

**The College of the Humanities  
(Humanities Program)**

**HUMS1005: Early Human Cultures (Anthropology)**

Prof.: Fatemeh Givechian

Classroom: Paterson 303

Email: fgivechian@yahoo.com

Friday 14:30-17:30

Tel: 520-2600, X 2103

Office: Paterson 2A35

Office Hours: Friday 12: 30-14:00 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 socio-cultural 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 studying humans) and should be taken as seriously as lectures and readings.

**Course Texts:**

- (1) Diane Austin-Broos, 2009. *Arrernte Present, Arrernte Past: Invasion, Violence and Imagination in Indigenous Central Australia*. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press. (Hereafter Arrernte), (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:

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|---|--------|
| (1) Participation in the class discussions, and quizzes | (13 %) |
| (3) A review essay, due April 1st, 2011                 | (20 %) |
| (4) Mid-term examination in class, February 11, 2011    | (27 %) |

(5) Final examination, during the examination 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 socio-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. 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, materials in the assigned readings, and 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 socio-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 one complete mark off 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. 7:** Orientation and introduction, the study of humans and cultures

**Week 2, Jan. 14:** Human versus non-human; nature vs. culture

Methodology : qualitative/quantitative studies, macro/micro studies

Raymond Scupin. 2008. "Human evolution." In *Cultural Anthropology: A Global Perspective*. Upper Saddle River, New Jersey: Pearson Prentice Hall. PP. 25-47.

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

Arrente: "Introduction", PP. 1-24.

**Week 3, Jan. 21:** Ethnocentrism/ cultural relativity; enculturation/acculturation

Methodology: library research/ fieldwork, deductive/inductive studies

**Documentary movie: "Dreamtime" (VH 04633)**

Arrente: "Encounter at Ntaria", PP. 27-50.

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.

Margaret Mead. 2003 (1961). "Letters from Peri – Manus II" In *Applying Anthropology: An Introductory Reader*. Edited by Aaron Podolefsky and Peter J. Brown. Toronto: McGraw Hill. PP. 118-121.

**Week 4, Jan. 28:** Evolutionism, social structure, stratification, symbols and rituals

Methodology: research problem, descriptive/explanatory studies

**Documentary movie: "Totem" (VH 07699)**

Arrente: "Kaporilya, a Big Place", PP. 51-76.

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

Eugene Cooper. 2003 (1961). "Chinese table Manners: You are how you eat" In *Applying Anthropology: An Introductory Reader*. Edited by Aaron Podolefsky and Peter J. Brown. Toronto: McGraw Hill. PP. 185-191.

**Week 5, Feb. 4:** Historical particularism, beliefs, magic and sorcery

Methodology: ethnography, case/comparative studies

**Documentary movie: "Strange beliefs" (VH 01356)**

Arrente: "The meaning of *Pepe*", PP. 77-101.

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.

Wade Davis. 2003 (1985). "Hallucinogenic plants and their use in traditional societies." In *Applying Anthropology: An Introductory Reader*. Edited by Aaron Podolefsky and Peter J. Brown. Toronto: McGraw Hill. PP. 338-341.

**Week 6, Feb. 11:** Economic life and subsistence

Methodology: ethical issues

**Mid-term examination**

Arrente: "Home and away: the dislocation of identity", PP. 105-129.

**Week 7, Feb. 18:** Functionalism, gift giving

Methodology: techniques of gathering information

**Feb. 18: Documentary Movie: "Off the Veranda" (VH 01360)**

Richard B. Lee. 2009 (1969). "Eating Christmas in the Kalahari." In *Classic Readings in Cultural Anthropology*. Gary Ferraro (ed.) USA: Wadsworth. PP. 27-32.

**Week 8, Feb.25: Reading week/study break; classes are cancelled**

**Week 9, Mar. 4:** kinship and marriage

Methodology: data analysis

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

Arrente: "Living with kin", PP.130-153.

Serena Nanda. 2009. "Arranging a marriage in India". In *Classic Readings in Cultural Anthropology*. Gary Ferraro (ed.) USA: Wadsworth. PP. 46-52.

