

**Anthropology: Global Cultures**  
**ANTH 2322: Fall 2008**  
**LS: 101:Tuesday, Thursday: 11:00 – 12:20**

Dr. Ritu G Khanduri

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**Course Objectives:**

The goal of this course is to introduce students to key anthropological concepts in order to develop a critical perspective of culture. Three central themes frame the selection of readings: Ethnographic Methods, Cultural Constructions of Reality, and Globalization. Readings focus on diverse geographical areas and will encourage students to develop an analytical approach to better understand other cultures as well as their own everyday practices and beliefs.

**Course Format:**

The course format includes lectures, film screenings, discussions, debates, and team-based in-class exercises. Evaluation will be based on participation, three essays, two quizzes, a mid-term exam and a final exam. In order to foster **active learning** and **Team-Based Learning** the class will be organized in teams. Extra credit for this course will be based on team performance and individual submission to the one-book essay contest. Essays will be required to focus on the theme **connections** and build on the course material. Details will be discussed in the introductory class.

**Required Texts**

Powdermaker, Hortense, 1966. *Stranger and Friend: The Way of an Anthropologist*. W. W. Norton & Company; 1<sup>st</sup> edition.

Donna Goldstein, 2003. *Laughter Out of Place: Race, Class, Violence, and Sexuality in a Rio Shantytown*. Berkeley: University of California Press.

Spradley, James, and David McCurdy. 2006. *Conformity and Conflict: Readings in Cultural Anthropology*. Allyn & Bacon; 12<sup>th</sup> edition.

**Optional Text:** Nicole Krauss, 2005. *The History of Love*. W. W. Norton & Company.

All texts are available at the UTA bookstore. A copy of each title is on reserve in the Central Library. Most supplementary and optional readings will be available electronically on the **course web site (W)**: [http://webct.uta.edu/SCRIPT/anth2322001fa08/scripts/serve\\_home](http://webct.uta.edu/SCRIPT/anth2322001fa08/scripts/serve_home)

**Occasional Handouts** on relevant topics and debates will be distributed in class.

The **course website (W)** also hosts relevant external links and a discussion board.

## Requirements and Evaluation

**Grades** in the course will be assigned according to the following scale:

100-90 = A 80-89 = B 70-79 = C 60-69 = D

**Attendance** in class is mandatory. You are allowed two unexcused absences during the semester. Any additional unexcused absences will result in the loss of two points for each absence from your final grade for the course. If you will be absent for religious holiday observance, sports activities, or other legitimate reasons, please provide appropriate documentation and make sure I know ahead of time. You are responsible for acquiring class notes and handouts for missed classes.

**Class participation** is required and expected. We will have regular in-class discussions of course readings, films, and lectures, and all students are expected to contribute to these discussions by reading the assigned material by the due date. Participation counts for 10% of the overall course grade.

### Essays, Quizzes, Presentations, and Exams:

Three Essays (Best 3 of 4, 10 points each) = 30 points

2 Team Quizzes (10 points each) = 20 points

Mid Term Exam (Quiz and Essay) = 20 points

Final Exam (Quiz and Essays) = 20 points

Participation = 10 points

Total = 100 points

**Essays** will be a 250-300 word reflective writing based on a question posted on the course website at least a week in advance of the due date.

**Quizzes:** Multiple-choice questions based on the course material including lectures and films.

**Extra Credit** up to **4 percent** of the final grade will be based on bonus points earned from team quizzes. The three highest scoring teams will earn bonus points for quizzes. Extra credit up to **5 percent** of the final grade will be based on submissions to the one-book essay contest. The book for this year is Nicole Krauss' *The History of Love*. The theme for this year is **connections**. Essay toward extra credit will reflect on the theme by building on the course material. Details will be discussed in the introductory class.

**Assignments** must be typed and submitted in class on the due date. Assignments will not be accepted electronically. **Late assignments** will be marked down one point per day late except in cases of legitimate, documented circumstances that prevent you from completing assignments.

**Make up** Quizzes and exams will only be given in the event of a documented illness or emergency.

**Team Based Learning** (TBL) requires you to prepare and participate as a team on quizzes discussions, and in-class activities. In order to make TBL and performance more effective you will be asked for one anonymous peer feedback during the semester. Peer feedback will be considered for partially determining the individual grade for participation.

**Email and the course website** will be used as a means of communication with students. If you are unable to access your email or course website then please contact UTA's OIT Help Desk at (817) 272-2208. You will be responsible for checking your **e-mail and course website** regularly for class work, electronic readings, assignments, discussions, and announcements.

**Feedback** is an important part of any kind of learning. Without feedback on how well you understand the material it is more difficult for you to make significant progress. During this course you will give me feedback on your learning in informal and formal ways, such as anonymous feedback forms, assignments and exams. I want you to let me know when something we discuss is not clear. This kind of communication will enable me to provide additional information when needed or to explain a concept in different terms.

