

**CARLETON UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF THE HUMANITIES
HUMS 1005
2021 WINTER
“EARLY CULTURES”**

Instructor: Bernhard Leistle

Office: Loeb C 775

Office Hours: Wednesday, 2 – 4 p.m., or by appointment

Email: bernhard.leistle@carleton.ca

Phone Number: (613) 3272226

**Course meets: Mondays and Wednesdays, 4:35 p.m. – 5:55 p.m.
on BigBlueButton, CuLearn**

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.

Due to the pandemic, we will be meeting twice weekly at the scheduled time on CuLearn, using the BigBlueButton conference app.

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 (before attending class).

Grades are based on various **assignments**:

- a **quiz** on CuLearn in week 4, 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 10, **with a value of 15%.**
- a **midterm exam**, on CuLearn in Week 8, type short question and answer, **value 25%.**
- a **final paper** of 1500 words, **value 40%, due on the last day of classes, April 07.**
- attendance/participation marks 10%**

Submission: All assignments will be taking place, or are to be submitted via CuLearn.

Class Schedule HUMS 1005, Winter 2021

Week 1, Jan 11 and Jan 13 **Introduction – The Anthropological Perspective**

Reading: Horace Miner “Body Rituals among the Nacirema”

Week 2, Jan 18 and Jan 20 **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 25 and Jan 27 **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, Feb. 01 and Feb. 03 **Interpretation and Ethnography**

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

Quiz (10%)

Week 5, Feb 08 and Feb 10 **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.10

Feb 15 to Feb 19, no classes, Reading Week

Week 6, Feb 22 and Feb 24 **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

Week 7, Mar 01 and Mar 03 **Theory II: Performance**

Readings: Erving Goffman *The Presentation of Self in Everyday Life*, 1 - 21

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

Week 8, March 08 and March 10 **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%)

Week 09, March 15 and March 17 **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 10, March 22 and March 24 **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 29 and March 31 **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 12, April 05 and April 07 **Wrapping Things Up**

Final Essay due, April 07



University Regulations for All College of the Humanities Courses

Academic Dates and Deadlines

This schedule contains the dates prescribed by the University Senate for academic activities. Dates relating to fee payment, cancellation of course selections, late charges, and other fees or charges will be published in the Important Dates and Deadlines section of the Registration Website.

Online Learning Resources

While online courses offer flexibility and convenience, they also present unique challenges that traditional face-to-face courses do not. [On this page](#), you will find resources collected by Carleton Online to help you succeed in your online courses; Learning Strategies and Best Practices, Study Skills, Technology and Online Interaction and Engagement.

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

The University Senate defines **plagiarism** as “*presenting, whether intentionally 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 that cannot be resolved directly by the course's instructor. The Associate Dean of the Faculty conducts 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

[Academic Integrity Policy](#)
[Academic Integrity Process](#)

Academic Accommodation Policy

Academic Accommodation

Carleton University is committed to providing access to the educational experience in order to promote academic accessibility for all individuals.

Parental Leave: The Student Parental Leave Policy is intended to recognize the need for leave at the time of a pregnancy, birth or adoption and to permit a pause in studies in order to provide full-time care in the first year of parenting a child or for health-related parental responsibilities.

Religious obligation: Carleton University accommodates students who, by reason of religious obligation, must miss an examination, test, assignment deadline, laboratory or other compulsory academic event.

Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities:

Academic accommodation of students with disabilities is available through the [Paul Menton Centre](#) by evaluations that are carried out on an individual basis, in accordance with human rights legislation and University policy, and with the support of relevant, professional/medical documentation.

Survivors of Sexual Violence

Individuals who disclose that they have experienced sexual violence will be provided support services and will be treated with dignity and respect at all times by the University and its representatives. A person affected by sexual violence is not required to report an incident of or make a complaint about sexual violence under the formal complaint process of the Sexual Violence Policy in order to obtain support and services, or in order to receive appropriate accommodation for their needs.

[Supports and services available at the University to obtain information about sexual violence and/or 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. [More information.](#)

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. This means that grades submitted by the instructor may be subject to revision. No grades are final until they have been approved by the Dean."

The [system of grades](#) used, with corresponding grade points and the percentage conversion, is listed below. Grade points indicated are for courses with 1.0 credit value.

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).

[More information](#)

Student Rights and Responsibilities at Carleton

Carleton University strives to provide a safe environment conducive to personal and intellectual growth, free of injustice and characterized by understanding respect, peace, trust, and fairness.

The [Student Rights and Responsibilities Policy](#) governs the non-academic behaviour of students. Carleton University is committed to building a campus that promotes personal growth through the establishment and promotion of transparent and fair academic and non-academic responsibilities.

[7 Student Rights and Responsibilities](#)

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.

1. 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. In all cases, formative evaluations providing feedback to the student should be replaced with formative evaluations. In the event the altered due date must extend beyond the last day of classes in the term, the instructor will assign a grade of zero for the work not submitted and submit the student's earned grade accordingly; the instructor may submit a change of grade at a later date. Term work cannot be deferred by the Registrar.
2. In cases where a student is not able to complete term work due to illness or injury for a significant period of time/or long term, the instructor and/or student may elect to consult with the Registrar's Office (undergraduate courses) or Graduate Registrar (graduate courses) to determine appropriate action.

[More information of deferred Term Work](#)

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.

The application for a deferral must:

1. be made in writing 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.

[More information on Final Exam Deferrals Registrar's Office "Defer an Exam" page](#)

Financial vs. Academic Withdrawal

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](#). 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. You can do this via the [MyCarleton Portal](#). A fee adjustment is dependent on registration being canceled within the published [fee deadlines](#) and dependent on your course load.

Department Contact Information

Bachelor of the Humanities 300 Paterson Hall
CollegeOfHumanities@cunet.carleton.ca

Greek and Roman Studies 300 Paterson Hall
GreekAndRomanStudies@cunet.carleton.ca

Religion 2A39 Paterson Hall
Religion@cunet.carleton.ca

Digital Humanities (Graduate) 2A39 Paterson Hall
digitalhumanities@carleton.ca

Digital Humanities (Undergraduate Minor) 300 Paterson Hall
digitalhumanities@carleton.ca

MEMS (Undergraduate Minor) 300 Paterson Hall
CollegeOfHumanities@cunet.carleton.ca