

**University of Calgary**  
**Department of Anthropology and Archaeology**  
**Anthropology 317**  
**Ethnographic Survey of Africa South of the Sahara**  
**Fall 2015**

Lectures: MWF: 11:00-11:50  
Instructor: Bula Sirika Wayessa  
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Office Hours: MWF 12:00-1:30 or by appointment

**Course Description:**

This course will provide students with an ethnographic overview of African societies south of the Sahara. Students are introduced to the African continent and its history, and give learners a broad understanding of the traditional social and cultural forms present in Africa. The course also examine how anthropology has represented African societies during the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. The course is organized thematically around a series of readings that give students an overview of diversity of scholarship on a given topic. We begin with a brief introduction to the African continent and its history, then look at key topics in African anthropology such as "tribes", "ethnicity", African art, witchcraft, gender, economics, and nationalism.

**Course objectives:**

By the end of the course, students will be able to:

- Describe traditional cultural and historical landscapes of Africa.
- Identify how anthropology has changed the way it studies and represents African societies during the 20<sup>th</sup> Century.
- Critically examine the way mainstream media sources represent Africa.
- Continue their independent study of Africa and African societies beyond the classroom.

**Required textbook**

Grinker, R. R., Lubkemann, S. C., & Steiner, C. B. (2010). *Perspectives on Africa: a reader in culture, history and representation*. John Wiley & Sons.

**Assessment**

Item	Weight	Date
Quiz 1	10%	Sep 28
Quiz 2	15%	Oct 30
Mid Term	20%	Nov 16
Article/Chapter review	15%	Nov 23(due date)
Final Exam	40%	As per Registrar's timetable

**Description of assessments**

**Quizzes**

Quiz #1: It will cover the physical and political geography of the sub-Saharan Africa, and is intended to ensure that students have some idea of the locations of countries, capitals and major land types, knowledge of which is presupposed in the lectures and readings.

Quiz # 2: This will require short definitions/contrasts of anthropological concepts presented in the readings and lectures.

### **Article Review**

A two page (max 500 words) review of selected article /book chapter.

### **Midterm Exam**

This exam will be short answer questions covering course materials and the readings covered to the date of the exam.

### **Final Exam**

The final exam will be short essay questions that covering course materials and readings covered after the Mid-Term.

### **Grading system**

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

Please note that missed exams and quizzes require a written documentation from a licensed authority for rescheduling and late submission of article review results in loss of 2% of total weight of the project for each day that the assignment is late.

### **Lecture and reading schedule** (N.B topics may be modified as required)

#### **Week 1: September 9 & 11**

Introduction to the course and assignment strategies

Introduction to physical geography of Africa: climate, rainfall, environment; modern African states, capital cities.

People and languages

Introduction to ethnography and ethnographic methods.

#### **Week 2: September 14, 16 & 18.**

Pre-colonial Africa

African historiography and problems

Reading:

Stahl, A Brower.(2005).Introduction: Changing Perspectives on Africa's Pasts. *In African Archaeology: A Critical Introduction*. Ann B. Stahl. (ed.), Blackwell Publisher. pp 249-275.

**Film:** History of Zimbabwe (Four Last Kingdoms of Africa BBC)

#### **Week 3: September 21, 23 & 25**

African Representation in Anthropology

Grinker, R., S. Lubkemann, C. Steiner. 2010. pp.1-15.

**Film:** Zanzibar Leopards

**Week 4: September 28, 30 & Oct 2**

From "Tribes" to "Ethnicity"

Grinker, R., S. Lubkemann, C. Steiner. 2010. pp. 61-95

**Week 5: October 5, 7 & 9**

Economy and cultural system in Africa

Grinker, R., S. Lubkemann, C. Steiner. 2010. pp 109-151.

**Week 6: October 12\* no class, 14 & 16**

Hunter-gatherers in Africa

Readings:

Grinker, R., S. Lubkemann, C. Steiner. 2010. pp.167-219.

