

AN103 – Introduction to Cultural Anthropology Section 50 – Fall 2011 Bey Hall 126 – 3 Credits Monday 4:30pm-7:15pm	
Instructor: Dr. Edward González-Tennant Email: egonzale@monmouth.edu Office Phone: 732-571-4458	Office: Howard Hall 326 Office Hours: Mon & Tues 2:00-4:00pm or by appointment

Required Textbooks:

Bourgois, P. and J. Schonberg. *righteous dopefiend*. University of California Press, 2009.

Kottak, C. P. *Mirror for Humanity: A Concise Introduction to Cultural Anthropology*. McGraw-Hill, 2010.

Peters-Golden, H. *Cultural Sketches: Case Studies in Anthropology*. McGraw-Hill, 2012.

Additional readings as assigned by instructor (always provided as PDF files).

Course Description:

This course offers a detailed introduction to the central issues of contemporary cultural anthropology – described as the study of how variation in the beliefs and behavior of members of different human groups is shaped by culture. The central challenge for cultural anthropology revolves around understanding, respecting, and comparing the wide diversity of human cultures around the world. The specific approach in this course provides students with a broad overview of the core concepts in cultural anthropology through a case study approach. The ultimate goal of this course is to provide students with an applicable understanding of the discipline’s theories and methods in a way which complements their individual academic interests. Each class will involve a mix of lecture, class discussion, and small-group conversations.

Course Objectives: Upon successful completion of this course, each student will:

- Develop an anthropological perspective in regards to human cultures and society
- Understand the difference between culture as an individual, group, and global identity
- Appreciate the importance of religion, worldview, and art in regards to human diversity
- Understand the dimensions of social organization including the intersection of race, ethnicity, gender, class, and sexuality in analyzing culture
- Be able to apply the core methodologies of cultural anthropology to issues around them in the modern world – with particular emphasis on politics, economics, and globalization
- Comprehend the central role of social theory in anthropology and the discipline’s relationship to other topics in the physical sciences, social sciences, and humanities

Grading:

Grades for the course will come from attendance and participation, midterm and final exams, and a local ethnographic project. Make-up tests and assignments will only be granted if arranged prior to the date in this syllabus, or when accompanied by appropriate documentation (i.e. doctor’s note). Specific handouts for the student ethnography assignment will be provided during the semester. Your grades will come from the following:

Attendance\Participation	10%	(20 possible points) – talking in class
Midterm Exam	25%	(50 possible points) – essay questions
Student Ethnography	40%	(80 possible points) – explore your world
Final Exam	25%	(50 possible points) – essay questions

Breakdown of Grading:

Attendance & Participation: Students are expected to arrive at class on time with readings completed beforehand. Portions of class each week will involve classroom discussion, small group conversations, or both. Students will be assessed on their apparent level of preparation as well as participation in these activities. **[Total Points: 20]**

Midterm Exam: Students will complete an essay exam on topic covered during the course prior to the midterm exam. Students will be graded on their ability to cogently present a thesis statement, argue a point of view using readings from class, and successfully conclude a paper. We will discuss successful essay writing prior to the midterm. **[Total Points: 50]**

Student Ethnography: Students will engage in an ethnographic project during the semester. Students are free to work in groups or alone. These projects should take place in a setting unfamiliar to the students, but geographically near Monmouth University’s campus. As part of this project, students will explore the ethics of anthropological fieldwork and will be required to fill out an IRB form. We will discuss the assignment in class. **[Total Points: 80]**

Final Exam: Students will complete an essay exam on topic covered during the course prior to the midterm exam. Students will be graded on their ability to cogently present a thesis statement, argue a point of view using readings from class, and successfully conclude a paper. We will discuss successful essay writing prior to the midterm. **[Total Points: 50]**

Total Possible Points: 200

Course Grading Scale:

A 93-100 A- 90-92.9 B+ 88-89.9 B 83-87.9 B- 80-82.9 C+ 78-79.9
 C 73-77.9 C- 70-72.9 D+ 68-69.9 D 63-67.9 D- 60-62.9 F 59.9 and below

Letter Grade	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	D-	E
Total Points	186-200	180-185.8	176-179.8	166-175.8	160-165.8	156-159.8	146-155.8	140-145.8	136-135.8	126-133.8	120-125.8	119.8-0

Academic Honesty:

Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. As a registered student in this course, you have agreed to the following statement:

“I understand that Monmouth University expects its students to be honest in all their academic work. I agree to adhere to this commitment to academic honesty and understand that my failure to comply with this commitment may result in disciplinary action up to and including expulsion from the University.”

