CASPER COLLEGE COURSE SYLLABUS
ANTH 1200 N1 Introduction to Cultural Anthropology

Semester/Year: SU2015

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

Class Time: Online

Instructor’s Name: Leilani E. DeClue, MA

Instructor's Contact Information: Phone: (307) 268-2280  Email: ldeclue@caspercollege.edu

Office: LH192 no office hours in the Summer

Course Description: Using an ethnological approach (comparative study of cultures), this course surveys the basic concepts of cultural anthropology emphasizing human adaptation to the environment. Also includes cross-cultural investigation of kinship, marriage, language, religion, politics, economics, and culture change.

Statement of Prerequisites: None

General Objectives: To provide students with a better understanding of the principles underlying the behavior of people in their culture as well as other societies. This knowledge of other cultures is essential if we are to make intelligent decisions and act wisely in our business, political, and social relationships within the global economy.

Specific Objectives and Outcomes:

1. Describe the scope of anthropology, explain the four subfields, distinguish cultural relativism, identify applied anthropology, and understand the place of anthropology within the social sciences.
2. Describe the problems inherent in ethnographic fieldwork and why this work is important.
3. Discuss the characteristics of bands, tribes, chiefdoms, and states and describe how cultures move from one social organization to the next.
4. Describe and apply Kroeber’s Kinship Classification system and explain its importance in cross-cultural studies.
5. From a cross-cultural perspective, analyze courtship, marriage, and divorce customs.
6. Discuss variations in gender roles from a cross-cultural perspective.
7. Discuss the functions of religion and rites of passage.
8. Explain how and why verbal language and kinesis is important in understanding another culture as per the Sapir/Whorf hypothesis.
9. Use appropriate technology and information to conduct research
10. Describe the problems and ethical questions faced by anthropologists who assist in directed change.
11. Demonstrate knowledge of diverse cultures and historical perspectives.
Casper College may collect samples of student work demonstrating achievement of the above outcomes. Any personally identifying information will be removed from student work.

Methodology: Textbook
- *Love and Honor in the Himalayas, by Ernestine McHugh, University of Pennsylvania Press, 2001*

Please Note: I do not follow the books chapter by chapter; instead I have grouped the chapters into like subjects, please be aware and check the class schedule weekly for the reading assignments.

Evaluation Criteria:
- **1 Written assignment** (Worth 1/4 of grade) – See attachments for assignment.
- **14 Chapter Quizzes** (worth ½ of grade)
- **4 Biweekly postings to the Forum** (Worth 1/4 of grade), in answer to questions regarding the readings from *Love and Honor in the Himalayas*—See below for directions regarding posting to the Forum

**Ethnographic Research Paper:** You will be required to complete 1 writing assignment. The directions for the paper are below, please note that there are three options to choose from. You need only pick one of the options.

**Quizzes:** You are required to complete 14 quizzes for this course. **Chapters 15 and 16 quizzes are not mandatory and will count for extra credit.** Quizzes contain 30 questions and are open book, but there is a time limit (90 Minutes) and you are only allowed one attempt for each quiz so be sure you are very familiar with the information presented within the text.

**Forum Postings:** You are required to complete 4 essay questions regarding the readings *Love and Honor in the Himalayas*. The questions should be well written and well organized; no one sentence answers. You are also required to post comments to the postings of two other students. The due dates are listed below in the instructions for the Forum postings.

There are three major due dates for this class, these dates do not include the forum postings see below for those due dates.
- **Quizzes Chapters 1, 2, 3, 7, 8, 12, 10, and 9** are due Tuesday, June 30, 2015 by 10:00PM.
- **Ethnographic Research Paper** is due July 22, 2015 by 5:00PM
- **Quizzes Chapters 6, 11, 5, 13, 15, and 16** are due July 24, 2015 by 10:00PM

**Forum Postings**

**Directions:** The instructor will post a question regarding the readings from Love and Honor in the Himalayas, on the Forum. Each student is required to post a response to the question, and respond to the responses posted by TWO (2) other students by the date indicated. Please note: if you are the first to respond or if two other students have not yet posted, you will have to return to the site several times in order to get all of your responses in. DO NOT WAIT UNTIL THE LAST DAY to post your responses, each completed response (your initial response plus 2 responses to other students) is worth 25 points. **Please be aware that I pads, other tablets, and smart phones have not in the past worked well for the forum postings, please use a computer for these posts.** To receive full credit, responses must show evidence of critical analysis and that you have read the course materials. Your response to other students must be more than “I really like your idea.” Why did you like or not like
what the other student stated.

Forum Posting #1 Due June 14, 2015
Forum Posting #2 Due June 28, 2015
Forum Posting #3 Due July 5, 2015
Forum Posting #4 Due July 19, 2015

Forum points will be awarded as follows:

One original **well written** post and two responses maximum of 25 points. Points will be deducted for a poorly written original post.