Lee, R. B., & Hitchcock, R. K. (2001). African hunter-gatherers: Survival, history and politics of Identity. *African study monographs. Supplementary issue*, 26, 257-280.

**Film:** Kalahari Killers

**Week 7: October 19, 21 & 23**

Craft, status and identity

Readings:

Grinker, R., S. Lubkemann, C. Steiner. 2010. pp 237-270.

Tamari, T. (1991). The development of caste systems in West Africa. *The Journal of African History*, 32(02), 221-250.

**Week 8: October 26, 28 & 30**

Ancestors, Gods, and witchcraft

Reading:

Grinker, R., S. Lubkemann, C. Steiner. 2010. pp 283-314.

**Film:** Witchcraft among the Azande

**Week 9: November Nov 2, 4 & 6**

Arts, Aesthetics & Music

Reading:

Grinker, R., S. Lubkemann, C. Steiner. 2010. pp 323-372.

**Film:** West African Dogon Masks

**Week 10: November 9, (11 & 13 no class-reading week)**

Sex and Gender in Africa

Reading:

Grinker, R., S. Lubkemann, C. Steiner. 2010. pp 378-411.

**Week 11: November 16, 18 & 20**

Colonial Africa

Reading:

Grinker, R., S. Lubkemann, C. Steiner. 2010. pp.423-462.

**Film:** Africa-States of independence-The Scramble for Africa

**Week 12: November 23, 25 & 27**

Post-colonial period nationalism and ethnicity, and neocolonialism

Reading:

Grinker, R., S. Lubkemann, C. Steiner. 2010. pp.473-498.

**Week 13: December 30, 2 & 4**

Development and Structural problems

Readings:

Grinker, R., S. Lubkemann, C. Steiner. 2010. pp 609-616

Cotula, L., & Vermeulen, S. (2009). Deal or no deal: the outlook for agricultural land investment in Africa. *International Affairs*, 85(6), 1233-1247.

**Film:** Land grab-Anuak Gambela Ethiopia Farm

**Additional content****Academic Accommodation Policy**

It is the students' 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 who have not registered with Student Accessibility Services are not eligible for formal academic accommodations. More information about academic accommodations can be found at [www.ucalgary.ca/access](http://www.ucalgary.ca/access).

**Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act**

The University of Calgary is committed to protecting the privacy of individuals who work and study at the University or who otherwise interact with the University in accordance with the standards set out in the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act. Please refer to the following link for detailed information: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/legalservices/foip>

**Plagiarism and cheating**

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 July 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>

**Academic Misconduct**

Academic dishonesty is an unacceptable activity at the University of Calgary and students are strongly advised to read the Student Misconduct section of the University Calendar. Quite often, students are unaware of what constitutes academic dishonesty or plagiarism. The most common are: 1) Presenting another student's work as your own; 2) Presenting an author's work or ideas as you own without proper referencing; 3) Using work completed for another course. This activity will not be tolerated and students conducting themselves in this manner will be dealt with according to the procedures outlined in the University Calendar. For detailed information on what constitutes academic misconduct, please refer to the following link: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k-2-1.html>

**PowerPoint Slides/Lecture Notes**

PowerPoint slides and Word Notes related to lectures will be posted on Blackboard after the lectures in which they are used. Please Note: lecture notes are NOT a substitute for reading the relevant chapter/article.

**E-mail**

Questions on more personal issues can be sent to my University email. I will check my email once a day during the week and I will try to reply to you within 24 hours.

**Emergency Evacuation Assembly Points**

In the event of an emergency that requires evacuation, please refer to the following link to become familiar with the assembly points for the class:

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints>

**Safewalk Information**

Campus Security, in partnership with the Students' Union, provides the Safewalk service, 24 hours a day to any location on Campus including the LRT, parking lots, bus zones and University residences. Contact Campus Security at (403) 220-5333 or use a help phone, and Safewalkers or a Campus Security Officer will accompany you to your campus destination.

**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)).