

ANTH 112

INTRODUCTION TO SOCIO-CULTURAL ANTHROPOLOGY

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Office hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 2:30 - 3:30, or by appointment

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Lecture times: Tuesdays and Thursdays: 3:45 pm - 5:05 pm

Lecture location: Nicholson Hall NH242

Overview

This course introduces students to Socio-Cultural Anthropology – the holistic and interdisciplinary study of human society, human history and human nature. We will begin by considering the challenges faced in explaining the human condition and the history of anthropological approaches to examination of human diversity and cultural practices. We will then look at the methods and theories used by anthropologists in collecting information and generating knowledge about different peoples and cultures, before exploring a wide range of subjects affecting how individuals, communities and institutions interact with one another in a rapidly-changing world today.

Topics covered will include: Language, Perception, Cognition and Communication; Sex, Sexuality, and Gender; Marriage, Family and Kinship; Cultural Constructions of Health and Illness; Social Structures, Economics and Political Power; Globalization and Social Inequality; Religion, Ethnicity and Race; Human Rights and Social Justice

You are expected to be conversant with the assigned readings **before** lectures and to contribute to in-class discussions.

Course Requirements

2 term tests	Multiple choice format	15% + 15%	30%
3 in-class exercises	To be completed within 15 minutes	5% each / best 2 out of 3	10%
Report on globalization	1250 - 1500 words	due Thursday, December 1	20%
Final Exam	Multiple choice format (cumulative)	December exam period	40%

Course text

Cultural Anthropology: A Perspective on the Human Condition

Emily Shultz, Robert Lavenda, Roberta Dods, (3rd Canadian edition, 2015),
Oxford University Press, ISBN-10: 0199009724, ISBN-13: 9780199009725.

Available at the St. FX University Bookstore

Course schedule

Date	Lecture theme	Reading
Tuesday Sept. 6	Course overview / requirements Situating yourself in a changing world	1. Anthropology and the Human Condition
Thursday Sept. 8	The Concept of Culture Challenges of Cultural Differences	1. Anthropology and the Human Condition
Tuesday Sept. 13	Science, Social Science, Storytelling Ethnographic Fieldwork: A Short History	2. Fieldwork: A Meeting of Cultural Traditions
Thursday Sept. 15	Methods of Collecting Information Participation and Observation Ethnography and Ethnology	2. Fieldwork: A Meeting of Cultural Traditions
Tuesday Sept. 20	The Roots of Canadian Anthropology Capitalism, Colonialism, and "Modernity"	3. Anthropology in History / Cultural Diversity
Thursday Sept. 22	Studying ourselves through the lens of societies of varying complexity today	3. Anthropology in History / Cultural Diversity
Tuesday Sept. 27	Research skills workshop Language, Culture and Context Language features /Non-Verbal Communication	4. Language
Thursday Sept. 29	Linguistic Inequality and Oppression Language and Gender; Language and Change	4. Language
Tuesday Oct. 4	Perception and Cognition Personality/Self/Subjectivity	5. Culture, the Individual, and Identity
Thursday Oct. 6	Sex, Sexuality, and Gender Roles: Subject Positions, Structural Violence, Social Trauma	5. Culture, the Individual, and Identity
Tuesday Oct. 11	Term test 1 (chapters 1 - 5)	
Thursday Oct. 13	Kinship and Systems of Relatedness Marriage, Family, Kinship, and Friendship	6. Social Relationships
Tuesday Oct. 18	Kin-Based and Non-Kin-Based Societies Kinship chart in-class exercise	6. Social Relationships
Thursday Oct. 20	Culture and Livelihood; Subsistence Strategies	7. Making a Living
Tuesday Oct. 25	Production, Consumption, Distribution and Exchange	7. Making a Living
Thursday Oct. 27	Combining Play, Art, Myth, and Ritual	8. Play, Art, Myth, and Ritual
Tuesday Nov. 1	Ritual in-class exercise Cultural Constructions of Illness and Disease Environments and Well-Being	9. States of Being: Wellness / Illness
Thursday Nov. 3	Beyond the Science / Tradition Divide Holism in Medical Anthropology	9. States of Being: Wellness / Illness

