

CARLETON UNIVERSITY  
COLLEGE OF THE HUMANITIES  
HUMS 1005  
2016 WINTER  
“EARLY CULTURES”

**Instructor: Bernhard Leistle**

**Office: Loeb C 775**

**Office Hours: Wednesdays, 1 – 3 p.m., or by appointment**

**Email: [bernhard.leistle@carleton.ca](mailto:bernhard.leistle@carleton.ca)**

**Phone Number: (613) 520 2600 x 1955**

**Course meets: Wednesdays and Fridays, 8:35 a.m. – 9:55 a.m.  
303 PA**

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**Course Description:**

This is an introduction to cultural anthropology for students in the humanities. The course places a twofold emphasis: on “anthropology” in the sense of an encompassing “science of man”, and on “culture” as referring to historical and local particularity. The first of these intertwined dimensions is made thematic through reflections on the philosophical and evolutionary position of the human being in the world (revolving particularly around the role of the human body); the second dimension is addressed through ethnographic materials illustrating the irreducible nature of cultural difference.

**Learning objectives:** 1. To create an awareness in students of the role of culture in human existence; 2. To introduce them to some of the theories and methods of contemporary cultural anthropology; 3. To enhance their ability to connect concrete human phenomena to problems of philosophical anthropology

**Reading (s)/Textbook (s):**

The textbook for this course is:

Wulf, Christoph 2013. *Anthropology. A Continental Perspective*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press (app. \$ 45)

The book is available at Octopus Books, 116 Third Avenue. The price is what was quoted to me by the book store.

**All other readings** will be made available by the library on the CULearn webpage of the course (if you scroll down on the page, on the bottom left you see a link “View the course in Ares”. Click the link and you will find the readings).

### **Course Requirements & Methods of Evaluation:**

In order to do well in this course, students must do the usual: attend class and read the assigned literature.

Grades are based on various assignments:

- a **quiz** on Jan.20, type short question and answer. **Value of total grade is 10 %.**

-a **midterm exam** of the same type on Feb.24, **value 30%.**

-a **final paper** of 2000 words, **value 50%, due on the last day of classes, April 08.**

The topic of the essay will be the role of the human body in culture and existence, as discussed in the course.

-**attendance/participation marks 10%**, based on a variety of short in-class assignments.

**Submission:** All assignments are to be submitted in class, at the beginning of the session. In the case that a student is prevented by circumstances like illness to come to class, work can be submitted into the dropbox of the department of sociology and anthropology, located in the door of the main office, in Loeb B 750. In these cases a doctor's note is required.

### **HUMS 1005 "Early Cultures", Class Schedule Winter 2016**

Week 1, Jan 06 and Jan 08 **Introduction**

Reading: Horace Miner "Body Ritual of the Nacirema"

Week 2, Jan 13 and Jan 15 **Human Evolution and Sign Processes**

Readings: Christoph Wulf *Anthropology. A Continental Perspective*. Introduction and Chapter 1  
Marcel Danesi *Sign, Thought and Culture*, Ch. 2 "The Sign"

Week 3, Jan 20 and Jan 22 **Philosophical Anthropology**

Readings: Wulf *Anthropology*. Chapter 2

Helmut Plessner: "The Relation of Man to his Body" in: *Laughing and Crying*

**Quiz (10%) on Jan 20.**

Week 4, Jan 27 and Jan 29 **Historical and Cultural Anthropology**

Readings: Wulf *Anthropology*. Chapter 3 and 4

Week 5, Feb 03 and Feb 05 **Historical Cultural Anthropology**

Readings: Wulf *Anthropology*. Chapter 5

Week 6, Feb 10 and Feb 12 **The Body in Anthropology**

Readings: Wulf *Anthropology*. Chapter 6

Erwin Straus "The Upright Posture" in *Phenomenological Psychology*

**Feb 15 - 19, winter break, no classes**

Week 7, Feb 24 and Feb 26 **Mimesis**

Readings Wulf *Anthropology*. Chapter 7

Michael Taussig *Mimesis and Alterity*, chapter 1, page 1 – 18

Walter Benjamin “On the Mimetic Faculty” in *Reflections*.

**Midterm on Feb. 24 (30%)**

Week 8, March 02 and March 04 **Performance and Performativity**

Readings: Wulf *Anthropology*. Chapter 8

John Schultz *The Chicago Conspiracy Trial*, Part Two “Seale”

Week 9 March 09 and March 11 **Ritual**

**Readings:** Wulf Chapter 9

Edward Schieffelin “Failure and Performance” in: Carol Laderman and Marina Roseman *The Performance of Healing*

Week 10 March 16 and March 18 **Language**

Readings: Wulf Chapter 10

Karl Bühler “The Organon-Model of Language”, in *Theory of Language*

Week 11 March 23 (**March 25 Holiday**) **Image and Imagination**

Readings: Wulf Chapter 11

Walter Benjamin “The Work of Art in the Era of Mechanical Reproduction”

Week 12 March 30 and April 1 **Death and Birth**

Readings: Wulf Chapter 12

Charles Hirschkind *The Ethical Soundscape*, Chapter 6 “The Acoustics of Death”

Week 13 April 06 and April 08 **Epilogue**

Reading: Wulf “Future Prospects”

**Final Paper (50%) due on April 08**

## REGULATIONS COMMON TO ALL HUMANITIES COURSES

### COPIES OF WRITTEN WORK SUBMITTED

Always retain for yourself a copy of all essays, term papers, written assignments or take-home tests submitted in your courses.

