

ANTHROPOLOGY 1100 - WORLD CULTURES
FALL 2011
TR, 9:30-10:50, GAB 104

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REQUIRED TEXTS

Bodley, John H.
2011 *Cultural Anthropology: Tribes, States, and the Global System, 5th edition*. Lanham, Maryland: AltaMira Press

REQUIRED LAB FEE

\$10.00 payable on line. This fee is associated with the Community Action Website Project in Anthropological Ethics (discussed below).

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES

Description: This course uses the concepts of cultural anthropology to introduce students to the ways that humans have subsisted at three different scales: tribal, imperial, and commercial. We look carefully at how groups of humans adapt to and interact with their environments, and the crucial role of social power in determining the forms that human cultures have taken over time right into the present. The end of the course addresses questions of sustainability in our increasing interdependent world. Concepts such as colonialism and globalization are addressed through theoretical and ethnographic material in this course.

Objectives: By the end of the course, students will:

- Have mastered the basic vocabulary of cultural anthropology
- Be able to describe the research methods of cultural anthropology
- Be able to articulate key ethical considerations in anthropological research
- Be able to articulate definitions and distinguish between the three different cultural worlds defined in this class using specific material drawn from the case studies of groups presented in the textbook and in lectures
- Be able to articulate the varieties of ways that humans have adapted to address the challenges of their environments (physical and social)
- Be able to explain the impact that commercial scale culture has had on our planet
- Understand the interconnectedness of our present world system

How to Succeed in This Class: Learning is a process of exercising your curiosity muscles. I want you to develop as scholars in the following ways:

- to learn how to take notes in class
- to read assigned material *actively* (at a minimum, this means having a dictionary by your side to look up words you don't understand)
- to develop the habit of reading course assignments **before** lectures to enhance your understanding of lectures
- to develop your critical thinking skills through short writing assignments

Diligently engaging in these activities will enhance your understanding of the course material. Your mastery of these scholarly skills will be reflected in your performance on exams and papers.

Please know that I understand that students come from a variety of backgrounds and ALL have strengths AND weaknesses. If you have any questions or feel unsure about any class material, come see me after class or during office hours. Don't wait, don't be shy! We will work together to find a solution. It is better to come in sooner than later – don't wait until the end of the semester. This is another scholarly skill I am trying to encourage in you and me – **start early, do some coursework most days, ask questions when you don't understand** – these deceptively simple steps will help you to avoid the deadly effects of procrastination.

INFORMATION FOR STUDENTS SEEKING ADA ACCOMMODATION

Please give me your official "Request for Accommodation" letter during the first week of class. Please plan to come to see me during my office hours (or make an appointment) as early in the semester as possible so that we can make sure that all reasonable steps are being taken to maximize your learning opportunities in the class.

BLACKBOARD

These items are (or will be) posted on Blackboard:

- Course syllabus
- Calendar with important dates highlighted
- PowerPoint slides AFTER the day's lectures (these are not a substitute for YOUR OWN notes)
- Grades when they become available
- Samples of exemplary papers (see "Additional Writing Assignments," below, p. 4)
- Announcements as necessary throughout the term

ATTENDANCE POLICY

This is a very large class and except at the beginning of the semester when I have to hand in paperwork to the Registrar's Office, I will not be taking formal attendance. The course is organized around the required text, but **lectures will not simply follow the text**. There will be a variety of learning activities that you'll take part in during class time. These activities are designed to help you become a more active learner. In addition, I will show several movies, the content of which will be covered in exam questions. Therefore, **students who intend to do well in this class are advised to attend class regularly**.

CLASSROOM COMMUNITY

I encourage you to ask questions during class, or email me questions (if that makes you more comfortable) which I will address at the next scheduled class time. There is no such thing as a stupid question. *The only thing that is stupid is NOT TO ASK a question when you have one.*

AS A COURTESY TO YOUR CLASSMATES AND ME, PLEASE TURN OFF YOUR CELL PHONES, PAGERS, AND TEXT MESSAGING SYSTEMS DURING CLASS.

STUDENT EVALUATION

In Class Exercises (best 5 out of ???)	10%	100
Midterm Exam	20%	200
Final Examination	20%	200
Community Action Website Project	20%	200
Two Papers (each worth 15%)	30%	300
TOTAL POSSIBLE PTS:	100%	1000 points

Grades will be standard: 90% or higher = A, 80-89% = B, etc.

1) In Class Exercises: At random times throughout the semester I will ask you to do an in-class exercise. The purpose of the activity is to reinforce your learning during lecture. Your best five scores out of the total number of in-class exercises given over the semester will count for 10% of your grade. Each individual exercise is worth 20 points. **THERE WILL BE NO MAKE-UPS.** If you miss the exercise, you miss it.

