

ANTH 112J
Introduction to Socio-Cultural Anthropology
Winter 2019

- Instructor:** Clare Fawcett
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- Office Hours:** See Moodle site
- Course Content:** Sociocultural anthropology involves the comparative study of societies throughout the world. Students will learn how societies differ from each other, as well as observing similarities among them. The course surveys traditional ways of understanding cultures while incorporating current insights and research. Topics include diverse political and economic systems, kinship patterns, religion, forms of ethnic and gender identity, health and medicine, development and migration. Department foci relating to First Nations, development and general anthropology are introduced.

Evaluation:

Seminar and Essay Assignment/Service Learning Assignment:	35%
- Essay draft:	5%
- Presentation:	10%
- Final Essay:	20%
Class Forums: (8 x3—maximum of 20 marks)	20%
Class attendance and participation:	5%
Mid-Term Examination:	15%
Final Examination:	25%
 Total:	 100%

Texts and required readings:

Textbook: Miller, Barbara. 2017. *Cultural Anthropology in a Globalizing World, Fourth Edition*. Upper Saddle River NJ: Pearson.

Other readings are available through the StFX library's on-line holdings. Podcasts and videos are on-line and can be reached using links on the Anth 112 Moodle site. I will explain how to use these electronic resources during class.

Written Assignments:

All assignments must be handed in on the dates listed on the Moodle site. I will deduct 5% out of 100% for each day your assignment is late.

Assignments MUST be in Word. I will not accept assignments in Text Edit, Adobe (pdf), Pages or any other program.

Keep an extra copy of your assignments. If they disappear or I cannot download them, you will be responsible for supplying another copy. If you cannot supply another copy, you will receive a zero.

Please read the plagiarism/cheating/academic dishonesty policy in the University Calendar (Academic Regulations, Section 3.9). You may talk to me if you have questions about this policy.

Class Equity Policy

Everyone learns more effectively in a respectful, safe and equitable learning environment free from discrimination or harassment. I invite you to work with me to create a classroom space—both real and virtual—that fosters and promotes values of human dignity, equity, non-discrimination and respect for diversity. These values and practices are in accord with the *StFX Discrimination and Harassment Policy* which can be found at <http://www.mystfx.ca/campus/stu-serv/equity/>.

Please feel free to discuss with me any questions or concerns you have about equity in our classroom or in the StFX community. If I cannot answer your questions or help you address your concerns, I encourage you to talk to the Chair/Coordinator of the Department/Program.

Copyright Notification

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Technology in the Classroom Policy

Cell phone use in class, unless the phone is being used explicitly for research or learning purposes permitted by the instructor, distracts from the learning of the student using the cell phone, the other students and inhibits the instructor's teaching. Therefore, cell

phone use in class is prohibited unless I ask that students use their cell phones for a specific exercise.

I will ask any student using their cell phone in class to put it away. Students may use computers or tablets in class to take notes. I will ask students who are using computers or tablets for other purposes to close them. If I ask you to put away your phone, tablet or use your computer appropriately, I will do so publicly, that is, in front of the entire class. To avoid embarrassment, please use your devices wisely. You need to be in class physically, intellectually and emotionally at all times.

Course Schedule

Introduction (January 8)

Anthropological Concepts and Methods (January 10, 15, and 17)

- Participant observation, fieldwork and ethnography. Anthropological ethics. Critical cultural relativism and reflexivity.
- Basic anthropological concepts: Nature/nurture, Agency/structure, Materialist/interpretive anthropology
- Reading and writing an anthropological essay. Class Forums. Taking part in a seminar

Materials:

- Miller. 2017. Chapters 1 and 2
- Scheper-Hughes, Nancy. 1985. "Culture, scarcity and maternal thinking: Maternal detachment and infant survival in a Brazilian shantytown." *Ethos* 13(4): 291-317.

Sign-up for Seminar groups by Tuesday, January 15—Seminar days are noted in yellow below

Livelihoods and Production (January 22 and 24)

Materials:

- Miller Chapter 3, Pps 47-57
- Millar, Kathleen. 2008. "Making trash into treasure: Struggles for autonomy on a Brazilian garbage dump. *Anthropology of Work Review* 29 (2): 25-34. (Available through StFX)

Consumption and Exchange (January 29 and 31)

Materials:

- Miller Chapter 3, 57-69

- Andaya, Elise. 2009. The gift of health: Socialist medical practice and shifting material and moral economies in post-Soviet Cuba." *Medical Anthropology Quarterly* 23(4): 357-374

Reproduction, Human Development and Gender (February 5 and 7)

Materials:

- Miller, Chapter 4
- Brison, Karen J. 2009. "Shifting conceptions of self and society in Fijian kindergartens" *Ethos* 37(3): 314-333.

Disease, Illness and Healing (February 12 and 14)

Materials:

- Miller, Chapter 5
- Adelson, Naomi. 2008. Discourses of stress, social inequities, and the everyday worlds of First Nations women in a remote northern community. *Ethos* 36(3): 316-333.

February Break: February 19 and 21

Mid-Term Exam: Tuesday, February 26

Kinship and Domestic Life (February 28 and March 5)

Materials:

- Miller, Chapter 6
- Collard, Chantal and Shireen Keshmeri. 2011. "Embryo adoption: Emergent forms of siblingship among Snowflakes® families". *American Ethnologist* 38(2): 307-322.

Social Groups and Social Stratification (March 7 and 12)

Materials:

- Miller, Chapter 7
- Ortner, Sherry. 2002. 'Burned like a tattoo' High school social categories and 'American culture
- Bourgois, Phillipe. 1998. "Just another night in a shooting gallery." *Theory, Culture and Society* 15(2): 37-66.

Political and Legal Systems (March 14 and March 19)

Materials:

- Miller, Chapter 8
- Blackburn, Carole. 2009. "Differentiating indigenous citizenship: Seeking multiplicity in rights, identity and sovereignty in Canada." *American Ethnologist* 36(1): 66-78.

Communication (21 and 26)

Materials:

- Miller, Chapter 9
- Boudreau, Annette and Chantal White. 2004. "Turning the Tide in Acadian Nova Scotia: How Heritage Tourism is Changing Language Practices and Representations of Language" *Canadian Journal of Linguistics/Revue canadienne de linguistique* 49(3/4): 327-351.

Anthropology of Development (March 28 and April 2)

Materials:

- Miller, Chapters 12 and 13
- Bornstein, Erica. 2001. "Child sponsorship, evangelism, and belonging in the work of World Vision Zimbabwe." *American Ethnologist* 28(3): 595-622.

April 4: Snow day