

INTRODUCTION TO SOCIOCULTURAL ANTHROPOLOGY 2018

ANTHROPOLOGY 112.01

Wednesdays 6:30-9:00 SCHW 215

Professor: L. Jane McMillan, PhD

Office Hours: Mondays and Wednesdays 4:45-6:00 or by appointment

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Sociocultural anthropology is the study of human beings and involves the comparative study of societies throughout the world and how and why they change over time. Students will learn the fundamental key terms, issues, debates, theories and research methods of contemporary cultural anthropology.

REQUIRED TEXTS

Hedican, Edward. 2012. *Social Anthropology: Canadian Perspectives on Culture and Society*. Toronto: Canadian Scholar's Press Inc.

Davies, Merry Wyn and Piero. 2013. *Anthropology: A Graphic Guide*. Malta: Gutenberg Press.

Other materials as assigned throughout the course will be available on line through the StFX library. Course texts are available in the campus bookstore and on reserve in the Angus L. MacDonald library.

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADE ACCUMULATION OPPORTUNITIES

10% Attendance and participation

10% Cross-cultural Observation assignment

30% Midterm Test

20% Essay

30% Final Exam

ATTENDANCE & PARTICIPATION

Attendance is required. Absences **will** be reported to the Associate Dean of Academic Affairs. 10% of your grade is based on informed participation and in-class activities. Readings must be completed before class and students are expected to raise questions, exchange ideas and fully participate in discussions and activities. Disagreeing with the professor, or something from the readings, or with others' comments during discussion is expected – understanding different interpretations are part of what anthropology is about. Different viewpoints help us

think through our own opinions and are important to developing our critical thinking skills. Share your ideas, but be respectful of each other. Together we must make this class a safe space for sharing divergent points of view. Periodically you will be asked to write short essays, one-minute papers, workshop questions, practice research methods in small groups, and present findings, which will be assessed. If you are absent on an in-class assignment day you will receive a grade of 0 for that activity. There will be no make up opportunities. *“Everyone learns more effectively in a respectful, safe and equitable learning environment, free from discrimination and 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”.*

CROSS-CULTURAL OBSERVATION ASSIGNMENT

Due in class October 10 – submit to Moodle.

On October 3 in class the documentary film “Babies” will be shown. In an essay compare and contrast the child rearing practices and circumstances in Namibia, Mongolia, Tokyo and San Francisco. Carefully observe and record the information provided in the documentary film (take good notes).

Choose a series of common cultural indicators (as discussed in class) to compare and apply them to each scenario. The components of the written assignment include:

- An introduction outlining the common cultural indicators you have chosen to compare.
- Detailed descriptions of the child rearing circumstances in each location.
- Analysis – compare and contrast the similarities and differences cross-culturally.
- Conclude with a summary of your findings and a reflection on your upbringing and how it is similar or different and give examples.
- Typed, 12-point font, double spaced, standard margins, maximum 6 pages.

MID-TERM TEST 30%

In-class October 17, 2018

This in-class test will cover all materials to date including lectures, readings, group activities, films, and presentations. The test format may include short answer, multiple choice and essay questions.

ESSAY 20%

November 7, 2018

This assignment is intended to develop the following skills:

- 1) Conducting original research;
- 2) Applying theoretical concepts to evidence to see what it can explain;
- 3) Using ethnographic and other anthropological evidence to support your argument;
- 4) Assessing anthropological methods;

5) Using the essay format to present an argument and support it with evidence.

Example essay topics:

1. What is Canadian anthropology and how does it differ from anthropology in other countries?
2. How does anthropology contribute to understandings of human diversity?
3. Is cultural diversity increasing or decreasing as a result of social media?
4. A comparative study of body art.
5. A comparative study of legal systems cross-culturally.
6. Human rights and the politics of culture.
7. Anthropology of sport.
8. An exploration of rites of passage and rituals.
9. The anthropology of magic, does magic still matter?
10. An examination of a common cultural indicator and how it has changed over time in a particular ethnographic location.
11. Impact of climate change on cultural and cultural knowledge.
12. Cultural competency in healing professions.
13. Changing gender roles in a particular location.
14. Residence life at StFX an ethnographic study of university life.
15. Colonialism and oppression and the role of anthropology in correcting inequality.
16. Racism and political economy.
17. A life history of ... my best friend, relative (requires department ethics approval).
18. Cannabis culture on campus.
19. Hairstyles and what they tell us.
20. X ring culture in the past, present and future.