2) Exams: There will be one midterm and a final examination. The format will be a combination of objective questions (multiple choice, matching, true/false, fill-in-the-blanks) and “short answer essay” questions. Assigned readings, movies shown in class, class discussion and class lectures are fair game for exam questions. The final will be comprehensive, but will stress materials from the last half of the course.

➔ **Exam dates: Midterm – Tuesday, 10/11, Final – Tuesday, 12/13 (at 8:00 AM note time)**

3) Participation in Community Action Website Project in Anthropological Ethics:

Action Period is September 20 – October 6. Using the Internet to bring students at various universities together into one community, the Community Action Website (publicanthropology.net) helps students understand ethical issues that lie at the interface of anthropology and the contemporary world. Your participation in this activity will improve both your critical thinking and writing skills. Students pay a \$10 registration fee to participate in the project. Once registered, students have full access to the website, a copy of the book used with the project, and all activities associated with the project. Twenty-five percent of the income accruing from the project is donated to a Brazilian Yanomami NGO.

For this project, promptness in participating at each step is essential. The WHOLE project must be completed in order to receive credit for this activity. There will be NO partial credit. Details to follow.

4) Papers: You will write two short papers. These papers will each be a brief analysis of a substantial article that you will select from one of the following sources:

- *Dallas Morning News*
- *Fort Worth Star-Telegram*
- *The New York Times*
- *Los Angeles Times*
- *The Economist*
- *National Geographic*
- *Smithsonian Magazine*

These newspapers and magazines are easily available at Willis Library or through the UNT library website: <http://www.library.unt.edu/>

The article should address a culture or country outside the US. The content of the article must be pertinent to based on some aspect of “world culture” as you have come to understand it through lectures and reading for this class. Do not select an article whose primary focus is on “current events” – the article should present an interesting description or analysis of a cultural practice. For example, an article about the role of women in the freedom struggle in Libya is appropriate, but an article about the latest skirmish in the fighting there would not be.

If you are unsure about whether an article is appropriate, please see me or my teaching assistant, Steven Wilson well in advance of the paper due dates, which are Tuesday, October 25 and Tuesday, November 22.

Papers should be 500-750 words (there are approximately 250 words on a typed, double-spaced page using 12 pt. font). Please put your name on the paper, with the pages stapled (no folders, please) and attach a copy of the article you selected to the paper. Only **physical** copies of papers will be accepted; no papers may be submitted via email. *I will consider valid excuses for late papers on a case by case basis; “I forgot” does not qualify as a valid excuse.*

Each paper must include the following:

1. A properly formatted bibliographic citation for the article. Information on one commonly used citation style known as “APA format” can be found at the following URL: http://www.english.uiuc.edu/cws/wworkshop/writer_resources/citation_styles/apa/apa.htm
2. Why you selected this article and how it pertains to the topical material in this class.
3. A brief summary of the content, highlighting three key points the article makes.
4. An intelligent question that this article raises for you including comments about how you will seek further information.
5. You must attach a copy (NOT THE ORIGINAL!) or print-out of the article to your paper.

Samples of well-written papers from past classes are posted on the Blackboard page.

Paper #1 is due Tuesday, October 25; Paper #2 is due Tuesday, November 22

ANTHROPOLOGY DEPARTMENT STATEMENT ON PLAGIARISM

Plagiarism is defined as misrepresenting the work of others (whether published or not) as your own. It may be inadvertent or intentional. For example, quoting or close paraphrasing of a text without citation of its source is a form of plagiarism. You should always provide references for any facts, statistics, quotations, or paraphrasing of information.

The Department of Anthropology does not tolerate plagiarism or any other form of academic dishonesty. Students suspected of academic dishonesty will be given a hearing in which they are informed of the charges. Clear evidence in support of the charge will merit failure in the course. For more information on the university’s policies regarding academic integrity and dishonesty, see the Center for Student Rights and Responsibilities at <http://www.unt.edu/csrr/>.

For more information on writing papers, including how to avoid plagiarism and how to use citations, see the Department of Anthropology’s Writing Guide at <http://www.unt.edu/anthropology/writing.htm>.

COURSE SCHEDULE AND READING ASSIGNMENTS

Thursday, August 25

Course organization and introduction to the topic

No assigned reading

Tuesday, August 30

Topic(s): Doing anthropological research; defining culture

Assigned reading: Bodley, Chapter 1, pp. 1-14.

