

Introduction to Cultural Anthropology
ANTH 1302
Fall 2017

Psychology Building 308
Mondays/Wednesdays 9:00-10:20am

Office Hours:
Mondays/Wednesdays 10:30-11:30 am (UTEP Library, First Floor—by coffee shop)
Wednesdays 4:30-5:30pm (CIBS building, 1514 Hawthorne Street)
Or by appointment

Instructor: Dr. Iván Sandoval-Cervantes Email: isandovalc@utep.edu

Course Description

What is cultural anthropology? What do cultural anthropologists do? How do cultural anthropologists think about the world? This course examines these questions, and seeks to provide students with an anthropological lens. Throughout this course students will read and analyze diverse anthropological perspectives that offer a wide range of case-studies, ideas, and theories. In order to do this, students will read classical anthropological texts as well as more recent studies. The readings for this course include a textbook, academic articles from journals and books, and two complete ethnographies. The combination of these sources will provide students with different takes on what cultural anthropology is, how cultural anthropologists conduct research, and different ways in which anthropologists think about the world. The main objective of this course is to provide students with a variety of perspectives so that students can develop their own anthropological lens.

Required Texts (in order of appearance in the course):

Monaghan, John; and Peter Just. (2000) *Social and Cultural Anthropology: A Very Short Introduction*. Oxford University Press, Oxford.

Ralph, Laurence (2014) *Renegade Dreams: Living through Injury in Gangland Chicago*. The University of Chicago Press, Chicago.

Kaifa Roland, L. (2013) *Cuban Color in Tourism and La Lucha: An Ethnography of Racial Meanings*. Oxford University Press, Oxford.

Assignments and Grading:

Readings: Students are expected to read all of the required readings for the days assigned to each of the readings. Assigned readings are either in the required texts (mentioned above) or in the course Blackboard site.

In-class Participation/Attendance (40%): Students are expected to attend and arrive on time to every class meeting. Students are also expected to complete and turn in in-class written assignments, and to participate in group discussions. Students are also expected to participate in meaningful and respectful discussion by asking questions and engaging with the material.

Written reactions (40%): Students must submit reactions to the readings every day when the class meets through Blackboard. The first reaction is due on Monday of week 3 and the last reaction is due on Monday of week 15. Reactions should be uploaded before class to be counted towards the grade. Reactions are not summaries of the readings but rather your own thoughts and feelings about the article. Reactions should be two or three sentences long, well-written, and should address the topic of the article in question. Students may miss up to TWO reactions, but afterwards each missing reaction mean a two point subtraction from the total of the possible grade. If you turn in ALL of your written reactions you will receive two points extra in your final grade.

Book Review (20%): Due exam week. Students must write a book review of the book *Cuban Color in Tourism and La Lucha: An Ethnography of Racial Meanings* by L. Kaifa Roland. The book review will be a two-page, single space essay in which students will engage critically in a discussion about the book. The book review is NOT a summary of the book but rather a personal and academic evaluation of the content of the book. More information on this assignment will be provided during the last weeks of the course.

Extra-Credit Options: Extra-credit options will be available throughout the course and will be discussed in a timely way.

Classroom Etiquette: Students should observe the appropriate behavior for an academic atmosphere. This means that students must arrive on time, and be respectful of other students around them. Cell phones should be turned off, or in silence mode, and they should be put away. If there is a serious need to be attentive to your phone, such as a family emergency, please let me know before the class starts. Laptop use is discouraged but if you need to use your laptop to take notes please let me know; you will be asked to sit in first rows of the classroom. During class discussions you must be respectful of others' opinions and participation. This means that you should not interrupt others. Please be aware that not complying with the classroom etiquette might affect your grade.

If you have a disability and need classroom accommodations, please contact The Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS) at 747-5148, or by email to cass@utep.edu, or visit their office located in UTEP Union East, Room 106. For additional information, please visit the CASS website at www.sa.utep.edu/cass. *CASS' Staff are the only individuals who can validate and if need be, authorize accommodations for students with disabilities.*

Academic Integrity: Students are expected to hold the highest standard of academic integrity. This means that you must write all of your papers and other assignments yourself, and cite sources appropriately, not doing so is a serious matter and any such activity will be reported to the University. If you have any questions about what plagiarism is please consult the following webpage:

<http://sa.utep.edu/osccr/academic-integrity/>

I reserve the right to modify the syllabus as needed during the semester. I will notify you of these changes through email.

