

## COURSE OUTLINE

### INTRODUCTION TO ANTHROPOLOGY -ANTH 203.2

CHC 105

TuTh

14:00 – 15:15 PM



INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Saulesh Yessenova.

Email: sbyessen@ucalgary.ca

TEACHING ASSISTANT: Kent Spiers

Email: kent.spiers@ucalgary.ca

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** This course will introduce students to social and cultural anthropology. We will explore key areas, issues, and approaches that have shaped the discipline. Special attention will be paid to the diversity of human culture and academic debates that have addressed it, a phenomenon central to anthropological inquiry. Topics of Interest will include a broad range of social and cultural forms: from traditional areas of anthropological research, such as religion, symbolism, social and political organization, to more recent concerns with, for example, energy transition, globalization, and patterns of consumption in the West and elsewhere.

**COURSE AIMS:** This course is designed to help students to (a) enhance awareness and appreciation of cultural and social diversity in the world and the way people give meaning to their experiences; (b) develop a basic understanding of key anthropological concepts, theories, and methodology; (c) help students to develop a firm understanding that all human experiences are embedded within particular historical and cultural contexts and corresponding political realms; and (d) provide an informed critical commentary on how society and culture work.

**COURSE FORMAT:** The course will include lectures, class discussions, films, assigned readings, and other activities on which students will be tested. Lectures will not simply repeat the material in the assigned readings, but will contain additional material that may be included in formal assessment. Therefore, students are encouraged to attend all classes, take notes, and complete assigned readings prior to the class.

#### REQUIRED TEXTS:

- 4 Moore, Jerry D. *Visions of culture: An Annotated Reader*. AltaMira Press, 2009.
- 4 Chrzan, Janet *Alcohol: social drinking in cultural context*. Routledge, 2013.

Both texts are available at the university bookstore. Additional required readings will be posted on D2L unless they are available online through the library or otherwise.

#### COURSE ASSIGNMENTS AND EVALUATION:

Evaluation of the course will be based on the following items of course work:

|   |  |     |
|---|--|-----|
| ↳ | In-class test on Oct. 11 <sup>th</sup> | 20% |
| ↳ | In-class test on Nov. 10 <sup>th</sup> | 40% |
| ↳ | University-scheduled final examination | 40% |

*In-class tests* will include multiple-choice questions and questions requiring short answers designed to assess knowledge of material covered in assigned readings, lectures, films shown in class, and associated internet resources. No alternate test arrangements will be approved by the instructor to accommodate travel plans.

*University-scheduled final exam* will be similar to the tests in format. Further details will be provided in class. Requests for differed final examination should be obtained from the Associate Dean (Student Affairs) of the Faculty of Social Sciences. The Final Exam Schedule will be posted by the Registrar later in the semester and you should assume you could have a final examination at any point during the final examination period.

Further details on tests and the final exam will be provided in class and at the time assignments are given. Students registered with the Student Access Center requiring special examination conditions should present their documentation to the instructor early in the course so that alternate arrangements can be made.

All course work will be graded on a 100-point system. At the end of the course the total number of marks will be converted to the official university letter grade system according to the following equivalences:

|    |              |    |              |    |              |    |                 |
|----|--------------|----|--------------|----|--------------|----|-----------------|
| A+ | 100 - 94.9%  | B+ | 84.8 - 79.9% | C+ | 70.8 - 66.9% | D+ | 58.8 - 54.9%    |
| A  | 94.8 - 89.9% | B  | 79.8 - 74.9% | C  | 66.8 - 62.9% | D  | 54.8 - 49.9%    |
| A- | 89.8 - 84.9% | B- | 74.8 - 70.9% | C- | 62.8 - 58.9% | F  | 49.8% and below |

#### COMMUNICATION:

**INSTRUCTOR'S OFFICE HOURS:** Thursdays 16:00-17:00 ES 602C (between Sept. 13th and Dec. 8th) or by appointment.

**EMAILING TO INSTRUCTOR:** Students are welcome to forward their questions and comments to the instructor or TA's email indicated at the top of this document.

#### COMMUNICATION ETIQUETTE VIA EMAIL:

Please use your university account when possible. Otherwise, use an account with an appropriate name (example of an unacceptable email: sexymama@gmail.com).

.. Use a clear subject line that includes the course name and the topic of the email such as: "ANTH 203. Question about my schedule."

- Please be respectful (i.e., not too casual) when addressing either myself or your TA in an email. Use an appropriate greeting (acceptable: "Dear Dr. Yessenova;" unacceptable: "Hey there").
- Keep in mind that answers to the questions concerning the matters clearly stated on the course outline will not be provided.
- Keep question(s) short and to the point. Show that you have made an effort to find the answer first in the text and lecture material (or even an outside source). State what you know in relation to what you are having a difficult time understanding.

Include your full name and student ID in the signature of your email.

Allow 48 hours for a response, excluding weekends and holidays.

Please note: we may choose not to respond to emails that do not follow the format outlined above.

#### EMERGENCY EVACUATION:

In the event that we need to evacuate the classroom due to an emergency, please note that the primary assembly point shall be Food Court in the Professional Faculties (PF) Bldg. FYI: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/home/evacuation-assembly-points/assembly-points> .

#### Academic Accommodations:

The academic accommodations policy can be found at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/access/accommodations/policy>.

It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodations. If you are a student with a documented disability who may require academic accommodations and have not registered with Student Accessibility Services, please contact them at 403-220-6019. Students that have not registered with the SAS are not eligible for formal academic accommodations. More information about the academic accommodations can be found at

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/access>.

