

Introduction to Anthropology: Expressive Culture (ANT 305, Unique #31255)

The University of Texas at Austin, Spring 2012

Lectures: MWF 3-4 pm, JGB 2.216

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and by appointment

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Course Description:

This course is an introduction to the anthropological analysis of expressive cultural forms. Students will be introduced to key terms, concepts, methods and issues in the discipline. The aim of the course is to develop students' skills in critical thinking, analysis, and exposition through the study of textual, visual, and sonic creative forms. Through these means, students will be encouraged to reexamine their own experiences as social and cultural beings and to develop an understanding of the myriad ways cultural forms are expressed and reproduced.

Required Texts:

Barber, Karin. 2007. The Anthropology of Texts, Persons and Publics: Oral and written culture in Africa and beyond. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. (Available for purchase at UT Co-op; on reserve at the PCL.)

Chibnik, Michael. 2003. Crafting Tradition: The Making and Marketing of Oaxacan Wood Carvings. Joe R. and Teresa Lozano Long Series in Latin American and Latino Art and Culture. Austin: University of Texas Press. (Available for purchase at UT Co-op; available as an electronic book through the UT Library Catalog; on reserve in the PCL.)

Kratz, Corinne. 2002. The Ones That Are Wanted: Communication and the politics of representation in a photographic exhibition. Berkeley: University of California Press. (Available for purchase at UT Co-op; as electronic book available through the UT Library Catalog; on reserve in the PCL.)

McAlister, Elizabeth. 2002. Rara! Vodou, Power, and Performance in Haiti and Its Diaspora. Berkeley: University of California Press. (Available for purchase with CD/electronic access to music at UT Co-op; electronic book available through the UT Library Catalog; on reserve in PCL.)

Additional articles will be posted on Blackboard.

Films and Media Showings:

Films and other media showings are integral to the course content. Students who miss viewing films at the scheduled times are responsible for making other arrangements to view them, and are responsible for knowing the content.

Course Website:

All students enrolled in the course may access the course website through Blackboard at <http://courses.utexas.edu>. Assignments, readings, and other relevant materials and communications will be posted on this site. Other information about the course may be found on the CLIPS website accessible from your home page on UT Direct. It is your responsibility to check the course website regularly for announcements and assignments.

Requirements, Evaluations, and Grading Policies:

Regular class attendance, participation, and timely completion of the reading and writing assignments are important for success in this course. Attendance will be taken at the beginning of each class meeting and participation will be tracked through oral discussions and written exercises. If you know ahead of time that you will be absent on a particular date/s, please communicate and make arrangements with the instructor as soon as possible (ahead of time) to make sure that you do not fall behind. Some absences may be excused (illness, death in the family, emergency, school sponsored trip or activity), but written documentation of the situation must be provided to the professor prior to the absence if possible, or immediately following in the case of an emergency. Please note that if you are ill, you may request from the Student Health Center a note indicating your visit to the doctor.

Each student is responsible for completing readings before the class date for which they are listed. Lectures will supplement rather than repeat the material in the readings. Time will be provided for questions during each class and media showing. Class discussion is an integral part of this course. Please respect the words, thoughts, feelings, and personal beings of your fellow students at all times, so that all students can be comfortable expressing themselves. Students are also encouraged to meet individually with the instructor and teaching assistant during their office hours.

Evaluation and Grading:

NO Electronic Devices in Class
NO Cell Phones, NO Laptops

Assignments and quizzes (5 points each)	40 points (best 8)
Mid-Term Exam	20 points
Final Exam	25 points
Participation	10 points
<u>Attendance</u>	<u>05 points</u>
Total	100 points

Each week, either an in-class quiz will be given or a short written assignment will be due. You must complete at least three of the five written assignments. It is recommended that you complete at least one for each book. Each assignment will be worth 5 points, and the best 8 of your grades will be counted. Use your discretion and plan wisely to maximize your points earned.

Quizzes will be given over vocabulary, concepts, theorists, and geographical locations of peoples studied. For these quizzes, any information necessary in addition to the assigned texts will be provided by class on Mondays, and the quizzes will be administered at the beginning of class the following Fridays.

All written assignments must be typed and turned in on time. Each assignment is to be 2 pages, double-spaced, 12-point font; guidelines are posted on Blackboard. Assignments will be made by class on Mondays, and HARD COPIES of weekly writing assignments will be due Fridays at the BEGINNING of class, as assigned.

You must be present in class in order to turn in homework, take quizzes or do other in-class assignments and activities. No make-up assignments or quizzes will be given. No assignments will be accepted via e-mail. No late assignments will be accepted. It is your responsibility to keep a copy of all assignments submitted.

Make-up exams will only be given in the event of a documented illness or emergency. Final grades will be assigned according to the standard 100-point, A-F scale.

