SEMESTER AT SEA COURSE SYLLABUS

Colorado State University, Academic Partner

Voyage: Spring 2018
Discipline: Anthropology
Course Number and Title: ANTH 100 Introductory Cultural Anthropology (Section 1)
Division: Lower
Faculty Name: Elizabeth Ferry
Semester Credit Hours: 3

Prerequisites: None

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is an introduction to the field of cultural anthropology. It has two main goals: first, to give you an understanding of anthropological approaches to human sociocultural diversity, and second, to provide a foundation for higher level courses in anthropology. Cultural anthropology concerns itself with the range and variation of human experiences, practices, and worldviews across time and space, and with the implications of this variation for those experiences, practices, worldviews that may seem natural, taken-for-granted, or true. This double movement of observing what seems different and reflecting on what seems obvious or everyday is sometimes called “making the strange familiar and the familiar strange” and we will encounter it in many ways in the course. Course readings will focus on ethnographies (books or articles based on anthropological fieldwork) of places visited in the Semester at Sea Spring 2018 voyage. The course will include an in-country field class, in which students will learn about anthropological methods, make ethnographic observations, and reflect on these afterwards.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Develop a critical understanding of the variation of human practices in a global context.
- Reflect critically on the taken-for-granted nature of their own practices, beliefs and assumptions
- Learn about the discipline and methods of cultural anthropology
- Read ethnographic works about places visited in the spring 2018 voyage.
- Practice making observations in a field contexts and subsequent analyses and reflections.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS
TOPICAL OUTLINE OF COURSE

Depart Ensenada, Mexico — January 5

B1—January 8: Introduction – what is cultural anthropology?
Craig Raine, “A Martian Sends a Postcard Home”

B2—January 10: Making the Familiar Strange and the Strange Familiar
Richard Borshay Lee, “Eating Christmas in the Kalahari”
L&S, chapter 1, sections 1.1, 1.2, 1.3

Honolulu, Hawaii — January 12

B3—January 13: Power and Ethics in Anthropological Fieldwork I
L&S chapter 1, sections 1.4, 1.5
American Anthropological Association Statement on Ethics

B4—January 15: The Culture Concept/discussion of field journals and final assignment
L&S Chapter 2
Renato Rosaldo, “Of Headhunters and Soldiers: Separating Cultural and Ethical Relativism,”
Issues in Ethics 11(1) (Winter 2000)
Laurence Ralph, Renegade Dreams, pp. 55-59.

January 16—International Date Line crossing (Lost Day)

B5—January 18: Meaning-Making and Signs
L&S Chapter 3

No Class — January 19

B6—January 21: The body as sign and as author of signs
149-156.
L&S, section 4.3

B7—January 23: Bodily Practice and Meaning in Japan
Dorinne Kondo, “The Way of Tea: A Symbolic Analysis”
Kobe, Japan — January 24-28

B8—January 23:  kinship and social networks in China
L&S chapter 7, 8.8

Shanghai, China — January 31 - February 1

In-Transit — February 2-3

Hong Kong, SAR — February 4-5

B9—February 7:  Gender in Vietnam
Ann-Marie Leshkowich, "Making Class and Gender: (Market) Socialist Enframing of Traders in Ho Chi Minh City."
L&S chapter 6

Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam — February 8-13

B10—February 14:  Mediums and Modernity in Burma/Myanmar
L&S, sections 4.4, 4.5, 4.6

No Class —February 16

B11—February 18:  Midterm exam

Yangon, Myanmar — February 19-23

B12—February 25:  Social Organization
Janaki Abraham “Wedding Videos in North Kerala”
L&S Chapter 5, review ch. 7

B13—February 27:  Food, Clothing, and Expression in India
Viva Vaidhyanathan, “Dosa: An Elegy for South Indian Food”
Daniel Miller, “Why Clothing is not Superficial: the Sari”
L&S 9.8, 9.9

Cochin, India — February 28 – March 5
No Class — March 7

B14—March 8: Capitalism and Globalization
L&S chapter 10

B15—March 10: Heritage, Tourism, and Colonialism in Mauritius

Port Louis, Mauritius — March 11 Field Class on Remembering Capitalism and Slavery in Mauritius

B16—March 13: Postcoloniality, Neoliberalism, Precarity
L&S Sections 8.1, 8.2, 8.5, 8.6, 8.6
Gustav Visser, “Gay men, leisure space and South African cities: the case of Cape Town”

B17—March 15: Cultural Expression and Commodification
Naa Baako Ako-Adjei “How Not to Write About Africa: African Cuisines in Food Writing”

B18—March 17: HIV/AIDS and Social Justice
Field Lab Assignment due
L&S sections 11.3, 11.7

Cape Town, South Africa — March 18-23

B19—March 25: Economic Anthropology - introduction
L&S 9.1, 9.2, 9.3, 9.4

B20—March 27: Economic Anthropology – continued
L&S 9.5., 9.6, 9.7, 9.8, 9.9
Julia Ott, “Slaves: the Capital that Made Capitalism”

B21—March 29:
Kwame Anthony Appiah, “The Case for Contamination”
http://www.nytimes.com/2006/01/01/magazine/the-case-for-contamination.html

Tema, Ghana — March 30 - April 1
Takoradi, Ghana — April 2-3

B22—April 5:
No reading – review of field journals, discussion of final exam

B23—April 7: Cities
[Field journal due]

Study Day — April 8

B24—April 10:

Casablanca, Morocco — April 11-14

B25—April 16: Final Exam

Arrive Bremerhaven, Germany — April 19

FIELD WORK
Semester at Sea field experiences allow for an unparalleled opportunity to compare, contrast, and synthesize the different cultures and countries encountered over the course of the voyage. In addition to the one field class, students will complete independent field assignments that span multiple countries.