In addition to feedback on your learning, I will be asking for feedback from you about how my teaching strategies are helping or hindering your learning. This kind of feedback is very important to me as I continually strive to be the best teacher I can be. This feedback will be gathered from anonymous surveys. I encourage you to respond to these surveys so that together we can create an effective teaching and learning environment. I believe Team Based Learning (TBL) to be an effective teaching/learning method. In the present context professional learning skills are valued in every work place and TBL will help you develop these skills. Since I am incorporating TBL as an important component of this course, your anonymous feedback will also help me evaluate this method for teaching cultural anthropology. Your feedback will also help me to consider your suggestions for any improvement in the course format.

### **Academic Integrity and Scholastic Honesty**

Academic integrity and scholastic honesty is expected of all students and applies to all assignments, quizzes, and exams in this course. Policy on cheating—students who violate University rules on academic integrity and scholastic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary penalties, including the possibility of failure in the course and dismissal from the University. Since dishonesty harms the individual, all students, and the integrity of the University, policies on scholastic dishonesty will be strictly enforced. In the case of the team based assignments collaborative work is expected but the standards of integrity and honesty still apply. Please read all of the information in:

<http://www.uta.edu/studentaffairs/judicialaffairs/aiwhatconstitutes.html>

### **Accommodations for Persons with Documented Disabilities**

As a faculty member, I am required by law to provide “reasonable accommodations” to students with disabilities, so as not to discriminate on the basis of that disability. Student responsibility primarily rests with informing faculty of their need for accommodation and in providing authorized documentation through designated administrative channels. Information regarding specific diagnostic criteria and policies for obtaining academic accommodations can be found at [www.uta.edu/disability](http://www.uta.edu/disability). Also, you may visit the Office for Students with Disabilities in University Hall room 102 or call them at (817) 272- 3364.

**\*Class Etiquette:** Please switch off your cell phones and electronic gadgets in class. Laptops may only be used for taking notes. Professional conduct in class and email is required. No late entries or early exits without Dr. Khanduri's prior permission. Unprofessional conduct will affect your participation grade.

**Week 1: Aug. 26-28**

Tuesday

- Introduction and overview of the course
- Team based learning
- Practice in-class Team Quiz

Thursday

**What is Anthropology? What is culture? I**

James Spradley, Ethnography and Culture in Spradley and McCurdy Chpt. 1

Horace Miner, 'Body Ritual Among the Nacirema' in *American Anthropologist* Vol. 58, No. 3. 1956. (Handout in class)

- Discussion

**Week 2: Sept. 2-4**

**Culture and Ethnography**

Tuesday

R. B. Lee, 'Eating Christmas in the Kalahari' in Spradley and McCurdy Chpt. 2

Bohannon, 'Shakespeare in the Bush' in Spradley and McCurdy Chpt. 3.

Clifford Geertz, 'Deep Play: Notes on the Balinese cockfight' (Optional, **W**)

Kirin Narayan, 'How Native Is a "Native" Anthropologist?' in *American Anthropologist* New Series 95, No.3. 1993. (Optional, **W**)

Thursday

Film screening: *American Tongues* by Louis Alvarez & Andrew Kolkar (1984)

**Week 3: Sept. 9-11**

**Ethnography: Methods, Ethics, and Politics of Studying Culture**

Tuesday

George Gmelch, Lessons from the Field in Spradley and McCurdy Chpt. 5

- Paper 1 Due in class (See **W** for details)\*

Thursday

- Debate 1: 'Should Anthropologists Work to Eliminate the Practice of Female circumcision?' (**W**)

- Read *Stranger and Friend* Parts I - II

**Week 4: Sept. 16-18**

**Social and Cultural constructions of Reality**

Tuesday

Spradley and McCurdy - Language and Communication

D.S. Thomson: The Sapir-Whorf Hypothesis: Worlds Shaped by Words in

Spradley and McCurdy Chpt. 6

E. Schildkrout, Body Art as Visual Language in Spradley and McCurdy Chpt. 8

D. Tannen, Conversation Style: Talking on the Job in Spradley and McCurdy Chpt. 9

Thursday

- Discussion
- **Team Quiz 1**

**Week 5: Sept. 23-25**

**Ritual**

Tuesday

Sherry Ortner, 'On Key Symbols' in *American Anthropologist*, Vol. 75, No. 5. 1973 (Optional W)

J. Dubisch, "Run for the Wall" in Spradley and McCurdy Chpt. 29

Thursday

- Discussion
- Read *Stranger and Friend* Parts III and IV

**Week 6: Sept. 30-Oct. 2**

**Progress**

Tuesday

Richard Lee, The Hunters: Scarce Resources in the Kalahari in Spradley and McCurdy Chpt. 10

