Anthropology 102 – Human Ways of Life: Cultural Anthropology

Lecture: Wed., 6:50pm – 10:00pm; Room FH B22
Instructor: Dr. Martin Cohen
Office Hour: Wed., 6:15pm – 6:50pm;
Contact: martin.cohen@csun.edu

Last day to:
Add classes: Saturday, September 11th
Drop with a refund: Monday, September 13th
Drop without a fee: Monday, September 13th
Drop without a W: Friday, September 24th
Apply for Credit/No Credit: Friday, September 24th
Drop with a W: Friday, November 19th

IMPORTANT NOTICE: Students who have never attended prior to census day will be excluded from the class in accordance with state and school regulations. Students who attend even one session prior to census day will be kept on the roster unless they initiate a withdrawal. Students who are on the roster at the end of the term will be assigned the grade they have earned, even if they failed to attend class and take the exams.

Course Description and Objectives: This course establishes the four-field approach to anthropology while covering both anthropological theory and method. The course presents a holistic perspective to human culture and presents the concept of cultural relativism. This course will help the student develop a deeper understanding of the human condition, including a broader understanding of cultural variation. The student will become familiar with the scientific method and other scholarly approaches by which culture and society are studied and explained; as well as the unique perspective anthropology brings to the social sciences. By the completion of this course, the student should have an appreciation of the human species and an understanding that human adaptation to virtually every environment on this planet, from the polar region to the equator, required acts of ingenuity as great as any found in our own technological innovations.

Student Learning Outcomes: The student will write an essay on identifying the role of the ethnographer. The essay should demonstrate an understanding of anthropological perspectives.


Course Requirements: There will be two quizzes, one midterm, and one final. There will be a mandatory essay concerning a theme in cultural anthropology. In addition, there will be ten homework assignments in the form of questions concerning the readings. The essay is a course requirement, it must be turned in to complete the course and receive a passing grade, but it will not receive a letter grade or be worth points in determining the student’s grade. The homework assignments will be worth 5 points each, for a total of 50 points. The quizzes may consist of short answer questions, essay questions, and/or multiple choice questions. Each quiz will be worth 25 points. The midterm will consist of multiple choice and true/false questions and will be worth 50 points. The final will also consist of multiple choice and true/false questions, will be worth 50 points, and will cover material from throughout the course.

Quizzes and tests will cover material in the readings, lectures and other class presentations, including videos. While the various sources of information for this course reinforce one another, they do not completely overlap. Students are expected to be familiar with the readings as well as material presented in
class; attending class without reading the text, or reading the text without attending class will not sufficiently prepare the student for the quizzes or exams.

**Grading:** There are 200 points possible. Grading will breakdown as follows: A – 180 to 200 points; B – 160 to 179 points; C – 136 to 159 points; D – 116 to 135 points; anything lower than 116 points will be an F.

**Extra Credit and Attendance:** The best assurance of a passing grade is to study hard and be prepared for the tests. Extra credit assignments tend to distract from this primary task. The ONLY source of extra credit will be 10 bonus points. Each student will start out with 10 bonus points. Beginning the second week of instruction, one absence will cost the student five bonus points. Two absences will cost the student all of his/her bonus points. There will be no other source of bonus points. An “absence” is defined as not being present when the instructor takes role. Being present during a portion of the class, but not at the time role is taken will count as an absence. Role will be taken when the instructor deems it convenient to do so.

It is doubtful that one may earn a grade higher than a “C” if one misses five or more class meetings. It is doubtful that one may earn a passing grade if one misses eight to ten class meetings. The instructor will make himself as available as possible after class for students who need help. Students who seek special consideration in terms of extra credit, an exception made for a particular exam or quiz response, credit for an out of class activity, or any other exceptional consideration will be directed back to the above paragraph. These bonus points may be precious, once they are gone, there is no way to get them back.

**Incompletes:** Except for extraordinary emergency situations, the student is better off taking a withdrawal than an incomplete. The Instructor will ONLY grand incompletes to students missing no more than one assignment. Students who are missing more than one assignment that has not been made up by the time of the final will receive the grade earned by their total points.

**Classroom Rules:** 1. Students are requested to turn cell phones off during class and KEEP THEM OUT OF SIGHT. Students will neither receive nor make phone calls during class time (you will be reminded by the instructor’s angry glare every time your phone sounds or appears on your desk). 2. Students are expected to attend class regularly. 3. Students are expected to come to class on time. Late arrivals are disruptive – if this becomes a problem during the semester, students arriving late will not be admitted to class. 4. Any chatting, note-passing, loud eating or other behaviors that disturb and distract other students or the instructor are prohibited. 5. Students should leave the room only when absolutely necessary. Frequent exiting and entering during class time will result in restrictions.

**Academic Honesty:** There is no place in the college environment for cheating or plagiarism. All incidents of dishonesty will require a response in accordance with school policy. Plagiarism consists of the use of printed, published, or on-line information without proper citation of source, as well as direct, word for word copying without quotation marks and proper citation. Any plagiarized assignment will receive 0 points, with no appeal.

**Course Outline:**

**WEEK 1** September 1st  
Introduction to Course and Anthropology. Reading: Chapter 1.

**WEEK 2** September 8th  
Topic: Human Diversity, Human Evolution; Studying People. Readings: Chapters 2 and 3  
**Video:** Faces of Culture #3: How Cultures are Studied
WEEK 3  September 15th
Topics: Topics: Studying People (cont.); The Concept of Culture. Reading: Chapter 4.
WEEK 4  September 22nd
WEEK 5  September 29th
WEEK 6  October 6th  Quiz 1
Topic: Subsistence (cont.); Economic Organization. Reading: Chapter 7.
WEEK 7  October 13th
WEEK 8  October 20th - Midterm
WEEK 9  October 27th
Topics: Kinship (cont.); Sex, Gender, and Culture. Reading: Chapter 10.
WEEK 10  November 3rd
Topics: Sex (cont.); Political Organization. Reading: Chapter 11.
WEEK 11  November 10th - Quiz 2
Topics: Politics; Social Stratification. Reading: Chapter 12
WEEK 12  November 17th
Topic: Ethnicity and Cultural Diversity. Reading: Chapter 13
WEEK 13  November 24th
Topics: Ethnicity (cont); Religion and the Sacred. Reading: Chapter 14
WEEK 14  December 1st
Topic: Religion (cont.): Aesthetics and Expressive Culture; Culture and Change. Readings: Chapters 15-16.
WEEK 15  December 8th
Summing up, concluding discussion.
FINAL EXAM: Wednesday, December 15th; 7:30 – 9:30pm