ANH 1200 – INTRODUCTION TO CULTURAL ANTHROPOLOGY

Semester/Year: Spring 2016 (ANTH 1200-01: 44208)

Lecture Hours: 3 Lab Hours: 0 Credit Hours: 3

Class Time: 9:30 - 10:45 am Days: T/R

Room: LH 186

Instructor’s Name: Evin Rodkey, Ph.D.

Instructor’s Contact Information:

Office: LH 175-E Phone: (307) 268-2696

Email: evinrodkey@caspercollege.edu

Office Hours:

Mon 12-2 pm / Wed and Fri 12-1 pm / Tues and Thurs 12:15 – 1:15 pm

I will be available at other times, especially in the afternoon; if you would like to meet at a different time than those listed, please contact me.

Course Catalog Description:

(3L)(3CR) [E] Using an ethnological approach, (comparative study of culture), this course surveys the basic concepts of cultural anthropology including cross cultural investigations of kinship, marriage, language, religion, politics, economics, and culture change.

Statement of Prerequisites: None required

Goal:

By completing this class, students should more broadly understand human culture and methods for studying it. Students should also develop a deeper appreciation for human diversity and cultural differences.

Outcomes:

This class will focus on the following three of the Casper College course outcomes:

1. Demonstrate effective oral and written communication
3. Solve problems using critical thinking and creativity
4. Demonstrate knowledge of diverse cultures and historical perspectives


COURSE OBJECTIVES:

--Be able to clearly and effectively express, in both conversation and writing, content reflecting the anthropological approach, including the concept of culture (connects to Outcome #1 above).

--Identify and understand the research methods associated with anthropology and social sciences broadly (connects to Outcome #3 above).

--Understand the cultural construction of race and gender, as well as global economic and political connections across cultures (connects to Outcome #3 and 4 above).

--Be able to apply major concepts and material to cases outside the classroom (connects to Outcome #3 and 4 above).

METHODOLOGY:

Lecture and discussion; attendance and active participation is required. Your feedback is valuable as the instructor uses course evaluations in determining course methodology.

EVALUATION CRITERIA:

NOTE: All work is due both by hard copy in class AND by uploading to turnitin on Moodle. All work may be subject to resubmissions and appointments at the Writing Center and/or with me may be required. Also, all work must be submitted in a folder, which must include all previously returned work.

1. Section Review Packets
   At the end of Sections I and II you will be responsible for submitting a packet of assignments addressing content from the respective section, which will include writing assignments: typically short response papers and brief responses, as well as one essay. These assignments will be given weekly and will incorporate class material.

   IMPORTANT: Assignments for a given packet are due all at once; however, you may turn them in weekly to me for evaluation and feedback if you wish. If you do this, by the time you turn them all in, you will have had the chance to make changes and improvements before they are graded. If you take advantage of this, I will go over it for you and return it to you with my feedback by the next class session.

   Though this is entirely optional, keep in mind it's also a really good idea—when several assignments come due as part of a packet, you can already know they are in good shape by taking advantage of this option. Note that if you do this, the original you turned in to me is also due with the packet (so that I can note your changes). Also note that if you do this, you must give them to me one at a time.

   This puts you in a position of much greater control over your grade. I strongly suggest you have me evaluate your work as you go. You will almost definitely earn a better grade and get more out of the material. It's all up to you! Detailed instructions will be given in class and posted on Moodle.

2. Question Sets
   In Section III, in which we will focus on two ethnographies, you will be responsible for weekly assignments addressing content from these works. These will mostly consist of providing responses to questions and short writings. There are six Question Sets assigned; however, only five count toward your grade (your lowest grade will be dropped). Question Sets will be assigned a week in advance and posted on Moodle.
3. Key Concepts Evaluation

In the last week, we will have an evaluation in class (which may also consist of take home material assigned prior). The point of this is to focus on the key concepts as related to the course objectives. You will be given precise criteria to focus on in preparation and we will go over all of it in class.

Point Breakdown:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Section Review Packet #1</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Section Review Packet #2</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Question Sets</td>
<td>50 (5 @ 10 pts each; 6 total, lowest 1 dropped)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Key Concepts Evaluation</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Casper College may collect samples of student work demonstrating achievement of the above outcomes. Any personally identifying information will be removed from student work.

IMPORTANT NOTE ON ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION:

Both the Section Review Packets and the Question Sets entail active class participation as part of the grade. **You may lose up to 10 points on your packet grade and 2 points per Question Set for not being in class or being there but not effectively participating.** We will have class discussions and small group discussions focused on material for these assignments.

You must be present and actively participate in class and small group discussions to avoid a point deduction. Though there is no grade category for “attendance,” you cannot participate if you are not in class and you may miss materials for the packets; therefore, attendance (and active participation) is required and part of the grade.

Also note that, per college policy during the specified period, I will submit a faculty-initiated withdrawal (FIW) for students who fail to attend scheduled course sessions for two consecutive weeks.

