

CARLETON UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF THE HUMANITIES
HUMS 1005
2017 WINTER
“EARLY CULTURES”

Instructor: Bernhard Leistle

Office: Loeb C 775

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

Email: bernhard.leistle@carleton.ca

Phone Number: (613) 520 2600 x 1955

Course meets: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10:05 a.m. – 11:25 a.m.
303 PA

Course Description:

This is an introduction to cultural anthropology for students in the humanities. The course is based on the idea that every understanding of other cultures, past or present, inevitably reflects back on the understanding of one’s own culture. Cultural anthropology is presented as the academic discipline that confronts the relationship of self and Other in an exemplary manner. Students will be introduced to traditional concerns of anthropology, exemplified by classical texts. They will also learn about the perspective underlying anthropological research, thus connecting cultural anthropology with philosophical questions. Finally, students are introduced to fundamental theoretical concepts and learn how to apply them in anthropological analyses of concrete materials.

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 philosophical questions.

Reading (s)/Textbook (s):

The textbook for this course is:

John Monaghan and Peter Just 2000. *Social and Cultural Anthropology. A Very Short Introduction.*

Oxford: Oxford University Press. Price: \$ 14.65

The book is available at Octopus Books, 116 Third Avenue.

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.24, type short question and answer. **Value of total grade is 10 %.**
- a **midterm exam** of the same type on Feb.28, **value 30%.**
- a **final paper** of 2000 words, **value 50%, due on the last day of classes, April 06.**
- 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", Winter term 2017

Week 1, Jan. 05 **Introduction to the course**

No reading

Week 2, Jan 10 and Jan 12 **The Anthropological Perspective**

Readings: Monaghan and Just, *Social and Cultural Anthropology. A Very Short Introduction*,
"Introduction" 1 -12
Horace Miner "Body Ritual among the Nacirema"

Week 3, Jan 17 and Jan 19 **Fieldwork and Ethnography**

Readings: Monaghan and Just, ch. 1
Bronislaw Malinowski, *Argonauts of the Western Pacific*, "Introduction"

Week 4, Jan 24 and Jan 26 **Culture and Cultural Relativism**

Readings: Monaghan and Just, ch. 2
Clifford Geertz "Deep Play: Notes on the Balinese Cockfight"

Quiz, Jan 24

Week 5, Jan 31 and Feb 02 **Gift Exchange**

Readings: Monaghan and Just, ch. 6
Marcel Mauss *The Gift* (Selections)

Week 6, Feb 07 and Feb 09 **Society and Self**

Readings: Monaghan and Just, ch. 3
Erving Goffman *The Presentation of Self in Everyday Life* (Selections)

Week 7, Feb 14 and Feb 16 **The Body as Foundation of Culture**
Reading: Erwin Straus “The Upright Posture”

Feb 20 – 24, Reading Week, no classes

Week 8, Feb 28 and March 2 **Culture and Communication**
Readings: Marcel Danesi, *Sign, Thought and Culture*, ch. 2 “The Sign”
George Lakoff and Mark Johnson, *Metaphors we Live by* (Selections)

Midterm, Feb. 28

Week 9, March 7 and March 9 **The Rules of Dating**
Readings: Ellen Fein and Sherrie Schneider, *The Rules* (Selections)
Monaghan and Just Ch. 4

Week 10, March 14 and March 16 **Student Depression**
Readings: “The Broken Generation” in *MacLean’s Magazine*
Monaghan and Just, Ch. 8

Week 11, March 21 and March 23 **Internet and Social Media**
Readings: Nancy Joe Sales *American Girls* (Selections)

Week 12, March 28 and March 30 **Trobriand Cricket**
Film: *Trobriand Cricket*; reading: Monaghan and Just, ch. 5

Week 13, April 04 and April 06 **The Reversed Gaze**
Reading: Mwenda Ntarangwi, *The Reversed Gaze*, ch. 3
Term paper due, April 06

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:

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|------------------|----------------|-----------------|
| 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) |

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| 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. 9, 2016**. The last day to withdraw from **FALL/WINTER (Full Term)** and **WINTER** term courses is **APRIL 7, 2017**.

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/

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. 11, 2016** for the Fall term and **March 10, 2017** for the Winter term. For more details visit the Equity Services website: 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 **3 working days** of the original final exam.

ADDRESSES: (Area Code 613)

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| 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 & Career Development Services 520-7850 | 302 Tory |
| Paul Menton Centre 520-6608/TTY 520-3937 | 501 Uni-Centre |
| Writing Tutorial Service 520-6632 | 4 th Floor Library |
| Learning Support Service 520-2600 Ext 1125 | 4 th Floor Library |