

SOC 113 Cultural Anthropology

Dr. Suzanne Schneider

Office hours: Tues. & Thurs. 12:30-2:30pm

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Fall semester 2007

Course meetings: Tues. & Thurs. 8:50-10:00am

Course location: 114 Comenius

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Course overview: This course is designed to explore the range of variation in contemporary societies and the different forms of social organization, political systems, and cosmologies that contribute to human diversity. Students will learn basic concepts in anthropology, read ethnographic accounts of different cultures, consider diverse anthropological methodologies and approaches, examine the commonalities, distinctions, and interconnectedness of human cultures, and contemplate the complexity of social problems throughout the world. During the semester we will reflect on our preconceptions about other cultural groups as well as examine our own society from an anthropological perspective.

Required texts:

Abu-Lughod, Lila. 1993. *Writing Women's Worlds: Bedouin Stories*. Berkeley: University of California Press.

Fadiman, Anne. 1997. *The Spirit Catches you and you Fall Down: A Hmong Child, Her American Doctors, and the Collision of Two Cultures*. New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux.

Lee, Richard. 2003. *The Dobe Ju/'hoansi, Third Edition*. Toronto, Ontario: Wadsworth.

Selected articles are on reserve at Reeves library. These articles are identified on the course schedule below with an "(RL)" in front of the authors' names.

Course requirements:

Exams (60%): There will be three in-class exams during the semester, each worth 20% of your grade. Each exam will consist of short answer and essay questions that will cover course materials for roughly 1/3 of the class. You will be provided with a review guide to take home one week prior to the exams. The essays will challenge you to synthesize and analyze course materials including readings, lectures, films, and discussions.

Writing assignment: Mini-ethnography (20%): This assignment is designed to serve as an introductory experience to anthropological fieldwork and participant observation. You will conduct a minimum of three hours of participant observation with a subject group of your choice. You will write up your observations and address a series of questions in a 5-6 page paper. You will be provided with detailed instructions. This assignment is due on September 18.

Attendance, participation, and group work (20%): The course will entail discussion, short lectures, and group activities. Your regular class attendance and active participation in discussions and group work are required. You will be required to bring reading summaries/reflections to class every Thursday (guidelines will be handed out in class). I will grade these summaries on a scale of 0-5 and count the highest ten grades. No handwritten summaries will be accepted. The combination of your attendance, participation, group work, and writing assignments will amount to 20% of your grade. Multiple absences from class will negatively affect your grade.

Grading:

Three in-class essay exams	60% (20% each)
Mini-ethnography	20%
Class participation	20%

Course Guidelines

1. All assignments must be typed and double-spaced, with 12-point Times New Roman font. No handwritten assignments will be accepted. Please edit your work carefully and correct your grammar, spelling, and punctuation. All assignments must be handed to the instructor. No e-mailed assignments will be accepted except in the case of emergencies or with prior permission of the instructor. Any assignment that is turned in late will be docked one grade for every course period that it is late.
2. Regular attendance is required. Absences will be excused only in the case of appropriately documented emergencies, extended leave, or school-sponsored commitments. If an emergency should arise, please notify me prior to an assignment's due date and not after it is due. If you need to miss a class, please notify me in advance. Two late arrivals to class will be counted as an absence. Multiple absences from class will negatively affect your grade.
3. The grade scale for this class is as follows: 93-100=A; 90-92.9=A-; 87-89.9=B+; 83-86.9=B; 80-82.9=B-; 77-79.9=C+; 73-76.9=C; 70-72.9=C-; 67-69.9=D+; 63-66.9=D; 60-62.9=D-; less than 60=F. Note that it is within the instructor's purview to apply qualitative judgment in determining grades for any assignment and for the final course grade.
4. Any student who wishes to disclose a disability and request accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) for this course should contact Learning Services (x 1510). Accommodations will be provided once authorization is received from the appropriate disability support provider on campus.

Academic Honesty

Plagiarism is passing off others' work as your own. The Moravian handbook states, "All work that students submit or present as part of course assignments or requirements must be their own original work unless otherwise expressly permitted by the instructors" (p. 26). Plagiarism can involve directly quoting passages from a text, the web, or any other document. It can also involve having a student write a paper for you or purchasing a paper from a writing service. Any

case of suspected plagiarism will be referred to the Academic Affairs Office. Plagiarism will be handled in accordance with the college policy on academic honesty (see Moravian handbook).