Scheduled Readings:

Week 1:

Monday: Course Introduction

Wednesday: (1) Miner, Horace (1956) Body Ritual among the Nacirema. *American Ethnologist* 58(3):503-507.

(2) A Very Short Introduction, pp.1-12. In *Social and Cultural Anthropology: A Very Short Introduction*.

Week 2:

Monday—No Class.

Wednesday: (1) Geertz, Clifford (2008) [1973] The Raid. In *Anthropological Theory*, pp. 511-531.

(2) Chapter 1: A Dispute in Dongoo: Fieldwork and Ethnography, pp. 13-33. In *Social and Cultural Anthropology: A Very Short Introduction*.

Week 3:

Monday: (1) Castellanos, Bianet (2010) Chapter 4: Civilizing Bodies: Learning to Labor in Cancun, pp. 77-109. In *A Return to Servitude: Maya Migration and the Tourist Trade in Cancún*. University of Minnesota Press, Minneapolis.

Wednesday: (1) Chapter 2: Bee Larvae and Onion Soup: Culture, pp. 14-52. In *Social and Cultural Anthropology: A Very Short Introduction*.

(2) Lee, Richard B. (1994) Eating Christmas in the Kalahari, pp. 27-34. In *In Conformity and Conflict: Readings in Cultural Anthropology*, edited by James P. Spradley and David McCurdy. Harper Collins.

Week 4:

Monday: Mintz, Sidney. *Sweetness and Power: The Place of Sugar in Modern History*. Chapter 1: Food, Sociality, and Sugar. Penguin Books.

(2) Mintz, Sidney. *Sweetness and Power: The Place of Sugar in Modern History*. Chapter 4: Power. Penguin Books.

Wednesday: Errington, Frederick; Tasuro Fujikura; and Deborah Gewerts (2012) Instant Noodles as an Antifriction Device: Making the BOP with PPP in PNG. *American Anthropologist* 114(1):19-31.

Week 5:

Monday: (1) Chapter 3: A Brief Encounter: Society, pp. 54-74. In *Social and Cultural Anthropology: A Very Short Introduction*.

(2) Harris, Marvin [1966] The Cultural Ecology of India's Sacred Cattle, pp. 282-296. In *Anthropological Theory: An Introduction*. Edited by R. Jon McGee and Richard L. Warms. McGraw Hill.

Wednesday: (1) Mauss, Marcel [1925] Excerpts from the Gift, pp. 90-102; and

(2) Chapter 6: A Feast in Nuyoo: People and Their Things, pp. 107-119. In *Social and Cultural Anthropology: A Very Short Introduction*.

Week 6:

Monday: (1) Excerpts from: Miller, Daniel. (1998) *A Theory of Shopping*. Cornell University Press, Ithaca.

(2) Malinowski, Bronislaw [1922] The Essentials of the Kula, pp. 163-179. In *Anthropological Theory: An Introduction*. Edited by R. Jon McGee and Richard L. Warms. McGraw Hill.

Wednesday: (1) Bohannan, Laura. (1994) Shakespeare in the Bush, pp. 35-44. In *Conformity and Conflict: Readings in Cultural Anthropology*, edited by James P. Spradley and David McCurdy. Harper Collins.

(2) Bonilla, Yarimar, and Jonathan Rosa. (2015) #Ferguson: Digital Protest, Hashtag Ethnography, and the Racial Politics of Social Media in the United States. *American Ethnologist* 42(1):4-17

Week 7:

Monday: (1) Chapter 5: La Bose Becomes Bakar: Caste, Class, Tribe, Nation, pp. 89-106. In *Social and Cultural Anthropology: A Very Short Introduction*.

(2) Holsey, Bayo (2013) Black Atlantic Visions: History, Race, and Transnationalism in Ghana. *Cultural Anthropology* 28(3):504-518

Wednesday: (1) TallBear, Kim (2007) Narratives of Race and Indigeneity in the Genographic Project. *The Journal of Law, Medicine and Ethics* 35(3):412-424.

(2) Watch: Reel Injun!

