

**ANTH 112J**  
**Introduction to Socio-Cultural Anthropology**  
**Winter 2021 On-line course**

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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: 3%
- Presentation: 12%
- Final Essay: 20%

Thought Paper: 5%

Class Forums: (8 x 3—maximum of 20 marks) 20%

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 virtual classroom space 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, Dr. Susan Vincent.

### **Copyright Notification**

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### **Classroom Technology and On-line Learning**

This course is taught on-line using Moodle and Collaborate. To facilitate your learning and ensure that the class functions effectively for all students please follow these guidelines:

1. Check the Moodle site for up-to-date information about classes, and due dates for assignments. Due to unforeseen circumstances, the dates on the Syllabus may change. Moodle will reflect these changes.
2. Make sure you have a functioning mic. You will be required to participate during class by speaking to me or other students. You need a mic that works. If your computer/tablet mic breaks during the term, please purchase an external mic.
3. When in class turn your mic off unless you are speaking or in a break-out group.
4. In this class we will normally NOT use the video function so turn your cameras off unless I ask you to use them.
5. Make sure you attend class in a place where you can fully participate and not be distracted. This means finding a place which is quiet, where you will not be disturbed, and where you can talk freely to other students. This is particularly important when you are working in break-out groups.

## **Course Schedule**

### **Introduction** (January 14)

### **Anthropological Concepts and Methods** (January 19 and 21)

- 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.

### **Thought Paper due on January 25**

### **Livelihoods and Production** (January 26 and 28)

#### Materials:

- Miller Chapter 3, Pp. 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** (February 2 and 4)

## 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 9 and 11)

## Materials:

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

**February 16: Study day: Take-Home Mid-Term Exam Due at 23:55****Disease, Illness and Healing** (February 18 and 23)

## 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.

**Kinship and Domestic Life** (February 25 and March 2)

## Materials:

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

**Social Groups and Social Stratification** (March 4 and 9)

## Materials:

- Miller, Chapter 7
- Bourgois, Phillipe. 1998. "Just another night in a shooting gallery." *Theory, Culture and Society* 15(2): 37-66.

**Political and Legal Systems** (March 11 and 16)

## 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** (March 18 and 23)

#### 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 25 and 30)

#### Materials:

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

Take Home Final Examination during the Examination Period