ANTH 1a
Introduction to the Comparative Study of Human Societies

Class Time: Mon., Tues., Thurs., 11:15am-1:45pm, Pearlman 202
Instructor: Sara Withers, email: swithers@brandeis.edu
Office Hours: By appointment

Course Description:
This course introduces the principal ideas and methods of social and cultural anthropology by offering a comparative study of a diverse cross-section of human societies. This course is designed to examine the ways people—within a range of communities, in Africa, Latin America, South Asia, and the United States—make sense of and order their lives. The course will consider the effects and relationships between class, caste, ethnicity, race, and gender in human societies. A key theme running through the course is that of globalization and transnationalism. How do people around the world interact with, interpret, use, and/or resist political, economic, and cultural changes that often are associated with participation in today's world? Are the cultures of the world becoming homogenous or are communities working within the boundaries of globalization to create new and unique cultural spaces? What is the role of anthropology/the anthropologist within this context?

In addressing such broad themes, the course will introduce the student to the founding scholars of the discipline, as well as to the basic tenants of cultural anthropology: the concept of culture; fieldwork; kinship and social organization; political economy; symbols and language; religion and ritual; gender and sexuality; resistance and social change; and violence and human rights.

This course serves as a core requirement for majors in Anthropology and in International and Global Studies. It satisfies the University Studies requirements for the School of Social Sciences and Non-Western and Comparative Studies. If approved, it will also be Writing Intensive.

Required Readings: Books are available at the bookstore. Additional articles will be available through WebCT. These are marked with a (**WebCT**) in the syllabus. Readings will amount to approximately 200-250 pages per week. Please complete the reading on or before the class date listed in the syllabus. Films will be viewed in class (and most are available on reserve in the Library or through WebCT).

> Basso, Keith. *Portraits of "the Whiteman": Linguistic Play and Cultural Symbols among the Western Apache*. Cambridge University Press (1979).
>
> Lee, Richard. *The Dobe Ju/'hoansi*, 3rd ed. Thomson Learning (2003).
>
> Podolefsky, Aaron and Peter J. Brown, eds. *Applying Cultural Anthropology: An Introductory Reader*, 7th ed. Mc-Graw Hill (2007).

Course Requirements:

2 Short (2-3 page) Papers (10% each)	20%
Observation Exercise	10%
Midterm Exam (in-class)	20%
Final Exam (3 hours, 8/9)	30%
Class Participation	20%

Papers: Topics for the two 2-3 page essays will be handed out at about a week before the work is due (due dates are specified in the syllabus).

Observation Exercise: This will be an informal exercise in which you will be asked to observe particular kinds of social-cultural practices in the environments surrounding you, and to write up a 1-2 page description and analysis of the phenomena, drawing on course concepts.

Late work: Work submitted after the due date and time will be lowered by one third of a grade for each day (or fraction of a day) late, except in documented cases of illness or emergency. Work submitted later than 15 minutes beyond the start of class will be considered one day late.

Exams: The midterm and final exams will consist largely of short answer (1-3 paragraphs) questions based on the readings, lectures, and films. You will be asked to supply detailed factual information and your own interpretations. It will be difficult for you to do well on the exams if you do not carefully keep up with both readings and lectures. The lectures often cover material not duplicated in the readings, so attending class is very important. Exam dates are specified in the syllabus.

Class Participation: This includes attendance, doing the readings on time, and thoughtful participation in the class discussion. If you are not able to attend a class, please let me know ahead of time via email.

Academic Integrity and Plagiarism: You may only submit your own original work in this course; this includes exams, observations, written papers, and all other work. Please be careful and cite precisely and properly the sources of all authors and persons you have drawn upon in your written work. Plagiarism (from both published and internet sources) is a serious violation of academic integrity. Remember, you must indicate through quotations, indentation, and citation when quoting from any outside source (print or internet). You are expected to be familiar with and to follow the University's policies on academic integrity (see www.brandeis.edu/studentlife/sdc/rr/html/rr_section4.html). Instances of alleged dishonesty will be forwarded to the Summer School Director for adjudication within the Student Judicial System. Potential sanctions include failure in the course, suspension from the University and permanent dismissal.

If you are a student with a documented disability on record at Brandeis University and wish to have a reasonable accommodation made for you in this class, please see me immediately. Please keep in mind that reasonable accommodations are not provided retroactively.

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M 7/7 Introduction to the course. What is anthropology? The concept of culture and cultural relativism.
All from *Applying Cultural Anthropology* (ACA):
"Introduction: Understanding Humans and Human Problems" (ACA): pp 1-4.
Horace Miner, "Body Ritual Among the Nacirema" (ACA): pp 5-8.

T 7/8 Origin of cultural anthropology in the context of colonialism. Perspectives on evolutionism, biological determinism, racism. How to explain difference? More ideas of cultural relativism.
American Anthropological Association, "Official Statement on Race." (ACA): pp.106-107
Corinne Kratz, "Circumcision, Pluralism, and Dilemmas of Cultural Relativism" (ACA): 255-266.
Abu-Lughod, "Do Muslim Women Really Need Saving?" (ACA): pp. 198-204.
Geertz, "The Impact of the Concept of Culture on the Concept of Man" in *The Innterpretation of Cultures* (1973): pp. 33-54 (**LATTE**)