If you are caught plagiarizing or cheating on exams you will receive an automatic zero and may be referred to the university administration for disciplinary action.

Student Conduct:

All students must comply with the Student Code of Conduct found in the student handbook. Any behavior that interferes with either the instructor’s ability to conduct the class or the ability of other students to benefit from the instructional program will not be tolerated. Please turn off cell phones and all other electronic devices before class. Laptops may only be used to take notes. Disruptive students will be asked to leave.

Texting during class is not allowed.

Disability Accommodations:

Students with disabilities who need special accommodations for this class are encouraged to meet with me or the appropriate disability service provider on campus as soon as possible. In order to receive accommodations, students must be registered with the appropriate disability service provider on campus as set forth in the student handbook and must follow Monmouth University’s procedure for self-disclosure, which is stated in the University *Guide to Services and Accommodations for Students with Disabilities*.

MU Counseling Services:

Resources are available on campus for students having personal or goal oriented problems. If you find yourself in a physical or emotional situation you are having trouble dealing with, please contact Counseling and Psychological Services at 732-571-7517. If you are in physical danger or suspect that someone is trying to harm you, contact MU Police at 732-571-3472. Do not be afraid to contact these offices, it is always better safe than sorry.

Semester Calendar:

Sept 12: What is Anthropology?
 Readings: Kottak, Chapter 1
 Peters-Golden, Chapter 15

Sept 19: Culture, Anthropology’s Core Concept.

- Readings: Kottak, Chapter 2
Peters-Golden, Chapter 11
- Sept 26: Ethics and Methods of Cultural Anthropology.
Readings: Kottak, Chapter 3
Peters-Golden, Chapter 2
Bourgois & Schonberg, Introduction (pp. 1-23)
- Oct 3: Language and Communication.
Readings: Kottak, Chapter 4
Peters-Golden, Chapter 3
Assignments: One page description of student project due at start of class.
- Oct 10: Making a Living.
Readings: Kottak, Chapter 5
Peters-Golden, Chapter 12
Bourgois & Schonberg, Making Money (pp. 147-181)
- Oct 17: Political Systems.
Readings: Kottak, Chapter 6
Peters-Golden, Chapter 6
Assignments: Student project IRB forms due at start of class.
- Oct 24: Families, Kinship, and Marriage.
Readings: Kottak, Chapter 7
Peters-Golden, Chapters 5
Bourgois & Schonberg, Childhoods & Parenting (pp. 117-146, 183-208)
- Oct 31: Midterm Exam
- Nov 7: Gender & Sex Cross-Culturally.
Readings: Kottak, Chapter 8
Peters-Golden, Chapter 7
Bourgois & Schonberg, Falling in Love & Male Love (pp. 47-78, 209-240)
- Nov 8: Last Day to Withdraw with “W” Grade
- Nov 14: The Anthropology of Religion.
Readings: Kottak, Chapter 9
Peters-Golden, Chapter 8 & 10
- Nov 21: World System and Colonialism.
Readings: Kottak, Chapter 10
Peters-Golden, Chapter 2
- Nov 28: Ethnicity and Race.
Readings: Kottak, Chapter 11
Peters-Golden, Chapter 4

Bourgois & Schonberg, Intimate Apartheid (pp. 25-45)

Dec 5: Applying Anthropology

Readings: Kottak, Chapter 12

Bourgois & Schonberg, Everyday Addicts, Treatment, & Conclusion (pp.241-320)

Dec 12: Anthropology Now.

Readings: Kottak, Chapter 13

Peters-Golden, Chapter 14

Assignments: Write-up of student projects due at start of class.

Dec 19: Final Exam (5:30pm - 7:30pm)