REQUIRED MATERIALS:

Three books are required, which are available at the campus bookstore. Also keep in mind ebook options, online sources for purchasing and renting, as well as library systems for borrowing. Also note that all three books are placed on reserve in the campus library for temporary use. **One way or another, you must have full access to all three books.**

ISBN-10: 0759122547

ISBN-10: 0199739382

ISBN-10: 0520223594

*Additional required readings may be posted or handed out*
POLICIES FOR CLASS SESSIONS:

In general, I do not like a lot of rules and a rigid, formal atmosphere. I like an informal atmosphere; however, the atmosphere must nevertheless be professional and respectful. I want you to appreciate the importance of professionalism to facilitate productive class sessions (and other scenarios you are in). Remember your professionalism contributes to the experience for everyone else as well. Challenging ideas and having your ideas challenged is generally productive to the learning process and I encourage this; however, such engagements should always be approached professionally.

Overall, class sessions should be treated as mini-events that demand your close attention. Therefore, you must follow these five very simple rules:

1. **Attend every class, with relevant materials, and show respect to the instructor and students who raise questions or concerns.** As stated above, class sessions are mini-events that you need to be “on” for. Bring the reading, your notes, the syllabus, and any other relevant materials.

2. **Do not use your phone or other devices during class.** It’s rude and distracting to you, me, and the rest of the class. However, if you have a special situation, please let me know prior to class and exceptions can certainly be made.

3. **Do not chew gum** (or pens, straws, your finger nails…someone else’s fingernails, etc.). It’s unprofessional for this setting (and, in many cases, also rude and distracting). However, if you would like to quietly eat or drink something, please feel free.

4. **Do not side talk or engage in other distracting behavior** such as pen clicking, crinkling wrappers and bags, chewing loudly, etc.

5. **Do not prepare to leave until the instructor has ended class**—this includes the last few minutes or seconds of class.

OVERALL CLASS POLICIES:

1. **You must check your Casper College email regularly and use Moodle.** This is required—you are responsible for any information I send through email or post on Moodle. Note that you can change your primary email with the college. I will send class emails to whatever email address is in my roster—if that is the Casper College email, then you are required to check it.

   *Remember you can use campus computer labs, including for printing. Write in here where these labs are and their hours:

2. **Late work is generally not accepted:** however, contact the instructor in advance with any problems and in extraordinary circumstances (determined by the instructor), brief extensions may be granted. You cannot simply turn in something late with no notice or arrangements.

3. **Follow the document “Supplement to the Syllabus”** for further information to help you succeed in this class and beyond. This material includes notifying me of any absences.
**Last Date to Change to Audit Status or to Withdraw with a W Grade:** Thursday, April 14, 2016

**Student Rights and Responsibilities:** Please refer to the Casper College Student Conduct and Judicial Code for information concerning your rights and responsibilities as a Casper College Student.

**Chain of Command:** If you have any problems with this class, you should first contact the instructor to attempt to solve the problem. If you are not satisfied with the solution offered by the instructor, you should then take the matter through the appropriate chain of command starting with the Department Chair/Program Director, the Dean, and lastly the Vice President for Academic Affairs.

**Academic Dishonesty:** (Cheating & Plagiarism) Casper College demands intellectual honesty. Proven plagiarism or any form of dishonesty associated with the academic process can result in the offender failing the course in which the offense was committed or expulsion from school. See the Casper College Student Code of Conduct for more information on this topic.

**Official Means of Communication:** Casper College faculty and staff will employ the student’s assigned Casper College email account as a primary method of communication. Students are responsible to check their account regularly. This is also where you will find course evaluation links during course evaluation periods.

**ADA Accommodations Policy:** If you need academic accommodations because of a disability, please inform me as soon as possible. See me privately after class, or during my office hours. To request academic accommodations, students must first consult with the college’s Disability Services Counselor located in the Gateway Building, Room 344, (307) 268-2557, bheuer@caspercollege.edu. The Disability Services Counselor is responsible for reviewing documentation provided by students requesting accommodations, determining eligibility for accommodations, and helping students request and use appropriate accommodations.

**COURSE CALENDAR**

**NOTE:** Dates and other information may change. If so, you will be notified in class (if possible) and by email.

**IMPORTANT:** Reading for each week must be completed by Tuesday of that week. Take notes on the reading as you go—this will help you! Also note that chapters are not always in order.

In each chapter of *Invitation to Anthropology* you will find boxes titled “Anthropology Here and Now: Check It Out!” Be sure to read these and, if interested, look further into the material discussed.

Also note each chapter features photographs (and, in some cases charts, figures, etc.). Be sure to incorporate captions and further explanations accompanying these features.

**SECTION I: ANTHROPOLOGY AND CULTURE**

To begin the course we will discuss the basic concepts of anthropology, focusing on the major tenets of the discipline, the development of the field, and the research methods used to generate anthropological understanding. All reading in this section is from *Invitation to Anthropology*.

