

CARLETON UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF THE HUMANITIES
HUMS 1005
2020 WINTER
“EARLY CULTURES”

Instructor: Bernhard Leistle

Office: Loeb C 775

Office Hours: Thursday, 2 – 4 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 life; 2. To introduce them to some of the theories and methods of cultural anthropology; 3. To enhance their ability to apply abstract concepts to understand concrete empirical realities; 4. To enable students to see their own cultural reality from another perspective.

Reading (s)/Textbook (s):

All readings will be made available by the library on the CULearn webpage of the course (if you scroll down on the page, at the top right 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 28, type short question and answer. **Value of total grade is 10 %.**
- a **short essay** consisting of a semiotic analysis of a sign, due on Feb 06, **with a value of 15%.**
- a **midterm exam**, type short question and answer on March 03, **value 25%.**
- a **final paper** of 2000 words, **value 40%, due on the last day of classes, April 07.**
- 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.

Late Policy: For every day a take home assignment is submitted late, the grade will be reduced by 2%.

Class Schedule HUMS 1005, Winter 2020

Week 1, Jan 07 and Jan 09 Introduction – The Anthropological Perspective

Reading: Horace Miner "Body Rituals among the Nacirema"

Week 2, Jan 14 and Jan 16 Fieldwork and Fieldwork Experience

Reading: John Monaghan and Peter Just 2000. "A Dispute in Donggo". In: *Social & Cultural Anthropology. A Very Short Introduction*. 13 - 33

Janet McIntosh. 2004. "Maxwell's Demons: Disenchantment in the Field." *Anthropology and Humanism* 29 (1), 63 – 77

Week 3, Jan 21 and Jan 23 Theory I: Signs, Metaphor and Culture

Readings: Marcel Danesi, *Sign, Thought and Culture*, ch. 2 "The Sign"

George Lakoff and Mark Johnson, *Metaphors we Live by* (Selections)

Week 4, Jan 28 and Jan 30 Interpretation and Ethnography

Reading: Clifford Geertz 1973. "Deep Play: Notes on the Balinese Cockfight" in: *The Interpretation of Cultures*

Quiz (10%), Jan 28

Week 5, Feb 04 and Feb 06 Witchcraft and Magic

Readings: E.E. Evans-Pritchard "The Notion of Witchcraft Explains Unfortunate Events"

In: *Witchcraft, Oracle and Magic among the Azande*. 63 – 83

George Gmelch 1971. "Baseball Magic", In: *Society* 8 (8), 39 - 41

Sign Essay due (15%), Feb.06

Week 6, Feb 11 and Feb 13 Gift Exchange

Readings: Bronislaw Malinowski "The Essentials of the Kula" in: *Argonauts of the Western Pacific*, 81 – 104

Marcel Mauss, *The Gift. Forms and Functions of Exchange in Archaic Society*.

"Introductory", 1 – 5; "Conclusions", 63 - 81

Feb 17 to Feb 21, no classes, Reading Week

Week 7, Feb 25 and Feb 27 **Theory II: Performance**

Readings: Edward Schieffelin "On Failure and Performance -Throwing the Medium out of the Séance. In : Laderman, Carol/ Roseman, Marina 1996. *The Performance of Healing*. London: Routledge, 59 – 89
Erving Goffman *The Presentation of Self in Everyday Life*, 1 - 21

Week 8, March 03 and March 05 **Performance Art and Intercultural Performance**

Reading: "The Other History of Intercultural Performance". *The Drama Review*, Vol 38 (1), 1994, 143 – 167

Film: "The Couple in the Cage"

Midterm (25%), March 03

Week 09, March 10 and March 12 **Trobriand Cricket – A Case Study in Postcolonialism**

Reading: Jerry Leach 1982 "Socio-Historical Conflict and the Kabisawali Movement in the Trobriand Islands". In: R.J May (ed.) *Micronationalist Movements in Papua New Guinea*

Week 10, March 17 and March 19 **Gender**

Readings: Emily Martin "The Egg and The Sperm: How Science Has Constructed a Romance Based on Stereotypical Male-Female Roles". *Signs*, Vol 16, No 3 (Spring 1991), 485 - 501

Ellen Fein and Sherry Schneider *The Rules* (Selections)

Week 11, March 24 and March 26 **Internet and Social Media**

Readings: Kenneth Goldsmith 2016. *Wasting Time on the Internet*. Ch. 1 "The Social Network", 29 - 49

Yarimar Bonilla and Jonathan Rosa 2015. #Ferguson: Digital Protest, Hashtag Ethnography, and the Racial Politics of Social Media in the United States", In: *American Ethnologist* 42 (1), 4 - 17

Week 11, March 31 and April 02 **Cultural Relativism and Morality**

Readings: Abu Lughod, Lila 2002. "Do Muslim Women Really Need Saving? Anthropological Reflections on Cultural Relativism and its Others." In: *American Anthropologist* 104 (3), 783 - 790

Carolyn Fluehr-Lobban 1998. "Cultural Relativism and Universal Human Rights." In: *Anthronotes* 20 (2)

Week 13, April 07 **Famous Last Words**

Final Paper (40%) due



University Regulations for All College of the 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.

Academic Integrity at Carleton

Plagiarism is presenting, whether intentionally or not, the ideas, expression of ideas, or work of others as one's own. Plagiarism includes 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. Examples of sources from which the ideas, expressions of ideas or works of others may be drawn from include but are not limited to: books, articles, papers, literary compositions and phrases, performance compositions, chemical compounds, art works, laboratory reports, research results, calculations and the results of calculations, diagrams, constructions, computer reports, computer code/software, and material on the internet. More information can be found [here](#).