Academic Integrity

Students who violate University rules on scholastic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary penalties, including the possibility of failure in the course and/or dismissal from the University. Since such dishonesty harms the individual, all students, and the integrity of the University, policies on scholastic dishonesty will be strictly enforced. Plagiarism (using words *or ideas* that are not your own) violates the UT honor code. A student's first instance of plagiarism will be punished with a failing grade for that assignment. A second case of plagiarism will result in a failing grade in the course and a report to the Dean. For further information please visit the Student Judicial Services Web site: <http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/sjs> or call 471-2841.

Accommodation for Students with Disabilities:

Any student with a documented disability (cognitive or physical) who requires academic accommodations should contact the Services for Students with Disabilities office at the Office of the Dean of Students at 471-6259 (voice) or 471-6441 (TTY for users who are deaf or hard of hearing) as soon as possible to request an official letter outlining authorized accommodations. Please submit the letter to the instructor as early in the semester as possible so that accommodations can be made.

Course Schedule:

Week 1 What is the anthropology of expressive culture?

W 1/18 Introduction and review of syllabus, What is expressive culture?

F 1/20 *Read:* Miller, Barbara. "Chapter 1: Anthropology and the Study of Culture," and "Chapter 11: Expressive Culture," in Cultural Anthropology in a Globalizing World. (on Blackboard)

Week 2 Introduction to Texts and Textual Analysis

M 1/23 Anthropology of language

W 1/25 What is a text?

F 1/27 Genre, society, and history

Read: Barber, Chapters 1-2

Due: Assignment 1—Quiz

Week 3 Making Persons: Oral Texts, Performance and Personhood

M 1/30 The anthropology of performance and social organization

W 2/1 Kinship structures and social roles

F 2/3 Social structure and exchange, symbolism, and personal identity

Read: Barber, Chapters 3-4

Due: Assignment 2—Quiz

Week 4 ***Audiences, Publics, and the Private***

M 2/6 Publics, memory, and the role of texts

W 2/8 Changing relationships with texts

F 2/10 The private

Read: Barber, Chapters 5-6, recommended: Chapter 7

Due: Assignment 3—Written response paper

Week 5 ***Texts and Performance in Rara***

M 2/13 Introduction to Rara!: Texts and performance

W 2/15 Carnival play and religious work

F 2/17 Music and dance

Read: McAlister, Introduction and Chapters 1

Due: Assignment 4—Quiz

Week 6 ***Gender, Vulgarity, and Politics***

M 2/20 Speech, obscenity and vulgarity

W 2/22 Gender and Sexuality: The Small Man

F 2/24 Gender and spiritual work

Read: McAlister, Chapter 2-3

Due: Assignment 5—Quiz

Week 7 ***Ethnicity, Militarism and Domination***

M 2/27 Ethnicity and symbolic performance

W 2/29 Rara as army

F 3/2 ***Read:*** McAlister, Chapters 4-5

Due: Assignment 6— Written response paper

Week 8 ***Speaking about Domination and Transnationalism***

M 3/5 Domination and performance

W 3/7 Transnational expressive culture

Read: McAlister, Chapters 6-7

F 3/9 MID-TERM

Week 9 ***March 12-16: Spring Break***

Week 10 ***Photography and Visual Texts***

M 3/19 Introduction to *The Ones That Are Wanted* and analysis of photography

W 3/21 Anthropological fieldwork and texts

F 3/23 Representation

Read: Kratz, Prologue and Exhibit; article on photography to be announced

Due: Assignment 7— Written response paper

Week 11 ***Images, Exhibitions and the Politics of Representation***

M 3/26 Politics of representation

W 3/28 Producing photographs and exhibits

F 3/30 Producing photographs and exhibits

Read: Kratz, Chapters 1-3

Due: Assignment 8—Quiz

Week 12 ***Imagination and Audience Reception***

M 4/2 In Kenya

W 4/6 In the United States

F 11/11 ***Read:*** Kratz, Chapters 3-5

Due: Assignment 9—Written response paper

<i>Week 13</i>	<i>Craft Production and Tourism</i>
M 4/9	Introduction
W 4/11	History of Oaxacan Wood Carving
F 4/13	Contemporary Wood Carving
	<i>Read:</i> Chibnik, Chapters 1-3 <i>Due:</i> Assignment 10—Quiz
<i>Week 14</i>	<i>Economics of Craft Production</i>
M 4/16	Communities and economic strategies
W 4/18	Production, markets, and work organization
F 4/20	<i>Read:</i> Chibnik, Chapters 4-7 <i>Due:</i> Assignment 11—Quiz
<i>Week 15</i>	<i>Specialization and Aesthetics</i>
M 4/23	Specializations
W 4/25	How Artisans Attain Success
F 4/27	Media, Styles, and Success
	<i>Read:</i> Chibnik, Chapters 8-10 <i>Due:</i> Assignment 12—Written response paper
<i>Week 16</i>	<i>Economics of Tourism and Sales</i>
M 4/30	Economics of consumption: Local and international tourism and sales
W 5/2	<i>Read:</i> Chibnik, Chapters 11-13
F 5/4	Last class day: closing discussions and course surveys
<i>Week 17</i>	<i>Final Exams</i>
M 5/7	No classes
W 5/9-T 5/15	Final exams: Date and time of exam to be announced