

**Moravian College**

**SOC 113 - Cultural Anthropology**

Fall 2010 - Tuesdays & Thursdays, 2:35 - 3:45

Room 116. Priscilla Payne Hurd Academic Complex

Syllabus and Course Guides

Dr. Hugo Ceron-Anaya

Email: hugo.ceron-anaya@moravian.edu

Office Hours: by appointment.

*The Association of American Colleges and Universities recently asked employers who hire at least 25 percent of their workforce from four-year colleges what they want institutions to teach. The answers did not suggest a narrow focus. Instead, 89 percent said they wanted more emphasis on “the ability to effectively communicate orally and in writing,” 81 percent asked for better “critical thinking and analytical reasoning skills” and 70 percent were looking for “the ability to innovate and be creative.”*

## **Course Overview**

This course provides an introduction to cultural anthropology, with an emphasis on contemporary immigration. The course studies immigration as a social and economic process, as well as a human experience that is simultaneously liberating and limiting. Immigration offers a vast array of elements to study notions of race, analyze mechanism of assimilation and resistance, examine the cultural boundaries of social groups, explore the adoption of cultural practices, as well as understanding the construction of modern nation-states. The course advances a cultural anthropologist perspective by scrutinizing the power culture and symbols possess in society. The readings and arguments are not confined to disciplinary boundaries, but also draw extensively from history, sociology, and political science.

Regarding the structure of the course, it includes some lecture, much discussion, and a great deal of individual reading, analysis, and class presentation.

## **Objectives**

- Engage in active learning: a process in which students familiarize themselves with new information, analyze it, create their own interpretation, and express it in clear and well-supported arguments.
- Become critical, creative, and independent thinkers.
- Familiarize with Cultural Anthropology methodologies.
- Question your previous knowledge about immigration.
- Learn to value diversity and the need of understanding different cultures in a globalized era.

## **Course Materials**

There is one required book, available at the book store:

Eriksen, Thomas H., (2010) An Introduction to Social and Cultural Anthropology, London: Pluto Press.

## **Films Screenings**

*De Nadie*, directed by Tin Dirdamal, Mexico – 2005.

*Ghosts*, directed by Nick Broomfield, UK – 2006.

*Brick Lane*, directed by Sarah Gavron, UK – 2007.

*The Visitors*, directed by Thomas McCarthy, USA – 2007.

## Cultural Anthropology

### **Films**

- Films will be in the Blackboard site of this course. You are responsible for watching most films outside class hours and be prepared to discuss it before the due date. I will post questions for you to answer beforehand

### **Course Grading and Components**

First paper	10%
Second paper	10%
First Interview	10%
Transcription (Interview) and Selection	30%
Quizzes	30%
Participation	10%

#### *First Paper*

In the first paper you need to find two news reports in the media on current immigration issues in the United States. Write a two-page essay analyzing this information. I will expand on the characteristics of this assignment in the second week.

#### *Second Paper*

In this three-page essay you need to develop a reflection on the two interviews conducted in the classroom, paying special attention to those elements that worked well and those factors that generated tension between the interviewer and the interviewee. The aim of this paper is to think ahead to the problems you will face when interviewing participants for your final project.

#### *First Interview*

You will conduct a short life story interview with one of your classmates. You will transcribe and analyze this interview. I will elaborate more on this assignment in the classroom.

#### *Transcription (Interview) and Selection*

Between week 9 and 10 you will conduct a life story interview with a member of the community in the Lehigh Valley. The main objective of this assignment is to capture the human experience of migration, using Cultural Anthropology methodologies. You will explore issues such as how and why families chose to settle in the Lehigh Valley, memories of their original homes, and their

## Cultural Anthropology

experiences here. You need to transcribe and analyze the interview, exploring the complex cultural meaning of migration. I will expand on this assignment in the classroom.

### Quizzes

There will be a series of 9 surprise quizzes which will be based on the reading assignment for the day, no prior notice will be given for them. Quizzes will be given at the beginning of class and cannot be made up. Additionally, there will be one announced quiz based on the course syllabus. I will expand on this assignment in the first class of the course.

