

Carleton University

Winter 2009

The College of the Humanities  
**HUMS1005: Anthropology (Early Human Cultures)**

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Office Hours: Friday 11: 30-13:00 and by appointment

Classroom: Paterson 303  
Friday: 8:30-11:30  
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**Official course description:** This is a survey course aimed to be an introduction to cultural experiences of small scales societies, including kinship, rituals, magic, social structure, and subsistence. Readings may include the works of classic anthropologists such as Maine, Tylor, Morgan, and Boas.

**Course Objectives:** In addition to the objectives mentioned in the official course description, the course aims at better understanding of human behaviour in all its diversity by examining human social patterns from a cross cultural perspective. The goal is to introduce students to a broad range of the so-called “early human” cultures and to answer the following three questions: (1) What are the similarities and differences between humans and non humans; (2) What are the essential similarities and differences among humans; (3) What is the internal logic behind people’s behaviour?

**Teaching Methods:** We will approach our subject of study through the reading of an ethnographic textbook and some articles in a course pack. Each week, the class time will be divided in two parts: lecture, and discussion. Through weekly lectures, there will be an overview of the subject while trying NOT to repeat the material in readings. The idea is that the lectures should add to the knowledge stated in each text, yet being relevant and complementary to its material. There will also be an hour of the discussion of the material in the readings. To illustrate certain points some documentary movies will be shown from time to time. These movies are substituting the fieldwork (a methodological device in anthropological research) and should be taken as seriously as lectures and readings.

**Course Texts:**

- (1) Napoleon A. Chagnon.. 1997. *Yanomamo*. Canada: Wadsworth Thomson Learning. (Hereafter Yanomamo), (Available at Carleton University Bookstore)
- (2) A coursepack including some articles (available at Impression RYTEC Printing, 404 Dalhousie Street. Tel: 613-241-2679).

**Student Responsibilities and Evaluation**

To complete the course, students are responsible for all the material in the lectures and for all the readings. The course evaluation is based on the following:

- (1) Participation in the class, discussions, and quizzes (15 %)
- (2) A review essay, due March 27, 2009 (20 %)
- (3) Mid-term examination in class, February 13, 2009 (25 %)
- (4) Final examination, during the exam period (40 %)

The review essay is meant to add to the list of readings in the course. Students are required to read two ethnographic texts by different authors, and do a review and critical analysis of those texts, using their knowledge of the material discussed in the class and in the readings. Both ethnographic texts, chosen by each student, must be based on one topic related to cultural behaviour. The review essay will NOT be based on a summary of bits and pieces of each text. Rather, it involves a short description of each text, a comparison of similarities and differences in terms of methodological and theoretical approaches used by each author, and the evaluation of the texts in general, i.e. pointing out positive and negative aspects of each study. The outcome of the comparison and evaluation of the two ethnographies is written in the form of a 5-7 page essay, typed (double-spaced) with the spelling and grammar checked. It should also include the bibliography of the texts.

The examinations will cover various concepts and topics from the lectures and materials in the assigned readings, as well as highlights from discussions and movies.

The criteria for the evaluation of answers to examination questions and the research project are the relevance of the topic to cultural behaviour, quality of the argument and analysis, coherence and clarity of the content, and quality of the presentation. Late submission of the assignments will be penalized by 1% of the essay marks for each working day. Please note that the submission of review essays through e-mail is not accepted.

### **Class Schedule and Readings**

**Week 1, Jan. 9:** Orientation and introduction, the study of culture

**Week 2, Jan. 16:** Human versus non-human; nature vs. culture

Methodology : qualitative/quantitative studies

Raymond Scupin. 2003. "Human evolution." In *Cultural Anthropology: A Global Perspective*. Upper Saddle River, New Jersey: Prentice Hall. PP. 22-41.

Claude Levi-Strauss. 1969 (1949). "Nature and culture." In *The Elementary Structures of Kinship*. Boston: Beacon Press. PP. 3-11.

**Week 3, Jan. 23:** Ethnocentrism/ cultural relativity

Methodology: deductive/inductive studies; macro/micro studies

**Documentary movie: "Warriors of the Amazon" (VH04443)**

Yanomamo: "Doing fieldwork among the Yanomamo" pp. 1-43.

Richard B. Lee. 2002 (3<sup>rd</sup> Edition): "Eating Christmas in the Kalahari." In *The Dobe Ju/'hoansi*. Canada: Wadsworth Thomson Learning. pp. 207-212.

Laura Bohannan. 1974 (1966). "Shakespeare in the bush." In *Conformity and Conflict*. (2<sup>nd</sup> Ed.). Edited by James P. Spradley and David W. McCurdy. Boston: Little, Brown and company. PP. 22-32.