Academic Accommodation Policy

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 the instructor 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 see the [Student Guide](#)

Religious obligation: write to the instructor 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 see the [Student Guide](#)

Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities: The Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) provides services to students with Learning Disabilities (LD), psychiatric/mental health disabilities, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD), chronic medical conditions, and impairments in mobility, hearing, and vision. If you have a disability requiring academic accommodations in this course, please contact PMC at

613-520-6608 or pmc@carleton.ca for a formal evaluation. If you are already registered with the PMC, contact your PMC coordinator to send me your Letter of Accommodation at the beginning of the term, and no later than two weeks before the first in-class scheduled test or exam requiring accommodation (if applicable). After requesting accommodation from PMC, meet with me to ensure accommodation arrangements are made. Please consult the [PMC website](#) for the deadline to request accommodations for the formally-scheduled exam (if applicable).

Survivors of Sexual Violence

As a community, Carleton University is committed to maintaining a positive learning, working and living environment where sexual violence will not be tolerated, and is survivors are supported through academic accommodations as per Carleton's Sexual Violence Policy. For more information about the services available at the university and to obtain information about sexual violence and/or support, visit: carleton.ca/sexual-violence-support

Accommodation for Student Activities

Carleton University recognizes the substantial benefits, both to the individual student and for the university, that result from a student participating in activities beyond the classroom experience. Reasonable accommodation must be provided to students who compete or perform at the national or international level. Please contact your instructor 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. <https://carleton.ca/senate/wp-content/uploads/Accommodation-for-Student-Activities-1.pdf>

Grading System at Carleton University

Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor, subject to the approval of the faculty Dean. Standing in courses will be shown by alphabetical grades. The system of grades used, with corresponding grade points and the percentage conversion is below. Grade points indicated are for courses with 1.0 credit value. Where the course credit is greater or less than one credit, the grade points are adjusted proportionately.

[Grading System](#)

Course Sharing Websites and Copyright

Classroom teaching and learning activities, including lectures, discussions, presentations, etc., by both instructors and students, are copy protected and remain the intellectual property of their respective author(s). All course materials, including PowerPoint presentations, outlines, and other materials, are also protected by copyright and remain the intellectual property of their respective author(s).

Students registered in the course may take notes and make copies of course materials for their own educational use only. Students are not permitted to reproduce or

distribute lecture notes and course materials publicly for commercial or non-commercial purposes without express written consent from the copyright holder(s).

Statement on Class Conduct

The Carleton University Human Rights Policies and Procedures affirm that all members of the University community share a responsibility to:

- promote equity and fairness,
- respect and value diversity,
- prevent discrimination and harassment, and preserve the freedom of its members to carry out responsibly their scholarly work without threat of interference.

Deferred Term Work

In some situations, students are unable to complete term work because of illness or other circumstances beyond their control, which forces them to delay submission of the work.

Students who claim illness, injury or other extraordinary circumstances beyond their control as a reason for missed term work are held responsible for immediately informing the instructor concerned and for making alternate arrangements with the instructor and **in all cases this must occur no later than three (3.0) working days after the term work was due.**

The alternate arrangement must be made before the last day of classes in the term as published in the academic schedule. Normally, any deferred term work will be completed by the last day of term. More information is available [in the calendar](#).

Deferred Final Exams

Students who are unable to write a final examination because of a serious illness/emergency or other circumstances beyond their control may apply for accommodation. Normally, the accommodation for a missed final examination will be granting the student the opportunity to write a deferred examination. In specific cases when it is not possible to offer a deferred examination, and with the approval of the Dean, an alternate accommodation may be made. [More information](#).

The application for a [deferral](#) must:

1. be made in writing or online to the Registrar's Office no later than **three working days** after the original final examination or the due date of the take-home examination; and,
2. be fully supported by appropriate documentation and, in cases of illness, by a medical certificate dated no later than one working day after the examination, or by appropriate documents in other cases. Medical documents must specify the date of the onset of the illness, the (expected) date of recovery, and the extent to which the student was/is incapacitated during the time of the examination. The University's preferred medical form can be found at the Registrar's Office [forms and fees page](#).

Any questions related to deferring a Final Exam or Final Assignment/Take Home Examination should be directed to the [Registrar's Office](#).

Withdrawal From Courses

Withdrawn. No academic credit, no impact on the CGPA. WDN is a permanent notation that appears on the official transcript for students who withdraw after the full fee adjustment date in each term (noted in the Academic Year section of the Calendar each term). Students may withdraw on or before the last day of classes.

Important dates can be found [here](#).

Financial vs. Academic Withdrawal

Make sure that you are aware of the separate deadlines for Financial and Academic withdrawal!

Making registration decisions in Carleton Central involves making a financial and academic commitment for the courses you choose, regardless of attendance. If you do not attend – you must withdraw in Carleton Central within the published deadlines to cancel your registration. [More information](#)

Department Contact Information

College of the Humanities 300 Paterson Hall (613)520-2809

CollegeOfHumanities@cunet.carleton.ca

Drop box for CLCV, HUMS LATN GREK Term Papers and assignments is outside 300 P.A.

Greek and Roman Studies 300 Paterson Hall (613)520-2809

GreekAndRomanStudies@cunet.carleton.ca

Drop Box is outside of 300 P.A.

Religion 2A39 Paterson Hall (613)520-2100

Religion@cunet.carleton.ca

Drop box for RELI and SAST Term Papers and assignments is outside of 2A39 P.A.

Registrar's Office 300 Tory (613)520-3500

<https://carleton.ca/registrar/>

Student Resources on Campus

[CUKnowHow Website](#)

[Academics: From registration to graduation, the tools for your success.](#)