Titled, maximum 10 pages, 12-point font, double-spaced, page numbers, in text citations (Author (last name) – Date) which then match up to an entry in a reference list, where full bibliographic information is accurately provided in alphabetical order. Essays are due at the beginning of class; late assignments will not be accepted.

Follow the StFX Anthropology Department Academic Essay Guide

http://stfx.libguides.com/ld.php?content_id=3538355

<http://stfx.libguides.com/c.php?g=101558&p=658461>

Please follow the rules of academic honesty; do not plagiarize and cite work correctly. Familiarize yourself with StFX's Academic Integrity Policies and Procedures and seek assistance from the library if you have questions.

https://www2.mystfx.ca/registrars-office/sites/mystfx.ca/registrars-office/files/Academic%20Integrity-Mar_2015_0.pdf

COURSE OUTLINE

This syllabus is subject to change. Below are the required readings per week, please complete the assigned readings prior to class. Additional readings will be posted on Moodle.

September 5: What is anthropology?

The Scope of Anthropology

Hedican - chapters 1

September 12: Anthropology in Canada

Hedican - chapter 2

September 19: Explanation, Generalization, and Theory + From Evolutionism to Feminist Anthropology

Hedican – chapters 3 + 4

September 26: Marriage and the Family

Hedican – chapter 6

October 3: Kinship, Descent & Affinity

Hedican – chapter 7

October 10: Research Design, Strategies, and Methods Doing Fieldwork + Review

Hedican – chapter 5

CROSS-CULTURAL OBSERVATION ASSIGNMENT DUE

October 17: Mid-term test

Your knowledge of all readings, lectures, films and activities to date will be tested, in class.

October 24: Political Economy

Hedican – chapter 8

October 31: Ethnicity and Identity

Hedican – chapter 9

November 7: Anthropology and Globalization

Hedican – chapter 10

ESSAYS DUE

November 14: Anthropology and Law

Merry, Sally Engle. 2006. "Anthropology and International Law." *Annual Review of Anthropology* 35: 99-116. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/25064916>.

+ Davies & Piero – Anthropology A Graphic Guide

November 21: Applied Anthropology

RYLKO BAUER, BARBARA, MERRILL SINGER, and JOHN VAN WILLIGEN. 2006.

Reclaiming Applied Anthropology: Its Past, Present, and Future. *American Anthropologist* 108 (1): 178-190.

<https://www.jstor.org/stable/pdf/3804743.pdf?refreqid=excelsior%3A7f376de2cf004d92af4aa59857a9f23d>

+ Davies & Piero – Anthropology A Graphic Guide

November 28: Review

Davies & Piero – Anthropology A Graphic Guide

FINAL EXAM 30%

The final exam will be written during the exam period scheduled by the university December 5-15, 2018. The exam will cover all course materials including lectures, readings, group activities, films, methods exercises, theoretical applications and presentations.

The use of phones, tablets and laptops for other than course related work is not permitted during class.

BONUS POINTS

Occasionally you will have opportunities to earn bonus points by participating in campus events outside of class time. For example, Monday October 1st is Mi'kmaw Treaty Day and there will be a panel of guest speakers and students discussing the significance of Mi'kmaw Treaties. If you attend this event and participate by sharing a comment or asking a questions you could receive up to 3 bonus points. Bonus opportunities will be identified in class throughout the term.

IMPORTANT ADMINISTRATION DATES

September 11 – last day to receive full tuition refund (where applicable)

October 23 – last day for partial tuition refunds (where applicable)

November 2 – last day to drop first term courses – any changes must be made by students through Banner. Any changes after the deadline requires permission by the Dean.