### Participation

Class participation grades will be assigned based on class attendance. Students will respond to daily readings through group discussion. Only the students who have read the material and **come to class with the book/article** can contribute positively in the discussion and receive the participation grade. Students are expected to foster a positive learning community within the classroom and lack of respect and disruptions such as, but not limited to, arriving late, leaving the room during class time, the use of cell phones or other electronic devices, and sleeping in class will not be tolerated. Students not adhering to this policy will be asked to leave the class.

### Grades

Course grades follow the letter-grade system. Please consult the Moravian College Student Handbook or a description of the level of work characteristic of each grade. The numerical ranges used in assigning each letter grade in this course are as follows:

A	92% - 100%	A-	90% - 91.9%	B+	88% - 89.9%	B	82%-87.9%
B-	80%-81.9%	C+	78%-79.9%	C	72%-77.9%	C-	70%-71.9%
D+	68%-69.9%	D	62%-67.9%	D-	60%-61.9%	F	Below 60%

Bear in mind that five points will be deducted from each assignment if it is submitted after the deadline and this deduction will be repeated for each consecutive late day after the due date.

### A note about Style and Sources

Please use Times New Roman font size 12, one-inch margins, and double-space in between lines in all your essays. The student's name, course number, assignment number, and submission date should be typed in the upper left corner of the first page. After this header, one blank line should appear before the assignment title, which should be followed by one blank line before beginning the assignment. You should take advantage of Moravian College Writing Center located at the second floor of Zinzendorf. Telephone Number: 610-861-1592.

## Cultural Anthropology

If you expect a good grade you should use academic sources for your papers, however, **you should not use internet sources in any of the essays for this course**. The following are exceptions to this rule and may be used, since they are clearly of a scholarly nature:

- o Articles from full-text databases like JSTOR and Project Muse  
<http://www.jstor.org/> and <http://muse.jhu.edu/>
  - o Online primary sources (texts written by historical actors that have been re-published on the web)
  - o Internet pages that I have approved well in advance, at least one week before turning in the assignment.
- Wikipedia is not a reliable source of information, so it is not acceptable to base your academic papers on it.

### **Schedule (subject to change)**

<u>Class</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic / Assignments</u>	<u>Reading</u>
<i>Week 1</i>			
1	08/31	Introduction – Cultural Anthropology	
2	09/02	Introduction – Cultural Anthropology	Eriksen, “Anthropology: Comparison and Context”, pp 1 – 9.
<i>Week 2</i>			
3	09/07	Nature and Society	Eriksen, “The Social Person”, pp 44 – 61.
4	09/09	The South Side	Diner, “The Sounds of Silence: Irish Food in America”, pp 113 – 145. In Diner, <u>Hungering for America</u> , Harvard University Press, Cambridge.
<i>Week 3</i>			
5	09/14	Academic Life: <i>Cutting and Pasting</i>  • <b>Assignment:</b> First Paper	
6	09/16	Anthropological Tools	Eriksen, “Fieldwork and Ethnography”, pp 27 – 43.

## Cultural Anthropology

<i>Week 4</i>			
7	09/21	Class Interview	
8	09/23	Film: <i>Ghosts</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Assignment:</b> Class interview</li> </ul>	Coe, “Chinese Gardens on Gold Mountain”, 103-143. In Coe, <u>Chop Suey: A Cultural History of Chinese Food</u> . OUP, 2009.
<i>Week 5</i>			
9	09/28	Family	Eriksen, “Marriage and Relatedness”, pp 116 – 131.
10	09/30	Family and the State	Nguyen, “Separated by Deportation”, pp 20 - 44. In Nguyen, <u>We All are Suspects Now</u> . Beacon Press, Boston.
<i>Week 6</i>			
11	10/05	Politics	Eriksen, “Politics and Power”, pp 165 – 183.
12	10/07	Film: <i>De Nadie</i>	Nguyen, “Crisis at the Border”, pp 91 - 112. In Nguyen, <u>We All are Suspects Now</u> . Beacon Press, Boston.
<i>Week 7</i>			
13	10/12	Fall Recess	
14	10/14	Ethnicity	Eriksen, “Ethnicity”, pp 275 – 288.
<i>Week 8</i>			
15	10/19	Race <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Assignment:</b> First Interview</li> </ul>	Nguyen, “The New Racial Profiling”, pp 72 - 90. In Nguyen, <u>We All are Suspects Now</u> . Beacon Press, Boston.
16	10/21	Ethnicity and Race	Smith, “Racialization and Mexicans in New York City”, pp 220 – 243. In Zuniga & Hernandez-Leon (eds.), <u>New Destinations</u> , Russell Sage, New York.
<i>Week 9</i>			
17	10/26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Assignment:</b> Submit a copy of the interview.</li> </ul>	Eriksen, “Caste and Class”, pp 150 – 164.