Guest Speaker, Ms. Linda Tucker

Thursday

- Film screening: *N!ai – Story of a !Kung Woman* by John Marshall & A. Miesmer (1984)
- Read *Strange and Friend* Part V
- Discussion
- Paper 2 Due in class (See W for details)\*

**Week 7: Oct. 7-9**

**Kinship, Family and Identity I**

Tuesday

Patterns of Family Relations

Nancy Scheper-Hughes, Death Without Weeping in Spradley and McCurdy Chpt.16

Margery Wolf, Uterine Families in Spradley and McCurdy Chpt.19

Thursday

- Discussion

**Week 8: Oct. 14-16**

**Kinship, Family and Identity II**

Tuesday

- Debate 2: 'Is it Natural for Adopted Children to Want to Find Out about Their Birth Parents?' (W)

Thursday

- Mid-Term (Team Quiz and Essay)\*

**Week 9: Oct. 21-23**

**Kinship, Family and Identity III**

Tuesday

Clifford Geertz, 'Life without Fathers or Husbands' in Spradley and McCurdy Chpt.18

Elizabeth Fernea, Symbolizing Roles Behind the Veil in Spradley and McCurdy Chpt. 20

Thursday

- Debate 3: 'Has the Islamic Revolution in Iran subjugated women?' (W)

- Discussion

**The Construction of the Nation State**

- The Nation State
- Read *Laughter Out of Place* Chpts. 1, 2 and 3
- Peer feedback to be emailed to Ms. Parker. Form on webct.
- Instructor feedback due in class. Form on webct.

**Week 10: Oct. 28 – 30**

**Violence**

Tuesday

‘Letter to America’ (W)

Catherine Lutz, Military Bases and Ethnographies of the New Militarization in *Anthropology Today*, January 2005. (W)

Thursday

- Read *Laughter Out of Place* Chpts. 4-5
- Discussion
- Paper 3 Due in Class\*

**Week 11: Nov. 4 – 6**

**Social Hierarchy: Race, Gender and Class I**

Tuesday

Jeffrey M. Fish, Mixed Blood in Spradley and McCurdy Chpt.23

Pauline T. Strong, ‘Animated Indians: Critique and contradiction in commodified children’s culture’ in *Cultural Anthropology*, Vol.11, No. 3.1996. (W)

Pamela Perry, ‘Situated Meanings of White as a Cultural Identity’ in *Shades of White* (2002) (W)

Thursday

- Film screening: *Cheerleader* by Kimberlee Bassford (2003)
- Read *Laughter Out of Place* Chpts. 6-7
- Discussion

**Week 12: Nov. 11–13**

**Social Hierarchy: Race, Gender and Class II**

Tuesday

How does race and gender matter?

Thursday

Philippe Bourgoise, Office Work and the Crack Alternative in Spradley and McCurdy Chpt.15

Newitz AnnaLee and Matt Wray, Introduction in *White Trash, Race and Class in the United States*. Pp.1-11 (Optional W)

- Quiz 2\*

**Week 13: Nov.18 – 20**

**Globalization**

Tuesday

Dianne Shandy, ‘The Road to Refugee Resettlement’ in Spradley and McCurdy, Chpt. 31

D. Brennan, ‘Men’s Pleasure, Women’s Labor’ in Spradley and McCurdy, Chpt. 32

## Global Cultures: Khanduri

Ian Condry, 'Japanese Hip Hop' in Spradley and McCurdy, Chpt. 33  
Arjun Appadurai, "Disjuncture and Difference in the Global Cultural Economy" (1996)  
(Optional **W**)

Thursday

Film Screening: *Life and Debt* by Stephanie Black (2001)

### **Week 14: Nov. 25 – 27**

- Globalization

Tuesday

Nancy Scheper Hughes, The Global Traffic in Human Organs: A Report  
Presented to the House Subcommittee on International Operations and Human  
Rights, United States Congress on June 27, 2001 (**W**)

- Discussion
- Paper 4 due in class (Optional)\*

Thursday

Thanksgiving Holidays

### **Week 15: Dec. 2 – 4**

#### **Ethics and Practice: Anthropology in the Public domain**

Tuesday

Anthropologists on the war terrain in Select readings on **W** and handouts

Thursday

Terence Turner, 'The Kayapo Resistance' in Spradley and McCurdy, Chpt. 34

Sonia Patten, Medical Anthropology in Spradley and McCurdy Chpt. 35

Guest Speakers: Graduate Students

- Discussion and Course review

### **Week 16: Final Exam**

**Tuesday, December 09. 11:00 am-1:30 pm. Venue: LS 101**

**Team Quiz and Essay**