Tuesday Nov. 8	Term test 2 (chapters 6 - 9)	
Thursday Nov. 10	Maintaining and Changing a World View Religion and Secularism	10. World View
Tuesday Nov. 15	Types and theories of Social Organization World Views as Instruments of Power	11. Social Organization and Power
Thursday Nov. 17	Power of the Imagination and the Power to Act Negotiating the Meaning of History	11. Social Organization and Power
Tuesday Nov. 22	Class, Caste, Race	12. Inequality in Contemporary World
Thursday Nov. 24	Ethnicity, Nation and Nationalism Self-identity in-class exercise	12. Inequality in Contemporary World
Tuesday Nov. 29	Globalization and the Nation-State Cultural Imperialism / Hybridization / Cosmopolitanism	13. A Global World
Thursday Dec. 1	Human Rights, Globalization, and Social Justice Anthropology and Challenges of Global Citizenship Report on globalization and cultural loss is due	14. Anthropology in Everyday Life
Exam period	Final exam (cumulative; chapters 1 - 14 inclusive)	

Academic Misconduct

All members of St. Francis Xavier University are expected to conduct themselves in an ethical manner in their academic work. It is the policy of the university that academic dishonesty in any form is not acceptable. Academic dishonesty is defined as any act, practice or behaviour that gives a student an unearned academic advantage over another or that counteracts or undermines the integrity of academic or scholarly endeavour at St. Francis Xavier University. Students are advised to familiarize themselves with the University's academic integrity policy (section 3.8) in the 2016 - 2017 Academic Calendar at:

http://sites.stfx.ca/registrar_office/sites/sites.stfx.ca/registrar_office/files/StFXCalendar20162017Online.pdf

Late penalties

Late assignments will be penalized 25% per day. Assignments more than four days late will not be graded.

Missed tests

Make-up tests will be administered upon presentation of appropriate documentation from a licensed medical practitioner, councillor or university administrator. Requests for a make-up test should be sent to mregg@stfx.ca within two (2) days of the missed test.

The StFX Counselling Centre

The transition to student life can be challenging. The StFX Counselling Centre is here to support you. Whether a problem is big or small, a personal challenge or a career decision, StFX counsellors can help. Additional information is available at:

http://sites.stfx.ca/health_and_counselling/counselling_centre

Assignment

Report on globalization and cultural loss

Worth 20% of your course grade

Your course text contends that anthropology makes us aware of how much our cultural traditions have contributed to the form of the modern world; and just how much our own sense of well-being is situated in wealth and resources generated elsewhere.

The website of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) states:

“The current era of globalization, with its unprecedented acceleration and intensification in the global flows of capital, labour, and information, is having a homogenizing influence on local culture. While this phenomenon promotes the integration of societies and has provided millions of people with new opportunities, it may also bring with it a loss of uniqueness of local culture, which in turn can lead to loss of identity, exclusion and even conflict. This is especially true for traditional societies and communities, which are exposed to rapid ‘modernization’ based on models imported from outside and not adapted to their context.”

This assignment calls on you to use the library research resources, and prepare a short report on the impact of globalization on a specific cultural group.

Your report should:

Clearly identify a specific aspect of globalization and its impact on a specific cultural group;

Determine whether the homogenizing influence of globalization is, in fact, integrating or excluding the cultural group from the broader global economic, political or social sphere;

Evaluate whether the potential benefits from any new opportunities presented by globalization outweigh the loss of traditional ways of life and/or the loss of uniqueness of the culture you have been examining.

Cite four reliable and authoritative sources of information obtained through the St. FX library and/or its online databases;

Be well written and well organized (typewritten, doubled-spaced, 12 point text, 1250-1500 words in length NOT including your bibliography). Include a title page with your name and student number.

Sources of Information

ALL sources of information must be properly cited, using the embedded citation formats of *The Chicago Manual of Style* (author-date-page), **NOT** footnotes or endnotes. Information on *The Chicago Manual of Style* is available at:

<http://sites.stfx.ca/library/chicago> . Or, for more information at: <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/717/01>

The CRAAP Test, a handy guide for assessing the reliability of your sources of information, will be available on Moodle.

The UNESCO website on cultural loss and development: <http://www.unesco.org/new/en/culture/themes/culture-and-development/the-future-we-want-the-role-of-culture/globalization-and-culture/>

Your report should be submitted on Moodle as an MS Word file by midnight on Thursday, December 1.

Late submissions will be penalized at 25% per day. Submissions more than four days late will not be graded.