SEMESTER AT SEA COURSE SYLLABUS

Colorado State University, Academic Partner

Voyage: Spring 2018
Discipline: Anthropology
Course Number and Title: ANTH 329 Cultural Change
Division: Upper
Faculty Name: Elizabeth Ferry
Semester Credit Hours: 3

Prerequisite: One (1) introductory anthropology course

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course introduces the anthropological approaches to our understanding of human cultural change. It rethinks the fundamental anthropological questions in an ever faster changing world, questions such as how culture can be defined and approached in anthropology, and how change and persistence are related in contemporary global circumstances. This course is intended as an invitation to learn about, and to join in, the lively debates among scholars engaged in developing anthropological perspectives on these subjects. Readings will focus on drivers and dimensions of cultural change, including colonialism and trade, demographic change, and time-space compression. We will look at ethnographic instances focused on sites visited in the Semester at Sea spring 2018 voyage. The course will include an in-country field class, in which students will observe and collect information on situated responses to changing circumstances.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Students will:
- Acquire facility with a variety of social scientific theories of cultural change
- Understand the material bases of production in various societies and their relation to change
- Learn about the tensions between forces of homogenization and forces of differentiation in a rapidly changing world.
- Develop a comparative appreciation of cultural variation across the globe.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS

AUTHOR: Wolf, Eric R.
TITLE: Europe and the People Without History
PUBLISHER: University of California Press, Berkeley
ISBN #: 978-0520268180
DATE/EDITION: 2010
TOPICAL OUTLINE OF COURSE

Depart Ensenada, Mexico — January 5

A1—January 7: Introduction – how do anthropologists think about culture and change?
Outline and objectives for the course

A2—January 9: Human Organization since the Agricultural Revolution
Wolf, chapters 2, 3

A3—January 11: The Modern World System
Wolf, chapter 4

Honolulu, Hawaii — January 12

A4—January 14: Colonialism and Trade
Wolf, chapter 8

January 16—International Date Line crossing (Lost Day)

A5—January 17: Colonialism, Extraction and Labor
Wolf, chapter 5

No Class — January 19

A6—January 20: Colonialism, Nationalism, and Globalization


A7—January 22: Migration and Demographic Change


Kobe, Japan — January 24-28

A8—January 29: Urbanization and Global Cities
Deliana Iossifova, “Doing fieldwork in Shanghai: Notes on visual methods and ethnographic practices”


Shanghai, China — January 31 - February 1

In-Transit — February 2-3

Hong Kong, SAR — February 4-5

A9—February 6: Emergence of the Global Middle Class


Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam — February 8-13

A10—February 14: Colonialism and Change
Wolf, chapters 9-10
George Orwell, “Shooting an Elephant” in A Collection of Essays

No Class — February 16

A11—February 17: Authoritarianism and Change

Joshua Hammer, “Visiting Myanmar: It’s Complicated”

Yangon, Myanmar — February 19-23

A12—February 24:
No reading – discussion of Field Lab; short paper 1 due

A13—February 26: Technology and Time-Space Compression
Mitra, Rahul. "Resisting the spectacle of pride: queer Indian bloggers as interpretive communities."

Film: Cast in India

Cochin, India — February 28 – March 5

A14—March 6: Globalization and Diaspora
Arjun Appadurai, “Disjuncture and Difference in the Global Economy”

No Class — March 7

A15—March 9: Diaspora and Belonging in Mauritius

Port Louis, Mauritius — March 11

A16—March 12: Applied Anthropology – Anthropologists effecting change (or trying to, anyways)
A17—March 14: HIV/AIDS in Southern Africa

A18—March 16: Impact Investing and Social Change
Lecture by David Wood, Adjunct Lecture in Public Policy and Director of Initiative for Responsible Investment, Harvard Kennedy School
Short paper 2 due

Cape Town, South Africa — March 18-23

A19—March 24: The Slave Trade
Wolf, Chapter 7

A20—March 26:
Brenda Chalfin, Neoliberal Sovereignty, chapters 1, 3, 4

A21—March 28:
Brenda Chalfin, Neoliberal Sovereignty, chapters 5-7

Tema, Ghana — March 30 - April 1

Takoradi, Ghana — April 2-3

Field Class in Ghana TBD*

A22—April 4:
No reading –discussion of final exam; field class assignment

A23—April 6: Cultural Contact
Robert Lavenda and Emily Schultz, Core Concepts in Anthropology, chapter 10, sections 10.1, 10.2, 10.4
Study Day — April 8

A24—April 9: Climate Change

Hicks, Celeste, “COP22 host Morocco launches action plan to fight devastating climate change”

Field class assignment due

Casablanca, Morocco — April 11-14

A25—April 15: 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 Tuesday, 3 April, in Tema, Ghana.

Field Class content to be determined.

Independent Field Assignments

Students will write two 3-5 page papers over the course of the semester linking one of the following themes to observations made and readings pertaining to one of the ports visited:

World-system theory
Migration and diaspora
Globalization
Cultural Field
Urbanization
Time-Space Compression
Applied Anthropology
Capitalism and Markets
Impact Investing
Tourism

Each paper must address a different theme and different port, not including the port where the Field Class takes place.

**METHODS OF EVALUATION / GRADING SCALE**

**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>Good</th>
<th>Satisfactory/Poor</th>
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<td>90-92%:</td>
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Attendance and Participation 20%
Field Lab  20%  A24—April 9
2 short papers 20% each = 40%: A12—February 24; A18—March 16
Final exam:  20%  A25—April 15

**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

None.

FILM REQUEST:

Cast in India
Natasha Rajeha
https://castinindia.com/

ELECTRONIC COURSE MATERIALS


Deliana Iossifova, “Doing fieldwork in Shanghai: Notes on visual methods and ethnographic practices”


Joshua Hammer, “Visiting Myanmar: It’s Complicated”


Robert Lavenda and Emily Schultz, Core Concepts in Anthropology, chapter 10, sections 10.1, 10.2, 10.4


Hicks, Celeste, “COP22 host Morocco launches action plan to fight devastating climate change”


ADDITIONAL RESOURCES
None.