**Week 10, Mar. 11:** Structuralism, metaphors, rites of passage, social order and disorder

Methodology: concluding research, interpretation

Arrente: "Honey ants and relatedness", PP. 154-175.

**Week 11, Mar. 18:** Politics, conflict and control

Methodology: oral/written presentation, realist/reflexive writing

Arrente: "Factionalism", PP. 179-204.

James L. Gibbs, JR. 2009 (1963). "The Kpelle Moot." In *Classic Readings in Cultural Anthropology*. Gary Ferraro (ed.) USA: Wadsworth. PP. 78-87.

**Week 12, Mar. 25:** Male/female relations

"Humanities" scholars and the so-called "early human cultures"

Arrenrte: "When imaginaries collide", PP. 205-237.

Ernestine Friedl. 2009 (1978) "Society and sex roles." In *Classic Readings in Cultural Anthropology*. Gary Ferraro (ed.) USA: Wadsworth. PP. 61-67.

**Week 13, April 1st:** Change, humanities scholars and "Early human cultures"

Final remarks and review

**April 1st: Due date for the review essay**

**Documentary movie: "Australia's aborigines" (VH 03462)**

Arrenrte: "A very remote emergency", and "Conclusion", PP. 238-270.

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

**Final examination: during the examination period, TBA**

**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.

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

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

Herd, G. 2003. *Secrecy & Cultural Reality: Utopian Ideologies of the New Guinea Men's House*. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press.

Knauff, B. 2005. *The Gebusi: Lives Transformed in a Rainforest World*. Boston: McGraw Hill.

Kuehling, S. 2005. *Dobu: Ethics of Exchange on a Massim Island, Papua New Guinea*. Honolulu: university of Hawai'i Press.

Loftsdottir, K. 2008. *The Bush is Sweet: Identity, Power, and Development among WoDaaBe Fulani in Niger*. Uppsala: Nordiska Afrikainstitutet.

Mallett, S. 2003. *Conceiving Cultures: Reproducing People & Places on Nuakata, Papua new Guinea*. Ann Arbor: The University of Michigan Press.

McKnight, D. 2005. *Of Marriage, Violence and Sorcery: The Quest for Power in Northern Queensland*. England: Ashgate Publishing Ltd.

Rasmussen, S. J. 2006. *Those Who Touch: Tuareg Medicine Women in Anthropological Perspective*. Illinois, Northern Illinois University Press.

Sanday, P.R. 2002. *Women at the Center: Life in a Modern Matriarchy*. NY: Cornell University Press.

Schieffelin, E.L. 2005 (2<sup>nd</sup> Ed.). *The Sorrow of the Lonely and the Burning of the Dancers*. England: Palgraqve Macmillan.

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

Stewart, P.J., and A. Strathern. 2002. *Remaking the World: Myth, Mining, and Ritual Change among the Duna of Papua New Guinea*. Washington D.C.: Smithsonian Institution Press.

Sveiby, K-E., and T. Skuthorpe. 2006. *Treading Lightly: The Hidden Wisdom of the World's oldest people*. Crows Nest, Australia: Allen & Unwin.

Tuzin, D. 1997. *The Cassowary's Revenge: The Life and Death of Masculinity in a New Guinea Society*. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press.

Wormsley, W.E. 2002. *The White Man Will Eat You! An Anthropologist among the Imbotnggu of New Guinea*. Belmont, CA: Wadsworth/Thomson Learning.

### **Recommended Academic 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)

Cry of the forgotten land (VH 04737)

Economic anthropology: Faces of culture (VH 00995)

Ongka's Big Moka; among the Kawelka (VH 04550)

The Kayapo: Indians of the Brazilian rain forest (VH 04551)

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)

Sanctuary of Earth Goddess (VH06548)

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

Sight Unseen (VH07646)

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 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. 6, 2010**. The last day to withdraw from **FALL/WINTER (Full Term)** and **WINTER** term courses is **APRIL 5, 2011**.

### 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 the last official day to withdraw from classes in each term. For more details visit the PMC website: [carleton.ca/pmc/accommodations/](http://carleton.ca/pmc/accommodations/)

### 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 assignments 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