ANTH F100x: Individual, Society and Culture

M-F 12:00-4:30 pm
MayMester 2015
Gruening 413

Instructor: Robin Shoaps, PhD
Office Hours: After class and Tu/Th from 10:30-11:30, Bunnell 305B.
Contact: Email: rashoaps@alaska.edu

Course Description: An examination of the complex social arrangements guiding individual behavior and common human concerns in contrasting cultural contexts.

Instructional Methods:
Instructional methods will place an emphasis on discussion and as well as written assignments. Students should expect to put a good deal of time into the course in order to successfully demonstrate knowledge of course concepts. There will be daily written assignments and one comparative research project.

Course Goals:
• To expose students to how core aspects of human experience are organized in different cultures
• To expose students to theory and methods of cultural anthropology
• To give students firsthand experience in doing ethnographic observation
• To familiarize students with different (non-Western) cultures

Learning Outcomes:
After taking this class students will:

• Have experience doing and writing up ethnographic observations
• Be able to compare how domains of human experience are structured cross-culturally
• See their daily lives through new eyes
• Be familiar with the major concerns of cultural anthropology

Specific Course Requirements:

Attendance:
Regular attendance is important in order to understand class concepts. Please provide a doctor’s note if you miss class due to medical reasons.

Readings and participation:
Timely completion of the readings is essential for success in this class, because lectures will complement and not necessarily summarize the readings.
You should be prepared to discuss reading assignments in class. Failure to bring reading materials to class will negatively impact your participation grade.

Students will be expected to discuss their written assignments every week/class period and be prepared to be called on in class.

**Quizzes:** There are daily pop quizzes, I will drop your lowest score.

**Exams:** There is a midterm and a final exam. These are true/false, definitions, short answer and multiple-choice format. You are allowed to use your notes. The final exam is focused on the second half of the course.

**Written assignments:** There are daily short essay (1-2 pages typed) written homework assignments based on your observations and reflections on your life and US culture and several in-class writing assignments.

**Ethnographic Research Assignment:** Students will choose a culture group and topic related to texts we read in class and present their research (drawing from 2 scholarly sources) to the class by comparing it to a practice in the US.

**Evaluation:**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tr>
<td>Attendance</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<td>Quizzes</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<td>Written assignments</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<td>Midterm</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<td>Final exam</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ethnographic research project</td>
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Grading is based on the following scale:

- 95-100%  A
- 90-94%  A-
- 86-89%  B+
- 83-85%  B
- 80-82%  B-
- 76-79%  C+
- 73-75%  C
- 70-72%  C-
- 66-69%  D+
- 63-65%  D
- 60-62%  D-
- 59% and below  F

**Course Policies:**

With the exception of in-class assignments, no laptops, tablets or cell phones are permitted during class lecture and discussion unless you have a note from the disabilities office. Not only does the use of these devices fail to observe standards of basic politeness and professional demeanor, their presence is
distracting to me and to other students. Research has demonstrated that hand writing notes helps memory and retention.

Coming to class more than 15 minutes late counts as an absence.

You are expected to be honest and ethical in your fulfillment of assignments. Plagiarism and cheating are serious violations of proper academic conduct and will result in a failing grade for the assignment (see below).

No make-up presentations will be allowed except with prior consent of the instructor. No late assignments will be accepted. Please schedule your time accordingly.

All homework papers must be handed in physically, in hard copy form. You may hand in in-class assignments digitally.

**University Policies and Services:**

**Academic Integrity:**
Plagiarism is a form of cheating in which you use anyone else's ideas and/or words (both published or personally communicated) without proper citation of the source. Whether from a printed source, the Internet, a lecture or a friend or family member, you must cite the source properly, if you got the idea from someone else-and this is true even if you are not using the source's exact wording. Be aware of the University's policies on academic dishonesty.

When academic dishonesty is documented on any assignment or exam, you will receive a zero and the matter may be turned over to the Dean of Students for inquiry, with the recommendation of a failing grade in the course.