**Week 4, Jan. 30:** Evolutionism, social structure, groups, stratification; economic life

Methodology: research problem, descriptive/explanatory studies

**Documentary movie: "Economic anthropology: Faces of culture" (VH 00995)**

Lewis Henry Morgan. 1964 (1877). "Ethnical periods" in *Ancient Society*. Mass.: Harvard University Press. PP. 11-23.

Yanomamo: "Cultural ecology" pp. 45-97.

**Week 5, Feb. 6:** Historical particularism, beliefs and rituals

Methodology: ethnography, case/comparative studies

**Documentary movie: "Strange beliefs" (VH01356)**

Franz Boas. 1964 (1988). "Social customs in summer" and "Social order and laws." In *The Central Eskimo*. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press. PP. 168-174.

Yanomamo: "Myth and cosmos" pp. 99-119.

Stephen C. Leavitt. 2006 (1997) "Cargo beliefs and religious experience." In *Conformity and Conflict: Readings in Cultural Anthropology*. James Spradley and David W. McCurdy (eds.) Twelfth Edition. Montreal: Pearson Education, Inc. PP. 330-339.

**Week 6, Feb. 13: Mid-term examination**

Discussions (continued); methodology: techniques of gathering information

**Week 7, Feb. 20: Reading week/study break**

**Week 8, Feb.27:** Kinship and Marriage, rites of passage

Methodology: ethical issues

**Documentary movie: "Strange relations" (207006)**

Yanomamo: "Social organization and demography" pp. 121-158.

Melvyn C. Goldstein 2004 (1987). "When brothers share a wife." In *Classic Readings in Cultural Anthropology*. Gary Ferraro (ed.) Canada: Thomson\* Wadsworth. PP. 34-39.

**Week 9, Mar. 6:** Functionalism, politics, gift giving

Methodology: data analysis

**Documentary movie: "Off the Verandah" (204551)**

Yanomamo: "The political alliance, trading and feasting" pp. 159-183.

Marvin Harris. 2006 (1989) "Life without chiefs." In *Conformity and Conflict: Readings in Cultural Anthropology*. James Spradley and David W. McCurdy (eds.) Twelfth Edition. Montreal: Pearson Education, Inc. PP. 284-293.

**Week 10, Mar. 13:** Structuralism, conflict and control

Methodology: concluding research, interpretation

Yanomamo "Yanomamo warfare" pp. 185-206.

**Week 11, Mar. 20:** Cultural do's and don'ts, symbols and metaphors

Methodology: oral/written presentation, realist/reflexive writing

Yanomamo: "Alliance with the Mishimishimabowei-teri" pp. 207-226.

Elizabeth W. Fernea and Robert A. Fernea. 2006 (1986) "Symbolizing roles: Behind the veil" In *Conformity and Conflict: Readings in Cultural Anthropology*. James Spradley and David W. McCurdy (eds.) Twelfth Edition. Montreal: Pearson Education, Inc. PP. 223-230.

**Week 12, Mar. 27:** Social change, male-female relation

“Humanities” scholars and the so-called “early human cultures”

**March 27: Due date for the review essay**

**Documentary movie: “A man called bee” (VH03106)**

Yanomamo “The acceleration of change in Yanomamoland” pp. 227-260.

Lauriston Sharp. 2004 (1952). “Steel axes for stone-age Australians”. In *Classic Readings in Cultural Anthropology*. Gary Ferraro (ed.) Canada: Thomson\* Wadsworth. PP. 98-108.

**Week 13, April 3:** Final remarks, humanities scholars and “early human cultures”

Horace Miner. 2004 (1956). “Body ritual among the Nacirema.” In *Classic Readings in Cultural Anthropology*. Gary Ferraro (ed.) United States: Thomson\* Wadsworth. PP. 2-5.

**Recommended Readings:** The texts contain very good sections entitled bibliography or references. These sections must be taken seriously, and used as a model for references in the review essay. They can also be used for selecting ethnographic texts for the review essay. You can also consult the following sources.

Bernardi, B. 1985. *Age Class Systems: Social Institutions and Policies Based on Age*. NY: Cambridge University Press.

Berry, J. W. and J. A. Laponce (ed.) 1994. *Ethnicity and Culture in Canada: The Research Landscape*. Toronto: University of Toronto Press.

Caplan, P. (Ed.) 1995. *Understanding Disputes: The Politics of Argument*. Providence, RI: Berg Publishers.

Givechian, F. 1990. *Work in Retirement: The Persistence of an American Collective Representation*. Lanham, MD: the University Press of America.

