ANT 302

INTRODUCTION TO CULTURAL ANTHROPOLOGY

Spring 2011

Instructor:  DANNY LAW
law.dannylaw@gmail.com
Office Hours:  Mon 12-1:30, Tues 1-2:30; by appointment
Office: SAC 4.140

TAs:  TATHAGATAN RAVINDRAN  TANE WARD
tathagatan83@gmail.com  tane@mail.utexas.edu
office hours: TBA  office hours: TBA

Lectures: MW 3-4  GSB 2.126
Discussion Sections:

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<tr>
<th>UNIQUE #</th>
<th>TIME</th>
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<tr>
<td>31185</td>
<td>W 8-9 am</td>
<td>SAC 5.102</td>
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<td>31190</td>
<td>TH 11-12 am</td>
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<td>31195</td>
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<td>31200</td>
<td>W 5-6 pm</td>
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COURSE DESCRIPTION
This course is an introduction to the concepts, methods and current debates in cultural anthropology. The goal of the course is to provide students with the key terms, concepts and critical analytical skills that are central to studying culture and social life. Students will learn about the diversity of ways in which humans experience and understand the world around them and in the process learn to question and critique many of our own culturally constructed assumptions about how things are or should be.

REQUIRED TEXTS
There are three required texts for this class, to be supplemented with additional readings, in pdf format, that will be posted on Blackboard. Please note the edition being used. Other editions are too different to be usable for the course. Texts are available at the University Co-op.


Course Organization
The course consists of two weekly lectures and one smaller discussion section. Attendance in both lectures and discussion sections is required. In addition to daily readings, students will be expected to write two short critical analysis papers (4-5 pgs each), on a topic to be assigned in class and to propose and carry out a simple ethnographic project to turn in at the end of the course (5-8 pgs). There will also be midterm and final exams. In addition, there will be occasional quizzes on the readings given in discussion sections.

Attendance and Grading Policies
Regular class attendance, participation, and timely completion of assignments are important for success in this course. Attendance will be taken for each class meeting. Students will lose one percentage point off of the final grade for each unexcused absence up to 10 absences. This includes the discussion sections. If you know ahead of time that you will be absent on a particular date, please make arrangements with the instructor as soon as possible (ahead of time) to make sure that you do not fall behind. Students are also responsible for checking their email regularly for correspondence regarding the course. Each student is responsible for completing readings before the class for which they are assigned. Lectures will supplement rather than repeat the material in the readings. Time will be provided for questions during each class and discussion section. Students are also encouraged to meet individually with the instructor and teaching assistants during their office hours.

Grading
Attendance and Participation 10%
Critical analysis papers 20% (10% each)
Ethnographic Project
Proposal 5%
Final Writeup 15%
Reading Quizzes 5%
Midterm Exam 20%
Final Exam 25%

Assignments and late work
All assignments must be turned in on time. Late assignments will not be accepted. Written assignments should be typed and turned in hardcopy. Emailed assignments will not be accepted!

Accommodations 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

W  1/19  Introduction and Review of Syllabus
M  1/24  Methods and History of Anthropology
        Read: *Taking Sides* “Issue 8: Should cultural anthropology stop trying to model itself on sciences?” (pp. 138-160)
W  1/26  Ethical Imperatives
        Read: *Gebusi* Intro and Ch. 1-3; *Taking Sides* “Issue 18: Did Napoleon Chagnon's Research Methods and Publications Harm the Yanomami Indians?” (pp. 339-363)

**Critical analysis paper 1 assigned**

M  1/31  The meaning of progress
        Read: *Cultural Anthropology* Ch. 2; *Shakespeare in the Bush* (PDF)
W  2/ 2  Cultural Relativity, Cultural Critique
        Read: *Cultural Anthropology* Ch. 1

**Critical analysis paper 1 due**

M  2/ 7  Language, Mind and Culture
        Read: *Taking Sides*: Issue 7: Should Anthropologists and Linguists Be Concerned about Losing Endangered Languages? (pp. 122-134); *Lakoff*’Metaphors we live by’ PDF.
W  2/ 9  Meaning and Representation: Film “Do you speak american?”

**ethnographic project proposal due (1 pg)**

M  2/14  Religion and belief
        Read: *Cultural Anthropology* Ch. 4
W  2/16  The cultural production of knowledge
        Read: Foucault excerpts (pdf) *Taking Sides* Issue 15; *Gebusi* Ch. 4
M  2/21  Identity and Performance
        Read: *Cultural Anthropology* Ch. 6
W  2/23  Physical bodies, social bodies
        Read: Excerpts from D. Sullivan 'Cosmetic Surgery' (pdf), Foucault ‘docile bodies’ (pdf)
M  2/28  Sex, Sexuality and Gender - Film “Paris is Burning”
        Read: *Taking Sides* Issue 12; *Gebusi* Ch. 5
W  3/ 2  race and racism
        Read: *Taking Sides*: Issue 1: Is Race a Useful Concept for Anthropologists? (pp. 2-11)
M  3/ 7  Open Review
W  3/ 9  MIDTERM EXAM

**March 14-19 SPRING BREAK!**

M  3/21  Family relations
        Read: *Cultural Anthropology* Ch. 5
W  3/23  Social Hierarchy and Inequality
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<td>M 3/28</td>
<td>Exchange and reciprocity</td>
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<td>Read: <em>Cultural Anthropology</em> Ch. 7</td>
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<td>W 3/30</td>
<td>Economic Systems</td>
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<td>Read: Marx excerpts (pdf), <em>Gebusi</em> Ch. 9</td>
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<td>M 4/4</td>
<td>Critical analysis paper 2 assigned</td>
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<td>W 4/6</td>
<td>Modernity</td>
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<td>Read: <em>Taking Sides</em>: Issue 10: Do Native Peoples Today Invent Their Traditions? (pp.183-200); <em>Gebusi</em> Ch. 10-12, Conclusion and Farewell</td>
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<td>Critical analysis paper 2 due</td>
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<td>W 4/13</td>
<td>Globalization</td>
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<td>Read: Appadurai ‘Globalization’ (pdf); Milton-‘Civilization and Its Discontents’ (pdf)</td>
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<td>M 4/18</td>
<td>Migration and Citizenship</td>
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<td>Reading: ‘Transnational Citizens’ (pdf)</td>
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<td>W 4/20</td>
<td>Neoliberalism and the nation-state</td>
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<td>Read: <em>Cultural Anthropology</em> Ch. 3</td>
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<td>M 4/25</td>
<td>Violence and Conflict</td>
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<td>W 4/27</td>
<td>Read: <em>Cultural Anthropology</em> Ch. 8</td>
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<td>M 5/2</td>
<td>Open Review</td>
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<td>FINAL EXAM</td>
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**ethnographic project write-up due (5-8 pgs)**