You should familiarize yourself with the Student Code of Conduct (http://www.uaf.edu/catalog/current/academics/regs3html#Student_Conduct) and the University statement on Plagiarism (http://library.uaf.edu/ls101-plagiarism).

For information on how to properly cite sources see: http://www.uaf.edu/sssp/

**Support Services:**
Student Support Services are available at UAF: http://jwww.uaf.edu/sssp/

These services include: free tutorial services; academic advising, mentoring, and personal support; direct financial assistance to qualified low-income participants; use of laptop computers, labs, and other technology resources; and cultural and social engagement. The office is located at 512 Gruening building.

See also http://jwww.uaf.edu/catalog/catalog_10-11/services/servOl.html

**Disability Services:**
The University of Alaska is committed to providing equal access for students with disabilities.

If you experience a disability and will need special accommodations, please contact me during my office hours. I will work with the Office of Disabilities Services (208 WHIT, 474-5655) to provide reasonable accommodation to students with disabilities.
Reading Materials:
The following required books are available at the UAF Bookstore:

Fernia, *Guests of the Sheik*.  
Smith Bowen, *Return to Laughter: An Anthropological Novel*

Supplementary readings are to be found on Blackboard.

**Tentative Topics and Reading Schedule:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Reading assignment and homework (to be completed before class)</th>
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| 5/11  | What is culture and how do anthropologists investigate it?  
  Film: *Anthropology, Real People, Real Careers*  
  Chapter 1 of Delaney *Investigating Culture* (and Bohannon at the end of chapter)  
  pp 1-100 of *Return to Laughter*  
  Exercise 1.1 and 1.2 in Delaney  
  Reflection questions on *Return to Laughter* (on Blackboard) |
| 5/12  | Fieldwork and Sharing Ethnographic Knowledge  
  Film: *Anthropological fieldwork: A personal Account in Nepal*  
  OR *Through These Eyes*  
  Finish *Return to Laughter*  
  Exercises on Blackboard |
| 5/13  | Kinship and Social Organization  
  Maya kinship categories and weddings  
  Film: *Divorce in Iran*  
  Delaney, Chapter 5 and Eckert (at the end of the chapter)  
  Exercises 5.1, 5.3  
  Exercise: Write about the social categories in your high school and the symbols of membership. |
| 5/14  | The Cultural Body  
  Barbie and ideals of feminine beauty  
  Frightening bodies  
  Film: *Beauty Mark*  
  Delaney, Chapter 6, pp 207-227 (& Body ritual among the Nacirema at end)  
  Staples, Just walk on by  
  URLa & Swedlund, Measuring up Barbie (both on Blackboard)  
  Exercise 6.1  
  Questions on URLa & Swedlund, (posted on Blackboard) |
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Readings/Notes</th>
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<tr>
<td>5/15</td>
<td>Gender</td>
<td>Lorber, Weismantel, Cities of Women (both are on Blackboard)</td>
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<td><em>Reading questions posted on Blackboard</em></td>
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<td>5/18</td>
<td>Midterm (1 hour)</td>
<td>Fernia, <em>Guests of the Sheik</em>, Part I and II</td>
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<td><em>Reading questions posted on Blackboard</em></td>
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<td>5/19</td>
<td>Clothing</td>
<td>Delaney Chapter 8</td>
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<td><em>Exercise 8.2 &amp; 8.3</em></td>
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<td>5/20</td>
<td>Rituals, Journeys and Performances</td>
<td>Delaney Chapter 9: pp 343-360, 364-377</td>
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<td><em>Exercise 9.1</em></td>
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<td><em>Contrast one ritual described in Return to Laughter and Guests of the Sheik</em> (see assignment details on Blackboard)</td>
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<td>5/21</td>
<td>Culture and ritual in the Mayan highlands</td>
<td>Reading on Blackboard: Popol Vuh The meaning of maiz for the Maya Nebaj Maximon</td>
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<td><em>&amp; complete response questions from Blackboard</em></td>
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<td>5/22</td>
<td>Culture and language</td>
<td>Whorf: TBA</td>
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<td>Linguistic relativity</td>
<td>Final Presentations</td>
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<td>Final exam 1.5 hours</td>
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