

**The College of the Humanities
HUMS1005: Early Human Cultures**

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Office Hours: Tuesday 17:35-18:35 and by appointment

Classroom: Tory 447
Tuesday: 14:35-17:35
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Official course description: This is a survey course aimed to be an introduction to cultural experiences of small scale 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 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 materials in a course pack. Each week, the class time will be divided into 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) Richard B. Lee. 2013. *The Dobe Ju/'hoansi*. Canada: Wadsworth, CENGAGE Learning. (Hereafter Lee), (Available at Carleton University Bookstore)
- (2) A course pack including some articles (available at Impression RYTEC Printing "Enviro copies" 404 Dalhousie Street. Tel: 613-241-2679).

Students' 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 (12 %)
- (3) A review essay, due April 1st (20 %)
- (4) Mid-term examination in class, February 11, 2014 (28 %)
- (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 (books, articles, and/or movies) by different authors/directors, 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 in **two** different societies, historically (at least fifty years apart) or geographically (preferably two different countries). 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 the behaviour of the societies studied in the texts, (3) highlighting the internal logic regarding the topic of study in the behaviour of the societies studied in the texts, (4) a comparison of similarities and differences in the methodological approaches used by each author/director, i.e., techniques of gathering information for their studies, in addition to (5) evaluating the texts in general, i.e. pointing out positive and negative aspects of each study, if there is any. The outcome of the comparison and evaluation of the two ethnographic texts is written in the form of a 4-5 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 review essay will be penalized by 1 complete mark off 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. 7: Orientation and introduction, the study of culture

Week 2, Jan. 14: Humans versus non humans; nature vs. culture

How to study humans: Methodology I

Lee: "The Ju/'hoansi," pp. 1-8.

Lee: "The people of the Dobe area," pp. 9-23.

William 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. 21: Ethnocentrism/ cultural relativity; Enculturation and acculturation

How to study humans: Methodology II

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

Lee: "Environment and settlement". PP. 25-40.

Lee: "Eating Christmas in the Kalahari". PP. 245-251.

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.

Week 4, Jan. 28: History of anthropological thought, theories, evolutionism
Social structure, groups, social stratification
Economic life

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

Lee: "Subsistence: Foraging for a living". PP. 41-63.

Week 5, Feb. 4: Historical particularism; kinship and marriage

Documentary movie: "Strange relations" (VH 01509)

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.

Lee: "Kinship and social organization". PP. 65-83.

Lee: "Marriage and sexuality". PP. 85-99.

Melvyn Goldstein. 2009 "When brothers share a wife". In *Applying Anthropology: An Introductory Reader*. Aaron Podolefsky and Peter J. Brown. (eds.) Boston: McGraw Hill. PP. 283-287.

Week 6, Feb. 11: Mid-term examination

No reading is required.

Discussions (continued)

Week 7, Feb. 18: Reading week/study break

Week 8, Feb. 25: Functionalism, politics, conflict and control

Documentary movie: "Off the Veranda" (VH 01360)

Lee: "Complaint discourse: Aging and caregiving among the Ju/'hoansi". PP. 101-120.

Lee: "Conflict, politics, and exchange". PP. 121-135.

Week 9, Mar. 4: Beliefs, rituals and magic

Documentary movie: "Strange Beliefs" (VH 01356)

Lee: "Coping with life: religion, worldview, and healing" PP. 137-153.

Stephen C. Leavitt. 2006 (1997). "Cargo beliefs and religious rituals". In *Conformity and conflict*. (2nd Ed.). James Spradley and David W. McCurdy (eds.) Montreal: Pearson Education, Inc. PP. 330-339.

Week 10, Mar. 11: Structuralism, cultural dos and don'ts, symbols and metaphors

Documentary movie: "Totem" (VH 07699)

Lee: "The Ju/'hosni and their neighbors". PP. 155-164.

Edward T. Hall, and Mildred R. Hall. 2009 (1971). "The sounds of silence". In *Classic Readings in cultural Anthropology*. Gary Ferraro (ed.) USA: Wadsworth. PP. 18-26.

Week 11, Mar. 18: Social change

Lee: "Perceptions and directions of social change" PP. 165-182.

Lauriston Sharp. 2004 (1952). "Steel axes for stone-age Australians". In *Classic Readings in Cultural Anthropology*. Gary Ferraro (ed.) United States: Thomson* Wadsworth. PP. 116-125.

Week 12, Mar. 25: Male-female relations, Ethics of scholarly studies

Documentary movie: "N!ai, The story of a !Kung Woman" (VH 07645)

Lee: "The Ju/'hoansi today" pp. 183-213.

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

American Anthropological Association. 2007 (1998). "Code of ethics". In *Ethnographic Fieldwork: An Anthropological Reader*. A.C.G.M. Robben, and Jeffrey A. Sluka. Malden, MA: Blackwell Publishing. PP. 325-330.

Week 13, April 1: Humanities scholars and the so-called "early human cultures"

April 1st: Due date for the review essay

Lee: "Tsumkwe at 50...". PP. 215-227.

Lee: "Anthropological practices and lessons of the Ju/'hoansi" PP. 229-238.

Week 14, April 8: Final remarks and review

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.

Please note that the discussion topics in the course schedule are subject to change based on the length of each topic or discussion.

Recommended Readings: The required texts, in the course, 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.
- Raymond Scupin. 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/popular movies

Aymara: A Case Study in Social Stratification
Bushmen of Kalahari (VH06500), National Geographic Society
Box of Treasures (107743)
Gods must be crazy (I and II)
Kawelka: Ongka's Big Moka (203377)
A Man Called Bee (201813)
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 “*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. 9, 2013**. The last day to withdraw from **FALL/WINTER (Full Term)** and **WINTER** term courses is **APRIL 8, 2014**.

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. 8, 2013** for the Fall term and **March 7, 2014** 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 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 th Floor Library
Learning Support Service 520-2600 Ext 1125	4 th Floor Library