Herschfelder, A. (Ed.). 1995. *Native Heritage: Personal Accounts by American Indians: 1790 to the Present*. NY: Macmillan.

Layton, R. 1991. *The Anthropology of Art*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Lehmann, A. C. & J.E. Myers (Eds.). 1993. *Magic, Witchcraft and Religion: An Anthropological Study of the Supernatural*. Mountain View, CA: Mayfield.

Makabe, T. 1995. *Picture Brides: Japanese Women in Canada*. Translated by Kathleen Chisato Merken. Toronto: Multicultural History Society of Ontario.

Miller, B.D. (Ed.). 1993. *Sex and Gender Hierarchies*. NY: Cambridge University Press.

### **Recommended Journals**

American Anthropologist

Annual Review of Anthropology

Anthropology

Current Anthropology

Ethnology

Journal of Anthropological Research

Research in Economic Anthropology

## **Recommended documentary movies**

Aymara: A Case Study in Social Stratification

Bushmen of Kalahari (VH06500), National Geographic Society

Box of Treasures (107743)

Kawelka: Ongka's Big Moka (203377)

Way of Life The Making of Mankind; Episode 3: A Human (VH07175)

N!ai, The Story of a !Kung Woman (VH07645)

Papua New Guinea: Anthropology on Trial (202043)

River Journeys, the Waghi: Eater of the men" (253103)

Seeds in the City: the Greening of the Havana (260606)

## **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 "*to use and pass off as one's own idea or product the work of another without expressly giving credit to another.*" This can include:

- Copying from another person's work without indicating this through appropriate use of quotation marks and footnote citations.
- Lengthy and close paraphrasing of another person's work (i.e. extensive copying interspersed with a few phrases or sentences of your own).
- Submitting written work produced by someone else as if it were your own work (e.g. another student's term paper, a paper purchased from a term paper "factory", materials or term papers downloaded from the Internet, etc.).
- Handing in "*substantially the same piece of work to two or more courses without the prior written permission of the instructors...involved.*" (University Senate)

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 range from a mark of zero for the plagiarized work to a final grade of "F" for the course, and even suspension from all studies or expulsion from the University.

### **GRADING SYSTEM**

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

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

F Failure. No academic credit

WDN Withdrawn from the course

ABS Absent from the final examination

DEF Official deferral (see "Petitions to Defer")

FND "Failed, no Deferral" – assigned when the student is absent from the final exam and has failed the course on the basis of inadequate term work as specified in the course outline.

### **WITHDRAWAL WITHOUT ACADEMIC PENALTY**

The last date to withdraw from Fall term courses is November 7th, 2008. Last day to withdraw from Fall/Winter (full year) and Winter term courses is March 6<sup>th</sup>, 2009.

## **REQUESTS FOR ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION**

### **For Students with Disabilities**

Students with disabilities requiring academic accommodations in this course must register with the Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities for a formal evaluation of disability-related needs. Registered PMC students are required to contact the centre, 613-520-6608, every term to ensure that I receive 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 require accommodation for your formally scheduled exam(s) in this course, please submit your request for accommodation to PMC by November 7, 2008, for December examinations, and March 6, 2009, for April examinations.

### **For Religious Obligations:**

Students requesting academic accommodation on the basis of religious obligation should make a formal, written request to their instructors for alternate dates and/or means of satisfying academic requirements. Such requests should be made during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist, but no later than two weeks before the compulsory event. Accommodation is to be worked out directly and on an individual basis between the student and the instructor(s) involved. Instructors will make accommodations in a way that avoids academic disadvantage to the student.

Students or instructors who have questions or want to confirm accommodation eligibility of a religious event or practice may refer to the Equity Services website for a list of holy days and Carleton's Academic Accommodation policies, or may contact an Equity Services Advisor in the Equity Services Department for assistance. (613-520-5622)

### **For Pregnancy:**

Pregnant students requiring academic accommodations are encouraged to contact an Equity Advisor in Equity Services to complete a *letter of accommodation*. The student must then make an appointment to discuss her needs with the instructor at least two weeks prior to the first academic event in which it is anticipated the accommodation will be required.

## **PETITIONS TO DEFER**

Students unable to complete a **final** term paper or write a **final** examination because of illness or other circumstances beyond their control or whose performance on an examination has been impaired by such circumstances may apply in writing within five working days to the Registrar's Office for permission to extend a term paper deadline or to write a deferred examination. The request must be fully and specifically supported by a medical certificate or other relevant documentation. Only deferral petitions submitted to the Registrar's Office will be considered.

## **ADDRESSES**

College of the Humanities 520-2809	300 Paterson
Classics and 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	500 Unicentre
Writing Tutorial Service 520-6632	4 <sup>th</sup> floor Library