Week 8:

Monday: Glick Schiller, Nina; and Georges Eugene Fouron (2009) "The Blood Remains Haitian": Race, Nation, and Belonging in the Transmigrant Experience. In *Perspectives on The Caribbean: A Reader in Culture, History, and Representation*, edited by Philip Scher, pp. 256-282. Wiley-Blackwell: Malden.

Wednesday: Fassin, Didier (2005) Compassion and Repression: The Moral Economy of Immigration Policies in France. *Cultural Anthropology* 20(3):362-387.

Week 9:

Monday: (1) Chapter 4: Fernando Seeks a Wife: Sex and Blood, pp. 75-88. In *Social and Cultural Anthropology: A Very Short Introduction*.

(2) Hutchinson, Sharon Elaine (2000) Identity and Substance: The Broadening Bases of Relatedness among the Nuer of Southern Sudan. In *Cultures of Relatedness: New Approaches to the Study of Kinship*, edited by Janet Carsten, pp. 55-72. Cambridge University Press: Cambridge.

Wednesday: (1) Carsten, Janet. (2004). Introduction: After Kinship? In *After Kinship*, pp. 1-30. Cambridge University Press: Cambridge.

(2) Cauterucci, Christina. (2017) New York Court Affirms Poly Parenthood With Three-Way Custody Ruling. *Slate*, March 13, 2017.

http://www.slate.com/blogs/xx_factor/2017/03/13/new_york_court_affirms_poly_parenthood_with_three_way_custody_ruling.html

Week 10:

Monday: (1) Ortner, Sherry. (1974) Is Female to Male as Nature is to Culture? In *Woman, Culture, and Society*, edited by M. Z. Rosaldo and L. Lamphere, pp. 68-87. Stanford University Press: Stanford.

(2) Abu-Lughod, Lila (2002) Do Muslim Women Really Need Saving? *American Anthropologist* 104(3):783-790

Wednesday: (1) Martin, Emily. (1991) The Egg and the Sperm: How Science Has Constructed a Romance Based on Stereotypical Male-Female Roles. *Signs* 16(3):485-501.

(2) Chapter 8: Ñaña María Gets Hit by Lightning: People and Their Selves, pp. 131-143. In *Social and Cultural Anthropology: A Very Short Introduction*.

Week 11:

Monday: Ralph, Laurence (2014) *Renegade Dreams: Living through Injury in Gangland Chicago*. The University of Chicago Press, Chicago— Introduction and Chapter 1

Wednesday: Ralph, Laurence (2014) *Renegade Dreams: Living through Injury in Gangland Chicago*. The University of Chicago Press, Chicago—Chapter 2 and Chapters 3

Week 12:

Monday: Ralph, Laurence (2014) *Renegade Dreams: Living through Injury in Gangland Chicago*. The University of Chicago Press, Chicago—Chapter 4 and Chapter 5

Wednesday: Ralph, Laurence (2014) *Renegade Dreams: Living through Injury in Gangland Chicago*. The University of Chicago Press, Chicago—Conclusion

Week 13:

Monday: Low, Setha. (2009) Maintaining Whiteness: The Fear of Others and Niceness. *Transforming Anthropology* 17(2):79-92.

Film: United Gates of America

Wednesday: (1) Scheper-Hughes, Nancy. (2000) The Global Traffic in Human Organs. *Current Anthropology* 41(1):191-224

(2) Holmes, Seth. (2013). 5-“Doctors Don’t Know Anything”: The Clinical Gaze in Migrant Health, pp. 111-154. In *Fresh Fruit, Broken Bodies: Migrant Farmworkers in the United States*. University of California Press, Berkeley.

Week 14:

Monday: Sandoval-Cervantes, Ivan (2017) Uncertain Futures: The Unfinished Houses of Undocumented Migrants in Oaxaca, Mexico. *American Anthropologist* 119(2):209-222.

Film: Witness: Hair in India (Al Jazeera, 2010)

Wednesday: Class Cancelled!

Week 15:

Monday: Kohn, Eduardo. (2007) How Dogs Dream: Amazonian Natures and the Politics of Transspecies Engagement. *American Ethnologist* 34(1):3-24.

Film: TBD

Wednesday: Kaifa Roland, L. (2013) Cuban Color in Tourism and La Lucha: An Ethnography of Racial Meanings. Oxford University Press.

Film: Being Black in Latin America (Cuba)