HAND OUT 1st PAPER TOPIC—DUE 7/14

TH 7/10 Close encounters. Invention of fieldwork. Entering a culture, issues of representation and understanding.
Basso, Keith. *Portraits of* "*the Whiteman.* (1979): Chapters 1-3 (1-64) and 5 (79-82). Recommended: Appendix.
Claire E. Sterk, "Tricking and Tripping: Fieldwork on Prostitution in the Era of AIDS" (ACA): pp. 14-20
Malinowski, "Introduction" in *Argonauts of the Western Pacific* (1984[1922]): pp. 1-24 (**LATTE**)
Rabinow, *Reflections on Fieldwork in Morocco* (1977): pp 150-155 only (**LATTE**)

FILM: First Contact (by Bob Connolly and Robin Anderson, 1983, 54 min)

M 7/14 Kinship/Social Organization/Marriage
1st ESSAY DUE
Lee, *The Dobe Ju/'hoansi* (2003): chaps 1-3 (1-36), and 5-6 (59-90).
Goldstein, "When Brothers Share a Wife" (ACA): pp 156-160.
Small, "How Many Fathers are Best for a Child?" (ACA): pp 172-175.

FILM: N!ai: the Story of a !Kung Woman (by John Marshall et al., 1980, 59 min)

T 7/15 Economic systems—modes of production/distribution/consumption
Lee, *The Dobe Ju/'hoansi* (2003): Chapters 4 (37-58), 8 (109-124), and 11-13 (151-200).
Lee, "Eating Christmas in the Kalahari" (ACA): pp 56-60 (or Appendix A in Lee)
Diamond, "The Worst Mistake in the History of the Human Race" (ACA): pp 79-82).
Hansen, Karen Tranberg, "Commodity Chains and the International Secondhand Clothing Trade: *Salaula* and the Work of Consumption in Zambia:" pp 221-236. (**LATTE**)

HAND OUT OBSERVATION EXERCISE—DUE 7/21

TH 7/17 Religion and Ritual
Lee, The Dobe Ju/'hoansi (2003): Chapt. 9 (125-140).
Davis, "Hallucinogenic Plants and their Use in Traditional Societies" (ACA): pp 212-215.
Nash, *We Eat the Mines and the Mines Eat Us: Dependency and Exploitation in Bolivan Tin Mines* (1993): Chapt 5 (pp. 121-169). (**LATTE**)

FILM: The Devil's Miner

M 7/21 Power and Social Inequality
OBSERVATION EXERCISE DUE
McIntosh, "White Privilege: Unpacking the Invisible Knapsack" (ACA): pp 108-111.
Devi, "Paddy Seeds" (a short story) in Of Women, Outcastes, Peasants, and Rebels, (1990) pp 158-184 (**LATTE**).

FILM: Caste at Birth (by Mira Hamermesh, 1990, 52 min)

T 7/22 Constructions of Gender. Men's and women's roles. Is male dominance universal? Review for midterm.
Guttmann, "Trafficking in Men: the Anthropology of Masculinity" (1997): pp 385-409. (**LATTE**)
Ehrenreich and Hochschild, "Introduction" to Global Woman: Nannies, Maids and Sex Workers in the New Economy (2002): pp 1-13 (**LATTE**)

FILM: Chain of Love (by Marije Meerman, 2001, 50 min)

TH 7/24 MIDTERM—IN CLASS

M 7/28 Sexualities.
Herdt, "Semen Transactions in Sambia Culture" in *Ritualized Homosexuality in Melanasia* (1984): pp 101-169. (**LATTE**)

Martin, "I couldn't ever Picture myself having sex…: Gender Differences in Sex and Sexual Subjectivity" (2005): pp 161-176 (**LATTE**)
Messner, "Becoming 100% Straight" (2005): pp 227-232 (**LATTE**)

T 7/29 Notions of the body, ideas of illness, wellness, and healing. Medical anthropology.
Urla and Swedlund, "Barbie" (ACA): pp 145.
Farmer, "Culture, Poverty, and HIV Transmission: The Case of Rural Haiti" (ACA): pp 216-228.
Berlin and Fowkes, "A Teaching Framework for Cross-Cultural Health Care" (ACA): pp 235-241.
Review: Lee, *The Dobe Ju/'hoansi* (2003): chapt 9, pp 125-140.

HAND OUT 2nd PAPER TOPIC—DUE 8/4

TH 7/31 Globalization and Transnationalism. Immigration.
Inda and Rosaldo, "Introduction: A World in Motion," (2002): pp. 1-34. (**LATTE**)
Appadurai, "Global Ethnoscapes" (1996): 48-65. (**LATTE**)
Pader, "Spatiality and Social Change: Domestic Space Use in Mexico and the U.S." (1993): (**LATTE**)
Chavez, *Shadowed Lives* (1998): chapts 7, 10, epilogue. (**LATTE**)

FILM: Mayan Voices, American Lives

M 8/4 Violence and Human Rights.
2nd ESSAY DUE
Bodley, "The Price of Progress," (ACA): 267-275.
Reed, "Two Rights Make a Wrong: Indigenous Peoples Versus Environmental Protection Agencies" (ACA): pp 92-99.
Turner, "Defiant Images" (**LATTE**)
Review: Lee, *The Dobe Ju/'hoansi* (2003): chapt 12

FILM: Amazon Journal

T 8/5 Activist Anthropology. Engaged Anthropology. Review for final exam
Rosaldo, "Of Head Hunters and Soldiers" (2000): pp. 1-7 **(LATTE)**
Scheper-Hughes, "Introduction" to *Death Without Weeping* (1992): pp 1-30 (**LATTE**).
Murray, "The domestication of Wood in Haiti: A Case Study in Applied Evolution" (ACA): pp 83-91.

TH 8/7 FINAL EXAM (**Note: time change to 1-4pm**)