One original post and one response maximum 15 points

One original post and no responses maximum 10 points.

No points will be given if you do not post an answer to the Forum question.

**Paper Directions: Select either Option A, B, or C described below**

**Mechanics:** Papers are to be 5 pages minimum; 7-pages maximum, and double-spaced. Papers will be evaluated *holistically*, not only for content and analysis, but also for grammatical form, spelling, sentence structure, and organization. In addition, correctness of citations and bibliography is expected. All submission of assignments or other work must be submitted in Microsoft “Word” document form. If this is a problem please contact your instructor at the beginning of class. Those are documents with a .doc or .docx suffix. You will receive no points or credit for assignment submitted in any other forms. For example, you will receive no points for submissions in .rtc or .gdoc formats.

Any information you collect through research will require proper AMA formatting style, in text citations, and reference list. Refer to the Casper College Writing Center or this site: https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/ if you are unsure of the proper citations required for this paper.

**Due Date:** This assignment is to be turned in on **July 22, 2015** by 5:00PM. Papers should be submitted through the drop box designated for the Ethnographic Research Paper.

**Assistance:** To assist students with their writing projects, Casper College operates a “Writing Center” located in the Student Center (Phone: 268-1610). Students should avail themselves of this free service (but don’t wait until the day before the assignment is due!) Information regarding citations may also be obtained from this site: https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/

**OPTION A: MODIFIED ETHNOGRAPHIC INTERVIEW**

I. Introduction: Background about your informant and how you met him/her? Why did you select this informant to interview?

II. Historical background (Summarize in one paragraph, if possible)

III. Language – Name (What language is spoken?) How does the language indicate history and relationship with other societies?

IV. Material Culture

    Subsistence and/or economic base
Native foods or dishes
Shelter or housing
Settlement pattern (e.g. around a plaza)
Clothing
Utensils
Weapons

V. Arts
  Music and musical instruments
  Drama
  Dance
  Poetry (written or oral)
  Sculpture, pottery or other popular expression

VI. Games and play
  Games and sports
  Social significance of outcome
  Social status involved

VII. Education
  Subjects studied
  School organization
  Graduation requirements

VIII. Holidays, rituals, celebrations
  What was your informant’s most memorable birthday? Why was it so special?

IX. Conclusion
  What are some examples of ways in which the values of the people that you studied differ from your values? (For example, degree of materialism, importance of family, knowledge of the world, etc.) Why do you think such differences (or similarities) exist?

OPTION B: MODIFIED ETHNOGRAPHIC SITE STUDY
(of a ritual, religious service, or ceremony)

Option B: Students are to attend a ritual, worship service, or ceremony that is unfamiliar to them. For example, if the student normally attends a “mainline” church, they should attend a fundamentalist service and vice versa. Or a student could attend a funeral, initiation, or other ceremony with which they are unfamiliar. This will help to familiarize students with some of the problems, concerns, tension, etc. experienced by an anthropologist studying a “strange environment.” Please obtain the permission of the minister or other ceremonial leader prior to attending the ceremony. **(Please do not contact nor attend Temple Beth-El in Casper. The rabbi does not welcome Anthropology students.)**

If you are not sure the ceremony you want to attend meets the necessary criteria, please discuss your plans with the instructor.

Fieldwork Outline

I. Introduction: Where are you conducting your field work and why did you select this particular site?

II. Physical appearance of the Place Where the Ceremony is Held: (keep this section brief)
  Layout, architectural detail, construction material
Presence or absence of furnishings, seats, altar, etc.
Kinds of window or decorative details
Lighting fixtures, candles

III. Human dimension:
  Number of people in attendance
  Gender, age, and racial composition of participants
  Seating arrangements (do people cluster by age, sex, family, etc.?)
  Characteristics of the leader and other ceremony assistants
  Clothing – apparel of leader, participants and others

IV. The Ceremony
  Describe the ceremony in general
  Kind of music, musical instruments used; dance; purpose of music?
  Specialized participants, such as choir, readers, dancers etc.
  Who conducts the ceremony? What part do the other participants play?
  Length and content of prayers, singing, speeches, dancing, etc.
  What special implements, utensils, etc. are used for the ceremony?

V. Interview with Ceremony Participants
  Talk to 2 or 3 other individuals attending the ceremony. How did you select them?
  Why were they attending the ceremony? How did they become a member of the group?
  How often do they participate? Did they come with family, friends, or alone? In their own words, what is the ceremony all about? (You do not need to be concerned whether they agree with your interpretation at this point in your paper.)

