

**Course Code/Title:****FOUNDATIONS IN SOCIO-CULTURAL ANTHROPOLOGY****ANTH 2001 A**

<b>Instructor</b>	Sardar Saadi
<b>Term</b>	FALL 2024
<b>Course Delivery</b>	In-person lectures
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**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

In this course, you are expected to learn from your texts, your teacher and from one another. This requires striving towards understanding each other but it does not imply striving towards finding agreement. Our class will be racially, religiously, politically, culturally, generationally, and economically diverse. We will be of different gender identifications and sexual orientations and our lived experiences and reactions to the course material will reflect this diversity. Sharing our perspectives and interpretations on the course material will enhance everyone's learning experience and you are encouraged to openly express any disagreements with the authors you will read, with your fellow classmates, or with the Professor in the different participation fora that are available for this course. However, you are expected to conduct yourself in such a way that shows the utmost respect to others who may – or may not – share your views. Derogatory comments and hateful behavior towards others (and their views) will not be tolerated.

Carleton University acknowledges the location of its campus on the traditional, unceded territories of the Algonquin nation. In doing so, Carleton acknowledges it has a responsibility to the Algonquin people and a responsibility to adhere to Algonquin cultural protocols.

**Official Description**

Exploration of basic anthropological concepts and analytical strategies through case studies. Emphasis on socio-cultural diversity as documented by ethnographic research with attention to the role of culture in articulating gender, kinship, economic and political relations. Prerequisite(s): ANTH 1001 or ANTH 1002.

### **Additional Course Description**

This course introduces students to foundational concepts in social and cultural anthropology. It explores how anthropologists investigate and understand the intricate web of relationships that shape social and cultural experiences across various scales worldwide. Key topics include ethnography, culture, ethnicity, nationhood, global capitalism, gender, kinship, social stratification, and body and health. Students will learn how relational thinking helps to uncover the interconnectedness of phenomena, from the life of persons and things to the broader social structures and cultural contexts in which they exist. A central focus will be on the role of power in shaping and influencing these connections, including how it affects social hierarchies, knowledge production, resource distribution, identity formation, and the dynamics of human and more-than-human worlds.

The course adopts a "decolonizing approach" to understanding culture, using "in/equality" as a lens through which to examine key anthropological themes such as kinship, societal organization, migration, community, identity, and politics. This exploration will be enriched by a combination of lectures, readings, skill-building exercises, and an experiential learning component involving a mini ethnographic research project. Through this hands-on experience, students will have the opportunity to observe and analyze real-world connections among seemingly disparate phenomena, applying core anthropological concepts covered in the course.

### **Learning Outcomes:**

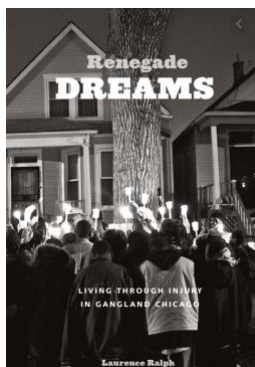
- Gain a comprehensive understanding of the history of anthropology as a discipline, situating its emergence within global political and economic dynamics, and explore the major theoretical movements that have shaped the field.
- Familiarize yourself with the key concepts, theoretical frameworks, and foundational assumptions in social and cultural anthropology, and learn to apply these core ideas to better understand the world around you.
- Develop the ability to critically engage with anthropological texts and evidence, constructing well-supported arguments in your analysis.
- Acquire skills in ethnographic research, including observing social phenomena, taking fieldnotes, and applying theoretical concepts to your own anthropological analyses.
- Plan, organize, and write anthropological essays that effectively incorporate ethnographic data and analysis.
- Explore the politics and ethics of knowledge production in anthropology, gaining insight into how anthropologists navigate these challenges in their research.
- Enhance your critical thinking and analytical skills to question and understand complex social and cultural formations, while reflecting on your own lived experiences.

## EVALUATION

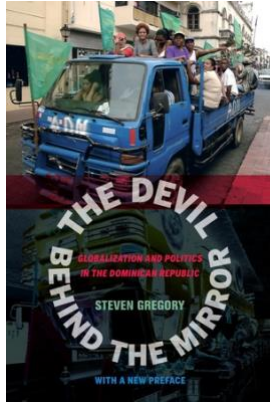
### Course Requirements & Methods of Evaluation *(Detailed description comes below)*

15%	Attendance & Participation	<u>Weekly</u>
15%	Reading Responses (12)	<u>Weekly – Wednesdays, Noon</u>
10%	Group Presentation	<u>Weekly</u>
15%	Take-home Midterm Exam	<u>Saturday December 21, Noon</u>
25%	Short Assignments (each 5%):	
	a) Short Assignment #1— Identifying the Field/Positionality Statement ( <b>Wed. Sep. 25, Noon</b> )	
	b) Short Assignment #2— Observations and Field Report ( <b>Wed. Oct. 30, Noon</b> )	
	c) Short Assignment #3— Seeing Theory at Work: Analysis ( <b>Wed. Nov. 20, Noon</b> )	
	d) Short Assignment #4— Public Engagement in Anthropology ( <b>Wed. Jan. 22, Noon</b> )	
	e) Short Assignment #5— Essay Outline ( <b>Wed. Feb. 26, Noon</b> )	
20%	Final Essay	<u>Friday April 4 (TBC), Noon</u>

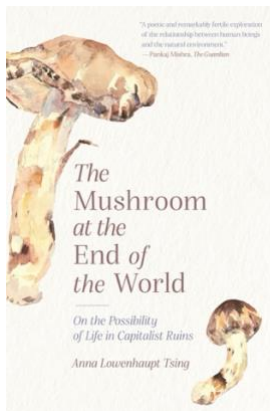
## TEXT



Ralph, Laurence. *Renegade dreams: Living through injury in gangland Chicago*. University of Chicago Press, 2014.



Steven Gregory. *The Devil Behind the Mirror: Globalization and Politics in Dominican Republic*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2007.



Tsing, Anna. *Mushroom at the End of the World: On the Possibility of Life in Capitalist Ruins*. Princeton University Press, 2021.

**These books are available online and accessible through the university's library website. All other required and recommended readings will be posted on Brightspace and/or can be found online through the university's library.**