PLAGIARISMANDCHEATING

Plagiarism: "to steal and pass off the ideas or words of another as one's own" (Webster's). Plagiarism will not be tolerated and will automatically result in a failing grade for the submission. Any student caught plagiarizing will also be subject to additional University sanctions. Students are expected to be familiar with the Anthropology Departments policy on intellectual honesty available at: <https://www.anth.ucalgary.ca/home/links/intellectual-honesty-guidelines>

USRI:

At the University of Calgary, feedback provided by students through the Universal Student Ratings of Instruction (USRI) survey provides valuable information to help with evaluating instruction, enhancing learning and teaching, and selecting courses ([www.ucalgary.ca/usri](http://www.ucalgary.ca/usri)). Your responses make a difference - please participate in USRI Surveys.

*The Department of Anthropology and Archaeology's FOIP (Freedom of Information and Privacy) policy requires all reports/examinations to be returned to students during class time or the instructor's office hours. Any term work not picked up will be placed in the Anthropology and Archaeology Office (ES620) for distribution. Any student not wishing to have their work placed in the office must make alternate arrangements with the course instructor early in the term.*

SCHEDULE OF LECTURE TOPICS, FILMS & REQUIRED READINGS

|   | Date    | Topics/film titles/exams   | Readings  |
|---|---------|--|---|
| 1 | 13 Sept | Introduction to the course. What's anthropology and why take this course?  |   |
|   | 15 Sept | Culture, politics, and ethnocentrism<br><br><i><a href="http://www.iupui.edu/~anthkb/ethnocen.htm">http://www.iupui.edu/~anthkb/ethnocen.htm</a></i> | Miner, <i>Body Rituation Among the Nacar/ma (D2L)</i> ; Ken Barger 'Ethnocentrism: What is it?' |
| 2 | 20 Sept | Social anthropology: evolutionism (Edward Tyler & L. H. Morgan .   | Moore, Chapters 1 & 2   |
|   | 22 Sept | Film: <i>Cannibal Tours</i> (70 min.)  |   |
| 3 | 27 Sept | Film: <i>Strangers Abroad: Everything is Relative</i> (52 min.)  |   |
|   | 29 Sept | Social and cultural anthropology: different directions (Franz Boas & Emile Durkheim).  | Moore, Chapters 3 & 4   |
| 4 | 4 Oct   | Social anthropology: ethnographic fieldwork; structural-functionalism.   | Moore, Chapters 9 -12   |
|   | 6 Oct   | Cultural anthropology (Ruth Benedict & Margaret Mead). Cultural relativism. Film: <i>Coming of Age</i> (52 min)                                      | Moore, Chapters 6 & 8   |
| 5 | 11 Oct  | In-class test.   |   |
|   | 13 Oct  | Situated knowledge: production of knowledge in anthropology.<br><i>Reading assigned for this class is available online, open</i>                     | Steven Weinberg 'The Revolution That Didn't Happen' <i>The New York</i>                         |

access

*Review of Books*, Oct 8,  
1998

6 18 Oct Symbolic anthropology (Victor Turner & Clifford Geertz).

Moore, Chapters 18-19

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|----|--------|---|--|
|    |        | <a href="http://erikapaterson08.pbworks.com/f/Antrophology%20of%20performance(2).pdf">http://erikapaterson08.pbworks.com/f/Antrophology%20of%20performance(2).pdf</a>   | The Anthropology of performance<br>Turner, Victor (D2L)  |
|    | 20 Oct | Film: <i>Kataragama: An Ancient Hindu God Revived</i> (52 min.)   |  |
| 7  | 25 Oct | Cultural and political ecology (Leslie White & Julian Stewart; Eric Wolf).<br><br><a href="http://www.livinganthropologically.com/2013/01/26/eric-wolf-europe-and-people-without-history/">http://www.livinganthropologically.com/2013/01/26/eric-wolf-europe-and-people-without-history/</a> | Moore, Chapters 13 & 14.<br>Leslie White 'Energy and the evolution of culture.'<br><i>American Anthropologist</i> 45/3: 335-356.<br>Jason Antrosio 'Eric Wolf, Europe and the People Without History – Geography, States, EmRies.' |
|    | 27 Oct | Environmental anthropology: sustainability and inequality. Guest lecturer: Kent Spiers  | Firebaugh, G. and C.R. Farrell. 2015. "Still Large, But Declining: Racial Neighborhood Inequality in Metropolitan America Since 1980." <i>Demography</i> 53(1):139-164   |
| 8  | 1 Nov  | Grassroots anthropology. Film: Anne Leonard's <i>The Story of Stuff</i> (21 min.).  | Annotated script and other attachments for the <i>Story of Stuff</i> . (D2L)   |
|    | 3 Nov  | Resource development, sustainability and community well-being: Fort McMurray  | TBA  |
| 9  | 8 Nov  | Energy transition and alternative life ways in the nuclear age. Film: <i>The Land on Which We Stand</i> (31 min.).  | TBA  |
|    | 10 Nov | In-class test.  |  |
| 10 | 15 Nov | History of alcohol  | Chrzan, <i>Alcohol: Introduction &amp; ch.2</i>  |
|    | 17 Nov | Class is cancelled  |  |
| 11 | 22 Nov | European vs. American ways of drinking. What about the rest of the world?   | Chrzan, <i>Alcohol: ch.3-4</i>   |
|    | 24 Nov | Alcohol in contemporary popular culture   | Chrzan, <i>Alcohol: ch.5-6</i>   |
| 12 | 29 Nov | Why do Students Drink? Why do people drink?   | Chrzan, <i>Alcohol: ch.7 &amp; conclusion</i>  |
|    | 1 Dec  | Final exam prep session   |  |
| 13 | 6 Dec  | TBA   |  |
|    | 8 Dec  | Course overview   |  |