### PLAGIARISM

The University Senate defines plagiarism as “*presenting, whether intentional or not, the ideas, expression of ideas or work of others as one’s own.*” This can include:

- reproducing or paraphrasing portions of someone else’s published or unpublished material, regardless of the source, and presenting these as one’s own without proper citation or reference to the original source;
- submitting a take-home examination, essay, laboratory report or other assignment written, in whole or in part, by someone else;
- using ideas or direct, verbatim quotations, or paraphrased material, concepts, or ideas without appropriate acknowledgment in any academic assignment;
- using another’s data or research findings;
- failing to acknowledge sources through the use of proper citations when using another’s works and/or failing to use quotation marks;
- handing in “*substantially the same piece of work for academic credit more than once without prior written permission of the course instructor in which the submission occurs.*”

Plagiarism is a serious offence which cannot be resolved directly with the course’s instructor. The Associate Deans of the Faculty conduct a rigorous investigation, including an interview with the student, when an instructor suspects a piece of work has been plagiarized. Penalties are not trivial. They can include a final grade of “F” for the course

### GRADING SYSTEM

Letter grades assigned in this course will have the following percentage equivalents:

A+ = 90-100 (12)	B = 73-76 (8)	C - = 60-62 (4)
A = 85-89 (11)	B- = 70-72 (7)	D+ = 57-59 (3)
A- = 80-84 (10)	C+ = 67-69 (6)	D = 53-56 (2)
B+ = 77-79 (9)	C = 63-66 (5)	D - = 50-52 (1)

F	Failure. Assigned 0.0 grade points
ABS	Absent from final examination, equivalent to F
DEF	Official deferral (see “Petitions to Defer”)
FND	Failure with no deferred exam allowed -- assigned only when the student has failed the course on the basis of inadequate term work as specified in the course outline.

Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor subject to the approval of the Faculty Dean.

### WITHDRAWAL WITHOUT ACADEMIC PENALTY

The last date to withdraw from **FALL TERM** courses is **DEC. 7, 2015**. The last day to withdraw from **FALL/WINTER (Full Term)** and **WINTER** term courses is **APRIL 8, 2016**.

### REQUESTS FOR ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION

You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term because of disability, pregnancy or religious obligations. Please review the course outline promptly and write to me with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. You can visit the Equity Services website to view the policies and to obtain more detailed information on academic accommodation at: [carleton.ca/equity/accommodation/](http://carleton.ca/equity/accommodation/)

Students with disabilities requiring academic accommodations in this course must register with the Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) for a formal evaluation of disability-related needs. Documented disabilities could include but not limited to mobility/physical impairments, specific Learning Disabilities (LD), psychiatric/psychological disabilities, sensory disabilities, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), and chronic medical conditions. Registered PMC students are required to contact the PMC, 613-520-6608, every term to ensure that your Instructor receives your Letter of Accommodation, no later than two weeks before the first assignment is due or the first in-class test/midterm requiring accommodations. If you only require accommodations for your formally scheduled exam(s) in this course, please submit your request for accommodations to PMC by **Nov. 6, 2015** for the Fall term and **March 6, 2016** for the Winter term. For more details visit the Equity Services website: [carleton.ca/equity/accommodation/](http://carleton.ca/equity/accommodation/)

### PETITIONS TO DEFER

If you miss a final examination and/or fail to submit a **FINAL** assignment by the due date because of circumstances beyond your control, you may apply a deferral of examination/assignment. If you are applying for a deferral due to illness you will be required to see a physician in order to confirm illness and obtain a medical certificate dated no later than one working day after the examination or assignment deadline. This supporting documentation must specify the date of onset of the illness, the degree of incapacitation, and the expected date of recovery.

If you are applying for a deferral for reasons other than personal illness, please [contact](#) the Registrar’s Office directly for information on other forms of documentation that we accept.

Deferrals of a final assignment or take home, in courses without a final examination, must be supported by confirmation of the assignment due date, for example a copy of the course outline specifying the due date and any documented extensions from the course instructor.

Deferral applications for examination or assignments must be submitted within **5 working days** of the original final exam.

### ADDRESSES: (Area Code 613)

College of the Humanities 520-2809	300 Paterson
Greek and Roman Studies Office 520-2809	300 Paterson
Religion Office 520-2100	2A39 Paterson
Registrar's Office 520-3500	300 Tory
Student Academic Success Centre 520-7850	302 Tory
Paul Menton Centre 520-6608/TTY 520-3937	501 Uni-Centre
Writing Tutorial Service 520-2600 Ext. 1125	4 <sup>th</sup> Floor Library
Learning Support Service 520-2600 Ext 1125	4 <sup>th</sup> Floor Library