Field Class attendance is mandatory for all students enrolled in this course. Do not book individual travel plans or a Semester at Sea sponsored trip on the day of your field class. Field Classes constitute at least 20% of the contact hours for each course.

Field Class & Assignment

*The Field Class for this course will take place on Sunday, March 11 in Port Louis, Mauritius.*

**Title: Making a Multicultural Nation**
Country: Mauritius

Objectives: students will understand the roots and experience of Indian diasporic identity in Mauritius, through a visit to an important pilgrimage site
Students will gain a sense of the historical and contemporary factors at play in constructions of Mauritius as a “creole” nation.

Students will apply anthropological theories about diasporic and transnational identity to an understanding of contemporary Mauritian experiences.

Evaluation: Students will write a 4-6 page paper incorporating their observations and relating them to course readings and discussions.

Independent Field Assignments

Beginning in Japan, students will be keeping a field journal of their observations and reflections. The instructor will review these periodically; students should have AT LEAST five single spaced pages of notes from each port-of-call. Students will take notes on as many topics as possible; as the voyage progresses, students will begin to focus on a particular “core concept” from the text Core Concepts in Anthropology.

The final assignment will be an 6-8 page double-spaced paper incorporating field observations, course readings and discussions concerning the chosen “core concept.”

METHODS OF EVALUATION / GRADING SCALE

The following Grading Scale is utilized for student evaluation. Pass/Fail is not an option for Semester at Sea coursework. Note that C-, D+ and D- grades are also not assigned on Semester at Sea in accordance with the grading system at Colorado State University (the SAS partner institution).

Pluses and minuses are awarded as follows on a 100% scale:

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<th>Percentage</th>
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<tr>
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<td>60-69%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Less than 60%</td>
<td>Failing</td>
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METHODS OF EVALUATION

Attendance and Participation: 10%
Field Class Assignment (4-6 double-spaced pages): 20% (due B18/March 17)
Field notes/journal: 20%
Midterm: 10% (B11/February 18)
Final Assignment (6-8 double-spaced pages): 20% (B23/April 7)
Final Exam: 20% (B25/April 16)
ATTENDANCE/ENGAGEMENT IN THE ACADEMIC PROGRAM

Attendance in all Semester at Sea classes, including the Field Class, is mandatory. Students must inform their instructors prior to any unanticipated absence and take the initiative to make up missed work in a timely fashion. Instructors must make reasonable efforts to enable students to make up work which must be accomplished under the instructor’s supervision (e.g., examinations, laboratories). In the event of a conflict in regard to this policy, individuals may appeal using established CSU procedures.

LEARNING ACCOMMODATIONS

Semester at Sea provides academic accommodations for students with diagnosed learning disabilities, in accordance with ADA guidelines. Students who will need accommodations in a class, should contact ISE to discuss their individual needs. Any accommodation must be discussed in a timely manner prior to implementation.

A letter from the student’s home institution verifying the accommodations received on their home campus (dated within the last three years) is required before any accommodation is provided on the ship. Students must submit this verification of accommodations to academic@isevoyages.org as soon as possible, but no later than two months prior to the voyage.

STUDENT CONDUCT CODE

The foundation of a university is truth and knowledge, each of which relies in a fundamental manner upon academic integrity and is diminished significantly by academic misconduct. Academic integrity is conceptualized as doing and taking credit for one’s own work. A pervasive attitude promoting academic integrity enhances the sense of community and adds value to the educational process. All within the University are affected by the cooperative commitment to academic integrity. All Semester at Sea courses adhere to this Academic Integrity Policy and Student Conduct Code.

Depending on the nature of the assignment or exam, the faculty member may require a written declaration of the following honor pledge: “I have not given, received, or used any unauthorized assistance on this exam/assignment.”

RESERVE BOOKS FOR THE LIBRARY

AUTHOR: Robert H. Lavenda and Emily A. Schultz
TITLE: Core Concepts in Cultural Anthropology
PUBLISHER: Oxford University Press
ISBN #: 9780190459727
DATE/EDITION: 2016/6th edition

ELECTRONIC COURSE MATERIALS


Ralph, Laurence, Renegade Dreams, pp. 55-59.


Leshkowich, Ann-Marie, "Making Class and Gender: (Market) Socialist Enframing of Traders in Ho Chi Minh City.


Naa Baako Ako-Adjei “How Not to Write About Africa: African Cuisines in Food Writing”


Julia Ott, “Slaves: the Capital that Made Capitalism”
http://www.publicseminar.org/2014/04/slavery-the-capital-that-made-capitalism/#.WPVaUaK1vIU


Kwame Anthony Appiah, “The Case for Contamination”
http://www.nytimes.com/2006/01/01/magazine/the-case-for-contamination.html


ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

None.