## Cultural Anthropology

18	10/28	Consumption <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Assignment:</b> Submit a copy of the interview.</li> </ul>	Eriksen, “Exchange and Consumption”, pp 184 – 202.
<i>Week 10</i>			
19	11/02	Film: <i>Brick Lane</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Assignment:</b> Submit a copy of the interview.</li> </ul>	Nguyen, “Turning in for Registration”, pp 45 - 71. In Nguyen, <u>We All are Suspects Now</u> . Beacon Press, Boston.
20	11/04	Imagined Communities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Assignment:</b> Submit a copy of the interview.</li> </ul>	Eriksen, “Nationalism and Minorities”, pp 289 – 306.
<i>Week 11</i>			
21	11/09	Gender	Eriksen, “Gender and Age”, pp 132 – 149.
22	11/11	Age	Grey and Woodrick, “Latinos have Revitalized our Community”, pp 133 – 154. In Zuniga & Hernandez-Leon (eds.), <u>New Destinations</u> , Russell Sage, New York.
<i>Week 12</i>			
23	11/16	Change	Eriksen, “Complexity and Change”, pp 257 – 274.
24	11/18	Community	Portes, “Mainstream Ideologies and the Long-Term Prospects of Immigrant Communities”, pp 269 – 286. In Portes, <u>Legacies</u> , Sage, New York.
<i>Week 13</i>			
25	11/23	Thanksgiving	
26	11/25	Thanksgiving	
<i>Week 14</i>			
27	11/30	Film: <i>The Visitors</i>	Eriksen, “Anthropology and the Paradox of Globalization”, pp 307 – 326.

## Cultural Anthropology

28	12/02	Globalization	Sassen, “America’s Immigration <i>Problem</i> ”, pp 31 – 53. In Sassen, <u>Globalization and its Discontents</u> , New Press, New York.
<i>Week 15</i>			
29	12/07	Conclusions <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Assignment:</b> Transcription and Selection</li></ul>	Eriksen, “Making Anthropology Matter”, pp 327 – 329.

### **Blackboard site and email communication**

Everyone is responsible for visiting the Blackboard site of this course where you will find:

- o The course syllabus
- o Questions about the films
- o Recommended websites
- o Referencing and writing advice
- o Important announcements and information

I will send you relevant information and contact you when necessary only through your Moravian email account. I also expect you to contact me through your college email rather than your personal email. Please become familiar with Moravian email as this will be the prior way to get in touch with your professors.

If you need to discuss something with me, please set an appointment. If you have a query about any assignment we would need to meet at least two weeks before the due date, so please plan accordingly

### **Academic honesty**

- Moravian College does not tolerate plagiarism, cheating, or helping others to cheat.
- Plagiarism is defined as misrepresenting the work of others (whether published or not) as your own. It may be inadvertent or intentional.



## Cultural Anthropology

- Any facts, statistics, quotations, or paraphrasing of any information that is not common knowledge, should simply be cited.
- For a more detailed explanation of plagiarism please see the Academic Honesty at Moravian College link under Academic Life at the Student Handbook website.
- If you have questions about how to reference others' works you should look at the referencing advice and explore the suggested websites in the Blackboard site, or speak with the professor.
- Students suspected of plagiarism or cheating will automatically receive an "F" in the course and will be reported to the appropriate school authorities.

### **Students with disabilities**

- Students with disabilities (e.g., learning disabilities, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, neurological disorders, health, physical, mobility, hearing, visual, mental health/psychiatric) should contact Mr. Joe Kempfer, the Assistant Director of Learning Services for Disability Support for further assistance and information. Telephone: 610 861-1510. Internal extension 1510.