Thursday, September 1

Topic(s): Key terms: Cultural worlds, cultural scale, social power, *summum bonum*

Assigned Reading: Bodley, Ch. 1, pp. 16-22

Tuesday, September 6

Topic(s): Australian Aborigines: Material Environment and The Dreaming

Bodley, Ch. 3, pp. 67- 79

Thursday, September 8 – Last day to drop class without needing instructor’s permission

Topic(s): Making a Living with Foraging Technology

Assigned Reading: Bodley, Ch. 3, pp. 80 – 87

Tuesday, September 13

Topic(s): Kinship and Social Organization in Australian Aboriginal Culture

Assigned Reading: Bodley, Ch. 3, pp. 87-95

Thursday, September 15

Topic(s): Native Amazonians: Surviving in the Rain Forest

Assigned Reading: Bodley, Ch. 2, pp. 25-38

Tuesday, September 20

Action Period for Community Action Website Project begins; you can begin registering on the website:

www.publicanthropology.net

Topic(s): Social Organization among Amazonian Peoples; Raiding and Feuding

Assigned Reading: Bodley, Ch. 2, pp. 38 – 54

Thursday, September 22

Topic(s): Amazonian Cosmology

Assigned Reading: Bodley, Ch. 3, pp. 54 – 61

Tuesday, September 27

Topic(s): Pastoralism in East Africa – Cattle Complex?

Assigned Reading: Bodley, Ch. 4, pp. 99-108

Thursday, September 29

Topic(s): Marriage and Gender Relations among East African Pastoralists; Conflict Management

Assigned Reading: Bodley, Ch. 4, pp.108-116

Tuesday, October 4 – Last day to change grading status to P/F

Topic(s): Power, Wealth and Age Classes; Midterm Review
Assigned Reading: Bodley, Ch. 4, pp.116 – 125

Thursday, October 6 – Catch up/review for midterm

Action Period for Community Action Website Project ends – complete final step.

Tuesday, October 11– MIDTERM EXAMINATION

Thursday, October 13

Topic(s): Pacific Islanders: Necessary Skills for Living in Oceania
Assigned Reading: Bodley, Ch. 6, pp. 181 – 191

Tuesday, October 18

Topic(s): Inequality and Ranking Systems; Tikopia – A Polynesian Chiefdom
Assigned Reading: Bodley, Ch. 6, pp. 192 – 203

Thursday, October 20

Topic(s): Hawaii: Transition from Chiefs to Kings
Assigned Reading: Bodley, Ch. 6, pp. 203 – 213

Tuesday, October 22 - PAPER #1 DUE

Topic(s): Ancient Empires: The Emergence of Imperial World
Assigned Reading: Bodley, Ch. 7, pp. 217-225

Thursday, October 27

Topic(s): Mesopotamia
Assigned Reading: Bodley, Ch. 7, pp. 225 – 240

Friday, October 28 – LAST DAY TO DROP OR WITHDRAW FROM CLASS

Tuesday, November 1

Topic(s): The Inca Empire
Assigned Reading: Bodley, Ch. 7, pp. 240 – 258

Thursday, November 3

Topic(s): South Asian Great Traditions, Early Hindu Civilization
Assigned Reading: Bodley, Ch. 9, pp. 293 – 305 (top)

Tuesday, November 8

Topic(s): Hindu Ideology, Society, and Culture
Assigned Reading: Bodley, Ch. 9, pp. 306 – 321

Thursday, November 10

Topic(s): Women in South Asia
Assigned Reading: Bodley, Ch. 9, pp. 321 – 327

Tuesday, November 15

Topic(s): Introduction to the Commercial World; Energy and Economic Growth
Assigned Reading: Bodley, Ch. 10, pp. 333 – 335; pp. 339 – 344

Thursday, November 17

Topic(s): The Culture of Capitalism; Origins in Europe

Assigned Reading: Bodley, Ch. 10, pp. 344 – 350 (through top of second column only); p. 351 (begin at 2nd column) – 358

Tuesday, November 22 – PAPER #2 DUE

Topic(s): The British Industrial Revolution: Poverty at home, Colonialism abroad

Assigned Reading: Bodley, Ch. 358 – 368 (first column only); p. 375 (summary section)

Thursday, November 24 – HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

Tuesday, November 29

Topic(s): The Anthropocene Period – The Impact of Our Footprint

Assigned Reading: Bodley, Ch. 12, pp. 419 – 429 (top of first column)

Thursday, December 1

Topic(s): The Failed Promise of Growth; the Case of Bangladesh; Peak Oil

Assigned Reading: Bodley, Ch. 12, pp. 434 (begin 2nd column) – 438; 444 – 448, Figure 12.10, p. 449; p. 452 – 455

Tuesday, December 6

Topic(s): Toward a Sustainable World

Assigned Reading: Bodley, Ch. 15, pp. 543 – 550 (1st column)

Thursday, December 8 – REVIEW SESSION

Tuesday, December 13 – FINAL EXAMINATION, 8:00 AM (NOTE TIME), GAB 104