate your mark as a percentage of total marks obtainable.

DATE

MARK

DATE

MARK

ANTHROPOLOGY 2070: ETHNOGRAPHY ASSIGNMENTS

Value: 25%

Due date: Monday of Week 5

Summarize the ethnography you have selected, seeking information on the topics below. Include at the beginning of your paper a brief presentation of your ethnographic source material: the ethnographer, when and how materials were collected, and your general evaluation of the text. In this way, you can avoid constant reference to source material. It is your responsibility to demonstrate that you have at least attempted to supplement this information that is not in the ethnography itself. (For this purpose, use proper APA references.) You are also expected to use anthropological terms appropriately. Length: 10-15 pages, double-spaced.

ECONOMIC ORGANIZATION

geographical location, climate
productive activities, resources available and used, technological base
access to and ownership of resources, e.g. land, animals, tools
division of labor and/or occupational specialization
distribution of production: sharing, trade and/or tribute

POLITICAL ORGANIZATION

decision-making and decision makers
type of government and authority structures
dealing with conflict
social control--law, enforcers, coercion
relations w/ neighbors--war, trade, diplomacy, subordination

SOCIAL ORGANIZATION

demographic features (size of population and population density)
residence/settlement pattern
type of community; egalitarian or hierarchical society
class relations, ethnic and race relations
non-kin based organizations
kinship structure: descent, kin terms
domestic unit, domestic life
marital patterns and practices; preferences and prohibitions
gender relations

IDEOLOGY, WORLDVIEW, RELIGION

art forms, crafts
mythology, deities, forms of worship
celebrations, ceremonies and rituals
values and beliefs that shape behavior

ANTHROPOLOGY 2070: ETHNOLOGY ASSIGNMENTS

Value: 25%

Due date: Monday of Week 9

This is your opportunity to carry out cross-cultural research on topics and cultures which intrigue you. Concentrate on the topic; this is not just a description, but also an analysis of what can be learned through cross-cultural comparison. Expectations include but are not limited to

- a) library research in print materials and databases, supplemented by the Internet, with proper APA references to at least six sources;
- b) a length of up to 10 pages, double-spaced (2500 words);
- c) consideration of at least three cultures, one of which may be your own.

Sample topics:

war	rites of passage
family	voluntary organizations
child-rearing	mythology
gender	love
medicine / illness	racism / ethnicity
death	kinship
fabric	symbols
nutrition / food etiquette	media
tobacco use	

ANTHROPOLOGY 2070: RESEARCH METHODS

Value: 25%

Due date: Monday of 13

One of these assignments is required.

Following a discussion of the research methods, you will devise and carry out a short research project.

- a) Submit a report of up to 10 pages, double-spaced (2500 words).
- b) In your introduction to this report, demonstrate that your use of the chosen research method is consistent with anthropological methodology.
- c) Discuss both what you learn about the individual/s and cultural group or practice you are observing, and what light this sheds on our culture and society as a whole.
- d) Finally, evaluate the usefulness of the method to research and to yourself.

PARTICIPANT OBSERVATION

GENEALOGY

LIFE HISTORY or ORAL HISTORY

ARCHIVES AND DOCUMENTS

CONTENT ANALYSIS

ANTHROPOLOGY 2070, WINTER 2007
SCHEDULE OF TOPICS AND ASSIGNMENTS

Week 1: Ethnography: Economic systems
Be familiar with the economic organization of the people you are studying.

Week 2: Ethnography: Political systems.
Be familiar with the political organization of the people you are studying.

Week 3: Ethnography: Social systems.
Be familiar with the social organization of the people you are studying.

Week 4: Ethnography: Ideological systems.
Be familiar with the ideological organization of the people you are studying.
ETHNOGRAPHY ASSIGNMENT DUE ON MONDAY OF WEEK 5.

Weeks 5-8: Ethnology
Early in the term, we will select cross-cultural topics of interest to the class. Each week, students and the instructor will collaborate in organizing and presenting these topics to the class, assigning readings as appropriate. Student presentations will be worth 20 in-class assignment marks, and commentary will provide an opportunity to improve their final assignment.
ETHNOLOGY ASSIGNMENT DUE ON MONDAY OF WEEK 9.

Weeks 9-13: Research methods
We will deal with a different research method each week. Be familiar with the methods used by the ethnographer you have studied. Student presentations will be worth 20 in-class assignment marks, and commentary will provide an opportunity to improve their final assignment.
ETHNOLOGY ASSIGNMENT DUE ON MONDAY OF WEEK 13.

ONE LATE ASSIGNMENT DUE ON MONDAY OF WEEK 14.