Course schedule

Module 1: Anthropology, Culture, and Ethnography

Aug. 28: Introduction to the course: What is anthropology?
Handout: Miner, Body Ritual among the Nacirema

Aug. 30: Culture and ethnography
Harris & Johnson, Introduction, pp. 1-8
Spradley, Ethnography and culture, pp. 7-14
Gmelch, Lessons from the field, pp. 46-56

Sept. 4: Anthropological theory and practice
(RL) Harris & Johnson, The nature of culture, pp. 9-31
(RL) Sterk, Fieldwork on prostitution in the era of AIDS, pp 33-45

Module 2: Social Organization and Culture Change

Sept. 6: Introduction to the people of the Dobe area
Lee, The Dobe Ju/'hoansi, Chapters 1-3 (pp. 1-36)
Film clip: The gods must be crazy

Sept. 11: Subsistence strategies
Lee, The Dobe Ju/'hoansi, Chapter 4 (pp. 37-58)
(RL) Kottak, Making a living, pp. 85-95
Film clip: The hunters

Sept. 13: Family and kinship
Lee, The Dobe Ju/'hoansi, Chapters 5 & 6 (pp. 59-89)

Sept. 18: Political organization and world view
Lee, The Dobe Ju/'hoansi, Chapters 8 & 9 (pp. 109-137)
(RL) Kottak, Political systems, pp. 134- 158
Mini-ethnography due in class

Sept. 20: Ethnicity and acculturation
Lee, The Dobe Ju/'hoansi, Chapters 10 & 11 (pp. 141-162)

Sept. 25: Consequences of the industrial world system
Lee, The Dobe Ju/'hoansi, Chapter 12 & 13 (pp. 167-200)
(RL) Bodley, The price of progress, pp. 369-378
Essay questions distributed for exam 1

Sept. 27: Film: N!ai, The Story of a !Kung Woman

Oct. 2: Exam 1

Module 3: Gender, Religion, and Kinship

Oct. 4: Gender and families

(RL) Kottak, Families, kinship and marriage, pp. 109-129

(RL) McCurdy, Family and kinship in village India, pp. 227-234

(RL) Wolf, Uterine families and the woman's community, pp. 241-247

Oct. 9: HAPPY FALL BREAK!

Oct. 11: Writing against culture

Abu-Lughod, Writing Women's Worlds, Preface and Intro (pp. 1-42)

Oct. 16: Patrilineality

Abu-Lughod, Writing Women's Worlds, Chapter 1 (pp. 45-85)

Oct. 18: Polygyny

Abu-Lughod, Writing Women's Worlds, Chapter 2 (pp. 87-125)

Oct. 23: Reproduction

Abu-Lughod, Writing Women's Worlds, Chapter 3 (pp. 127-165)

Oct. 25: Patrilineal parallel-cousin marriage

Abu-Lughod, Writing Women's Worlds, Chapter 4 (pp. 167-202)

Essay questions distributed for exam 2

Oct. 30: Honor and shame

Abu-Lughod, Writing Women's Worlds, Chapter 5 (pp. 205-242)

Film discussion: Trembling before G-d (posted on Blackboard)

Nov. 1: Exam 2

Nov. 6: Guest speaker: Dr. Jennifer Creamer

Gender, culture, and the Japanese study abroad experience

Module 4: Culture, Ethnicity, and Health

Nov. 8: Introduction to the Hmong

Fadiman, The Spirit Catches You, Preface and Chapters 1-4 (pp. 1-37)

Film: Being Hmong Means Being Free

Nov. 13: Cross-cultural medicine

Fadiman, The Spirit Catches You, Chapters 5-7 (pp. 38-92)

Nov. 15: A history of survival

Fadiman, *The Spirit Catches You*, Chapters 8-10 (p. 93-139)

Nov. 20: The consequences of cultural difference

Fadiman, *The Spirit Catches You*, Chapters 11-13 (pp. 140-180)

Nov. 27: Immigration

Fadiman, *The Spirit Catches You*, Chapters 14 & 15 (pp. 181-224)

Film: *Becoming American: The Odyssey of a Refugee Family*

Nov. 29: TBA

Dec. 4: The explanatory model

Fadiman, *The Spirit Catches You*, Chapters 16 & 17 (pp. 225-261)

Essay questions distributed for final exam

Dec. 6: Cross-cultural understanding

Fadiman, *The Spirit Catches You*, Chapters 18 & 19 (pp. 262-288)

Film: *Between Two Worlds: The Hmong Shaman in America*

Review and wrap-up

Final exam date TBA