

INTRODUCTION TO SOCIOCULTURAL ANTHROPOLOGY 2017

ANTHROPOLOGY 112.01

Wednesdays 7:00-9:30 JBB 237

L. Jane McMillan, PhD

Office Hours: Tuesdays and Wednesdays 5:00-6:30 or by appointment

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Sociocultural anthropology is the study of human beings and involves the comparative study of societies throughout the world. Students will learn the fundamental key terms, issues, theories and research methods of contemporary cultural anthropology.

REQUIRED TEXTS

Kenny, Michael and Kirsten Smillie. *Stories of culture and Place: An Introduction to Anthropology*. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2015.

Lavenda, Robert and Emily Schultz. *Core Concepts in Cultural Anthropology*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2017.

Other materials as assigned throughout the course will be available on line through the StFX library. Course texts are available in the campus bookstore and on reserve in the Angus L. MacDonald library.

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADES

20% Participation & In-class assignments

30% Midterm Test

20% Essay

30% Final Exam

CLASS PARTICIPATION & ASSIGNMENTS 20%

Attendance is required. 20% of your grade is based on informed participation and in-class assignments. Readings must be completed before class and students are expected to raise questions, exchange ideas and fully participate in discussions and activities. Disagreeing with something from the readings, or with others' comments during discussion is okay – understanding different interpretations are part of what anthropology is about. Different viewpoints help us think through our own opinions and are important to developing our critical thinking skills. Share your ideas, but be respectful of each other. Together we must make this class a safe space for sharing divergent points of view. Periodically you will be

asked to write short essays, one-minute papers, workshop questions, practice research methods in small groups, and present findings, which will be assessed. If you are absent on an in-class assignment day you will receive a grade of 0 for that activity. There will be no make up opportunities.

MID-TERM TEST 30%

October 18, 2017

This in-class test will cover all materials to date including lectures, readings, group activities, films, and presentations. The text format may include short answer, multiple choice and essay questions.

ESSAY 20%

November 8, 2017

The concept of culture is a central idea in anthropology. Anthropologists have used the concept of culture in a variety of ways. In your essay trace the history and compare uses of the concept of culture. Using examples analyze why defining culture is important to society. Evaluate the usefulness and implications of the concept in terms of your anthropological interests.

This assignment is intended to develop the following skills:

- 1) defining a theoretical concept;
- 2) applying a theoretical concept to evidence to see what it can explain;
- 3) using ethnographic and other anthropological evidence to support your argument;
- 4) using the essay for to present an argument and support it with evidence.

Titled, 5 pages, 12 point font, double spaced, page numbers, complete bibliography and in text citations. Essays are due at the beginning of class; late assignments will not be accepted.

Follow the StFX Anthropology Department Academic Essay Guide

http://stfx.libguides.com/ld.php?content_id=3538355

<http://stfx.libguides.com/c.php?g=101558&p=658461>

Please follow the rules of academic honesty; do not plagiarize and cite work correctly. Familiarize yourself with StFX's Academic Integrity Policies and Procedures and seek assistance from the library if you have questions.

http://sites.stfx.ca/library/academic_integrity

FINAL EXAM 30%

The final exam will be written during the exam period scheduled by the university December 5-15, 2017. The exam will cover all course materials including lectures, readings, group activities, films, methods exercises, theoretical applications and presentations.

COURSE OUTLINE

This syllabus is subject to change.

Below are the required readings per week, please complete the assigned readings prior to class.

September 6: What is anthropology? Overview of discipline and course objectives.

Stories (53-68).

September 13: Introduction to Anthropology

Stories (xvii-24) and Core Concepts (chapter 1 Anthropology)

September 20: Methods and Ideas

Stories (25-50) and Core Concepts (chapter 2 Culture & Appendix Reading Ethnography 189-196)

September 27: Kinship and Friendship

Stories (69-91) and Core Concepts (chapter 7 Relatedness)

October 4: Symbol, Myth, and Meaning

Stories (93-116) and Core Concepts (chapter 4 Worldview and Religion)

October 11: Gender

Stories (145-165) and Core Concepts (chapter 6 Sex, Gender and Sexuality)

October 18: Mid-term test

Your knowledge of all readings, lectures, films and activities to date will be tested, in class.

October 25: Politics of Culture

Stories (119-143) and Core Concepts (chapter 8 Political Anthropology)

November 1: Race and Social Organization

Stories (167-192) and Core Concepts (chapter 5 Dimensions of Social Organization)

November 8: Essay Due Economic Anthropology

Core Concepts (chapter 9 Economic Anthropology)

November 15: Globalization

Stories (193-220) and Core concepts (chapter 10 Globalization)

November 22: Theory & Review

Core concepts (chapter 12 Theory in cultural Anthropology)

November 29: Anthropology of Science & Review

Core Concepts (chapter 11 The Anthropology of Science, Technology, and Medicine)

The use of phones, tablets and laptops for other than course related work is not permitted during class.

IMPORTANT DATES

September 12 – last day to receive full tuition refund (where applicable)

October 24 – last day for partial tuition refunds (where applicable)

November 3 – last day to drop first term courses