**WEEK 1 – Introducing the Study of Anthropology**

T 1/19

R 1/21 – **READ:** c. 1 “Evolution and the Critique of Race: A Short Story” (pp. 3-16 ONLY)
WEEK 2 – The Field of Anthropology and Key Concepts
READ: c. 1 “Evolution and the Critique of Race: A Short Story” (pp. 17-30 ONLY)
T 1/26
*R 1/28 – Short Writing Assignment due at the start of class (grade part of Packet #1, see Week 4)

WEEK 3 – The Culture Concept
READ: c. 2 “Anthropology and Culture”
T 2/2
R 2/4

WEEK 4 – Ethnographic Research Methods
READ: c. 3 “Ethnography"
T 2/9
*R 2/11 – Section Review Packet #1 due at the start of class

SECTION II: CULTURE AND SOCIAL ORGANIZATION

For Section II, we will apply the conceptual material from Section I to further understand cultural institutions and conventions including language, gender, family, religion, politics, economy, and global connections. Reading is mostly from Invitation to Anthropology, but also includes material posted on Moodle.

WEEK 5 – Language, Gender, and Family Organization
READ:
--c. 5 “Sex, Power, and Inequality: On Gender” and
T 2/16 (NOTE: Presidents Day Holiday is the day before this)
R 2/18

WEEK 6 – Religion
READ: c. 7 “Knowledge, Belief, and Disbelief: On Religion"
T 2/23
R 2/25

WEEK 7 – Political Organization, Economy, and Globalization I
READ: c. 4 “History, Change, and Adaptation: On the Roots of Our World System"
T 3/1
R 3/3

WEEK 8 – Political Organization, Economy, and Globalization II
T 3/8
*R 3/10 – Section Review Packet #2 due at the start of class

***NO CLASS T 3/15 and R 3/17 – SPRING BREAK***
SECTION III: CASE STUDIES IN ANTHROPOLOGY

In the final section of the course, we will focus on two ethnographies, Labor and Legality: An Ethnography of a Mexican Immigrant Network (2011) by Ruth Gomberg-Muñoz and Birth on the Threshold: Childbirth and Modernity in South India (2003) by Cecilia Van Hollen. This will allow us to deeply explore such important human issues as immigration, focusing on issues of global economy, labor, and racialization, as well as childbirth in a cross-cultural context, focusing on issues related to medical anthropology, gender, and post-colonial power relations.

Examining these issues through an anthropological lens, we will attend to the historical, cultural, and global contextual background. The conceptual material from Section I and the content on cultural institutions and conventions from Section II will converge here as we focus on ethnographic studies that bring together this material in particular cases. We will also have readings posted on Moodle and the Afterword of Invitation to Anthropology.

WEEK 9 – Immigration
READ: Labor and Legality:
--Contents
--Preface
--Introduction
--c. 1 “Meet the Lions”
--c. 2 “Why Is There Undocumented Migration?”
--Appendix: “Interview Outline (Core Participants)”

T 3/22
*R 3/24 – Question Set #1 due
(NOTE: Spring Holiday is the day after this)

WEEK 10 – Immigration (contd)
READ: Labor and Legality:
--c. 3 “Jumping and Adjusting To Life Under the Radar”
--c. 4 “Muy Unidos: Friends, Networks, and Households”
--c. 5 “Echándole Ganas: Working Hard”

T 3/29
*R 3/31 – Question Set #2 due

WEEK 11 – Immigration (contd)
READ: Labor and Legality:
--c. 6 “Los Número Uno: Identity, Dignity, and Esteem”
--c. 7 “Illegal and Criminals: Racism, Nativism, and the Criminalization of Low-Wage Labor”
--Epilogue

T 4/5
*R 4/7 – Question Set #3 due
(NOTE: Advising Day is the day after this)

WEEK 12 – Child Birth in a Global Context
READ: Birth on the Threshold:
--Contents
--Acknowledgements
--“Prologue: Birth on the Threshold”
--“Introduction: Childbirth and Modernity in Tamil Nadu”
-- Appendix I: “Sample Interview Questionnaires”
WEEK 13 – Child Birth in a Global Context (contd)
READ: Birth on the Threshold:
--c. 1 “The Professionalization of Obstetrics in Colonial India: The ‘Problem’ of Childbirth in Colonial Discourse
--c. 2 “Maternal and Child Health Services in the Postcolonial Era”

T 4/19
*R 4/21 – Question Set #5 due

WEEK 14 – Child Birth in a Global Context (contd)
READ: Birth on the Threshold:
--c. 3 “Bangles of Neem, Bangles of Gold: Pregnant Women as Auspicious Burdens”
--c. 6 “‘Baby Friendly Hospitals and Bad Mothers: Maneuvering Development during the Postpartum Period”

(NOTE: We are skipping c. 4 and 5 due to time restraints; we will be incorporating some of the material in class. You of course may read them if you wish.)
--Conclusion: “Reproductive Rights, ‘Choices,’ and Resistance”
--Epilogue

T 4/26
R 4/28 – Question Set #6 due

WEEK 15 – Applying Anthropology Beyond the Classroom

*T 5/3 – Key Concepts Evaluation I

*R 5/5 – Key Concepts Evaluation II
READ (for Thurs):
--“Body Ritual Among the Nacirema” (NOTE: PDF posted on Moodle, NOT in book)
--“Afterword” from Invitation to Anthropology