

ANTH203 Introduction to Social Cultural Anthropology

Spring 2016

Tuesdays and Thursday @ 9-11:45 pm in SA 104

Course Instructor: Dr. Martha Fanjoy

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Office: 710B

Office Hours: By appointment

Course Description:

Anthropology is a search for what it means to be human, a documentation of human life and possibility. At the core of the field is the concept of culture. The aim of "Introduction to Social Cultural Anthropology" is to explain the concept of culture – as a set of meanings, values, and practices - and put it into meaningful perspective. Culture emerges from habits of meaning that are learned and shared. These habits are formed socially and historically through fundamental building blocks like language, child rearing, rituals, myths and gift giving, and are expressed through major domains, institutions, and forms of social organization such as politics, economic processes, religion, nationalism, ethnicity etc. We do culture. Culture happens. Culture is happening. Culture is not a fixed quality that individuals possess. Culture is meaning in motion. We will examine the fundamental building blocks of culture, and the major domains and institutions of social organization, as well as their connections and interactions. Contemporary cultural circumstances and forces such as colonialism, conflict, globalization, development, and migration will also be discussed.

Course Objectives:

At the end of the semester students will have a working knowledge of:

1. The concept of culture;
2. Cultural relativism;
3. Participant observation and other methods of anthropological fieldwork;
4. Symbolism, ritual, and other fields of meaning;
5. Cultural analysis, or ways of detecting meaning in everyday practices.



Course Readings and Materials

In Search of Respect: Selling Crack in El Barrio by Philippe Bourgois (Cambridge) - available in bookstore.

Additional Readings for each week listed in the reading schedule will be posted on D2L.

You will also need a composition book - more details in class 1.

Evaluation:

Composition Book	30%	May 24, June 16, June 30
Midterm	35%	June 9 (Lecture 7)
Exam	35%	TBA (Registrar's Schedule)

Midterm and Exam: Questions will consist of true/false and multiple choice. Test rewrites will only be offered in the case of documented family or medical emergencies – reasons such as vacation plans, heavy workload etc. will not be considered.

Composition Book: In your book there will be a range of in-class writing prompts, as well as three one page reading responses. There will be one writing prompt in each lecture. You will also be asked to write a reflection on three readings of your choice in the weeks leading up to submitting your composition book. This means you will choose one reading between the start of class and May 28, one reading between May 28-June 11, and one reading between June 11 - 25.

- Your book should have your name on the cover. On the first page include your contact information, the course code and title, and my name. When working in your book, date each page in the top right corner. Label the page/section with a title in LARGE PRINT. This may include titles such as IN CLASS QUESTION or READING RESPONSE.
- The composition work will be graded using a ✓-/ ✓ / ✓+ system. If you have a majority of check minuses, you will receive a C. If you have mostly checks, a B and mostly check pluses an A. Earning a ✓+ requires making an exceptional contribution and really pushing your thinking beyond description to analysis.

Grading

Final grades are based on the following:

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

Course Policies:

Email/ Correspondence: Please write ANTH203 in the subject line of your email so I can prioritize and make sure your questions are answered as soon as possible. Allow 24 hrs for a response during the week, and 48 hrs on weekends. I will do my best to answer all email as quickly as possible, however, please try to limit your emails to brief yes/no questions. Detailed questions and concerns about course material and assignments are best addressed during office hours or immediately after class. **Please check the syllabus and D2L for information before emailing.**

Cell Phones and Lap Tops: There is a **zero tolerance** policy for cell/smart phone use during the lecture. Failing to turn off your ringer, answering calls or disruptive texting during class will result in you being asked to leave the room.

Lap tops are welcome for taking notes, but if they become a distraction to those around you (watching videos, internet surfing etc.) you will be asked to leave the lecture.

Attendance: You are expected to attend lectures. Power Point presentations will be posted, but the full lecture will not be available. You will be tested on material covered in readings, lectures and films.

Academic Accommodation: It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodations. If you are a student with a documented disability who may require academic accommodation and have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre, please contact their office at 403.220.8237. Students who have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre are not eligible for formal academic accommodation. You are also required to discuss your needs with your instructor no later than fourteen days after the start of this course.

Academic Integrity: Plagiarism and cheating are serious academic offenses that will be dealt with seriously in this course and by this university. Students must not submit the words or ideas of another person as their own for any assignment in this course. Students are reminded to review the University's and the Department of Anthropology's policies on Intellectual Honesty and Plagiarism.

<http://anth.ucalgary.ca/home/links/intellectual-honesty-guidelines>

Emergency Evacuation:

In the event that the classroom should need to be evacuated due to an emergency please note that the primary assembly point shall be the MacEwan Student Centre North Courtyard and the secondary assembly point shall be the University Theatre's lobby.

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). Your responses make a difference - please participate in USRI Surveys.