VI. Intent: (Note: This section is the most important part of your paper.)
  What was the message given in the speeches, sermons, and other ceremonial activities?
  What was the “tone” of the ceremony? (upbeat? depressing? etc.)
  What was the purpose or function of this ceremony in your estimation? Did your idea(s) regarding the purpose or intent agree or disagree with other participants? How?
  Would you want to attend this ceremony again? Why or why not?

VII. Reflections as an Anthropologist: How did you feel as an “anthropologist” conducting fieldwork? What practical advice would you give to other “anthropologists” about to engage in similar fieldwork? Would you like to practice anthropological fieldwork as a profession? Why or why not?

OPTION C Desk Based Ethnographic Research Paper

Choose a culture in which you are very interested and about which you would like to learn more. Search the internet, local library, and or the Casper College Library for information regarding this culture. Wikipedia and other online encyclopedias will not be accepted as sources for this paper. For this paper your research may be based on the main aspects of a society’s culture or perhaps you are interested in an obscure subculture operating within a larger society. This paper will require proper AMA or MLA format, in text citations, and reference list. Refer to the Casper College Writing Center or this site: https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/ if you are unsure of the proper citations required for this paper. Your paper should include the as much of the following information as possible:
I. Introduction, who have you chosen to write about, why you chose them, why do you find them interesting.

II. Historical background (Summarize in one paragraph, if possible)

III. Language – Name (What language is spoken?)
   How does the language indicate history and relationship with other societies?

IV. Material Culture
   Subsistence and/or economic base
   Native foods or dishes
   Shelter or housing
   Settlement pattern (e.g. around a plaza)
   Clothing
   Utensils
   Weapons

V. Arts
   Music and musical instruments
   Drama
   Dance
   Poetry (written or oral)
   Sculpture, pottery or other popular expression

VI. Games and play
   Games and sports
   Social significance of outcome
   Social status involved

VII. Education
   Subjects studied
   School organization
   Graduation requirements

VII. Holidays, rituals, celebrations
   What is significant about this culture’s holidays, rituals, or celebrations

VIII. Conclusion
   What are some examples of ways in which the values of the people that you studied differ from your values? (For example, degree of materialism, importance of family, knowledge of the world, etc.) Why do you think such differences (or similarities) exist?

Class Policies:
Last Date to Change to Audit Status or to Withdraw with a W Grade: July 8, 2015

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 Head/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 where you will find course evaluation link(s) 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.

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**TENTATIVE SCHEDULE**

**INTRODUCTION TO CULTURAL ANTHROPOLOGY**

**ANTH1200 N1 SU2015**

**Week 1 – June 1 to June 7, 2015**
- Anthropology and the Study of Culture
  - Chapter 1 The Essence of Anthropology (Introduction)
  - Chapter 2 Characteristics of Culture
  - Chapter 3 Ethnographic Research
- Love and Honor in the Himalayas—Chapter 1 & 2

**Bands, Tribes, Chiefdoms, and States**

**Week 2 - June 8 to June 14, 2015**
- Chapter 7 Patterns of Subsistence (Bands)
- Chapter 8 Economic Systems (Tribes)
- Love and Honor in the Himalayas—Chapter 3

*Forum #1 is Due June 14, 2015 by 10:00PM*

**Week 3 – June 15 to June21, 2015**
- Chapter 12 Politics, Power, and Violence (Chiefdoms & States)
- Love and Honor in the Himalayas—Chapter 4

**The Formation of Groups –**

**Week 4 – June 22 to June 28, 2015**
- Chapter 10 Kinship and Descent
- Chapter 9 Sex, Marriage, and Family
- Love and Honor in the Himalayas—Chapter 5

*Forum #2 is due June 28, 2015 by 10:00PM*
**Quizzes Chapters 1, 2, 3, 7, 8, 12, 10, and 9 are due Tuesday, June 30, 2015 by 10:00PM.**

Week 5 – June 30, 2015 to July 6, 2015
Chapter 6 Social Identity, Personality, and Gender
Chapter 11 Grouping by Gender, Age, Common Interest, & Class

Love and Honor in the Himalayas—Chapter 6
**Forum #3 is Due July 6, 2015 by 10:00PM**

**Language, Religion**

Week 6 – July 7 to July 13, 2015
Chapter 5 Language & Communication

Love and Honor in the Himalayas—Chapter 7

Week 7 – July 14 to July 20, 2015
Chapter 13 Spirituality, Religion, and the Supernatural

Love and Honor in the Himalayas—Chapter 8
**Forum #4 is Due July 19, 2015 by 10:00PM.**

**The Future**

Week 8 – July 21 to July 25, 2015
Chapter 15 Processes of Change
Chapter 16 Global Challenges, Role of Anthropology

**Ethnographic Research Paper is due July 22, 2015 by 5:00PM**

**Quizzes Chapters 6, 11, 5, 13, 15, and 16 are due July 24, 2015 by 10:00PM**