

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

Prof. Fatemeh Givechian

Classroom: Paterson 303

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Monday 8:30-11:30

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

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) Peggy Reeves Sanday. 2002. *Women at the Center: Life in a Modern Matriarchy*. NY: Cornell University Press. (Hereafter *Matriarchy*), (Available at Carleton University Bookstore)
- (2) A course-pack 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, movies, and for all the readings. The course evaluation is based on the following:

- (1) Participation in the class discussions, and quizzes (15 %)
- (3) A review essay, due March 29, 2010 (20 %)
- (4) Mid-term examination in class, February 8, 2010 (25 %)
- (5) 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 **supplementary** 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 (1) a short description of each text, (2) a comparison of similarities and differences in terms of methodological and theoretical approaches used by each author, and (3) the evaluation of the texts in general, i.e. pointing out positive and negative aspects of each study. Regarding the evaluation of the texts, the student should choose one of the theories mentioned in the class and evaluate the texts based on that particular theory. The outcome of the comparison and evaluation of the two ethnographies is written in the form of a 5-7 page essay, typed (double-space) 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 essay through e-mail is NOT accepted.

Class Schedule and Readings

Week 1, Jan. 4: Orientation and introduction, the study of humans and cultures

Week 2, Jan. 11: Human versus non-human; nature vs. culture

Methodology : qualitative/quantitative studies, macro/micro studies

William A. Haviland et al. 2007. "Human evolution." In *The Essence of Anthropology*. Belmont, CA: Wadsworth. PP. 74- 94.

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

Week 3, Jan. 18: Ethnocentrism/ cultural relativity; enculturation/acculturation

Methodology: library research/ fieldwork, deductive/inductive studies

Documentary movie: "Sanctuary of Earth Goddess" (VH06548)

Matriarchy: "Preface" and "Introduction", pp. ix-xv, and 1-12.

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

George Gmelch. 2006. "Lessons from the field" In *Conformity and Conflict*. Edited by James P. Spradley and David W. McCurdy. Twelfth Edition. Montreal: Pearson Education Inc. PP. 46-57.

Week 4, Jan. 25: Evolutionism, social structure, groups, stratification, magic and beliefs

Methodology: research problem, descriptive/explanatory studies

Documentary movie: "Strange beliefs" (VH01356)

Matriarchy: chapters 1 and 2. pp. 15-47.
Lewis Henry Morgan. 1964 (1877). "Ethnical periods" in *Ancient Society*. Mass.: Harvard University Press. PP. 11-23.
Stanley A. Freed and Ruth S. Freed. 2006 (1990) "Taraka's ghost." In *Conformity and Conflict: Readings in Cultural Anthropology*. James Spradley and David W. McCurdy (eds.) Twelfth Edition. Montreal: Pearson Education, Inc. PP. 300-305.

Week 5, Feb. 1st: Historical particularism, economic life and subsistence
Methodology: ethnography, case/comparative studies

Documentary movie: "Economic anthropology: Faces of culture" (VH 00995)
Matriarchy: chapters 3 and 4, pp. 51-75.
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.
Richard Borshay Lee. 2006 (1994) "The hunters: Scarce resources in the Kalahari" In *Conformity and Conflict: Readings in Cultural Anthropology*. James Spradley and David W. McCurdy (eds.) Twelfth Edition. Montreal: Pearson Education, Inc. PP. 107-121.

Week 6, Feb. 8: Mid-term examination

Discussions (continued); methodology: techniques of gathering information

Week 7, Feb. 15: Reading week/study break

Week 8, Feb.22: Functionalism; symbols and metaphors, gift giving
Methodology: ethical issues

Documentary movie: "Off the Verandah" (204551)
Matriarchy: chapters 5 and 6, pp. 79-99.
Lee Cronk. 2006 (1989) "Reciprocity and the power of giving" In *Conformity and Conflict: Readings in Cultural Anthropology*. James Spradley and David W. McCurdy (eds.) Twelfth Edition. Montreal: Pearson Education, Inc. PP. 148-153.

Week 9, Mar. 1st: kinship and marriage

Methodology: data analysis

Documentary movie: "Strange relations" (207006)
Matriarchy; chapters 7 and 8, pp. 100-130..
Melvyn C. Goldstein 2009 (1987). "Polyandry: when brothers take a wife." In *Conformity and Conflict: Readings in Cultural Anthropology*. James Spradley and David W. McCurdy (eds.) Thirteenth Edition. Montreal: Pearson Education, Inc. PP. 195-202.

Week 10, Mar. 8: Structuralism, rituals, rites of passage

Methodology: concluding research, interpretation

Matriarchy, chapters 9 and 10, pp. 131-170.

Week 11, Mar. 15: Politics, conflict and control

Methodology: oral/written presentation, realist/reflexive writing

Matriarchy, chapters 11 and 12, pp.173-203.

James L. Gibbs, JR. 2009 (1963). "The Kpelle Moot." In *Classic Readings in Cultural Anthropology*. Gary Ferraro (ed.) USA: Wadsworth. PP. 34-39.

Week 12, Mar. 22: Social change, male-female relation
"Humanities" scholars and the so-called "early human cultures"

Documentary movie: "Sight Unseen" (VH07646)

Matriarchy, chapters 13-14, pp. 207-240.

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

Week 13, March 29: Humanities scholars and "early human cultures"

March 29: Due date for the review essay

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

Week 14, April 5: Final remarks and review

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.

Chagnon, N. A. 1997. *Yanomamo*. Canada: Wadsworth Thomson Learning.

Fernea, E. W. and R. 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

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

Harris, M.. 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.

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 Univ. Press.

Leavitt, S. C. 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.

- Lee, R, B. 2002 (3rd Edition): "Eating Christmas in the Kalahari." In *The Dobe Ju/'hoansi*. Canada: Wadsworth Thomson Learning. pp. 207-212.
- 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.
- Scupin, R. 2003. "Human evolution." In *Cultural Anthropology: A Global Perspective*. Upper Saddle River, New Jersey: Prentice Hall. PP. 22-41.

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)
The Making of Mankind; Episode 3: A Human Way of Life (VH07175)
A man called bee (VH03106)
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)
Warriors of the Amazon (VH04443)

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 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	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 November 16, 2009. The last day to withdraw from Fall/Winter (full year) and Winter term courses is March 12, 2010.

REQUESTS FOR ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION

You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term. For an accommodation request the processes are as follows:

Pregnancy obligation: 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. For more details visit the Equity Services website: http://www.carleton.ca/equity/accommodation/student_guide.htm

Religious obligation: 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. For more details visit the Equity Services website: http://www.carleton.ca/equity/accommodation/student_guide.htm

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 are 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 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 **only** require accommodations for your formally scheduled exam(s) in this course, please submit your request for accommodations to PMC by the last official day to withdraw from classes in each term. For more details visit the PMC website: http://www.carleton.ca/pmc/students/acad_accom.html

You can visit the Equity Services website to view the policies and to obtain more detailed information on academic accommodation at <http://carleton.ca/equity/accommodation>

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: (Area Code 613)

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 th floor Library
Learning Commons 520-1125	4 th floor Library