

Anthropology 4701.002
Psychological Anthropology – Fall 2013
TR 3:30 PM – 4:50 PM, Wooten Hall 215

Instructor: Beverly Ann Davenport, PhD, MSPH
Office: Chilton Hall, 330G
Phone #s: 940-565-2292 (o)
Email: bad@unt.edu
Office hrs: Wednesdays 2:00-5:00 PM; Tuesdays 5:00-6:00 PM; or by appointment

REQUIRED BOOKS AND ARTICLES

- Philip K. Bock, 1999, *Rethinking Psychological Anthropology: Continuity and Change in the Study of Human Action*, 2nd edition. Long Grove, IL: Waveland Press (referred to as “Bock”)
- Watters, Ian, 2011. *Crazy Like Us: The Globalization of the American Psyche*. New York: Free Press. (referred to as “Watters”)

Articles and Chapters: In addition to at least a chapter from one of the required books each week, there will be selections from a variety of other sources. All selections will be on <https://learn.blackboard.edu> in the readings folder located on the “landing page” organized by the week of assignment.

COMMUNICATING WITH YOU

I will be sending email messages to the class or to individuals in it, and **I will be using your “my.unt” email address.** If you prefer a different email address for your primary email account, I strongly suggest that you forward your “my.unt” email to that account.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

- **Midterm** on October 24
- **Papers** (Four, each 4-6 pages)
 - **Due:** September 24, October 15, November 19, and December 6. You will receive assigned topics for these papers. More details soon.
- **In class exercises** – best 5 out of ????

STUDENT EVALUATION

Midterm	20%		200 points
Each paper	70%	175 pts @ x4 =	700 points
In-class exercises	10%	20 pts @ x5 =	100 points

Total possible = 1000 points

COURSE DESCRIPTION

What is psychological anthropology anyway? Is it the study of cultural ideas about the processes and functions of the human mind. OR, does it study the question of the relationship between what are conventionally defined as psychological processes and culture, broadly defined. Age-old questions

come into play here. I see this class as an exploration of topics in psychological anthropology. I have organized a set of readings each week to cover a specific question. My goal is not to provide *definitive* answers to these questions but rather to examine various approaches have sought to answer them. The topics are not comprehensive, but constitute a broad range within the field.

COURSE OBJECTIVES – By the end of this class you will:

- Understand the origins of psychological anthropology
- KNOW leading theorists/contributors to the field of psychological anthropology and be able to distinguish between their varying approaches
- Be able to identify and critique methods of psychological anthropological research
- Be more aware of assumptions you and others may have about the relationship between mind, culture and behavior in everyday life – in media, in books, in movies, etc.

COMMUNITY/COMMUNICATION

I encourage you to ask questions and make comments either via email or on the discussion board. Please remember in your responses to your classmates to be “positively critical.” That is, find some point of agreement (no matter how small) you have with what they have written and make a remark about that *before* you offer a different point of view. This strategy isn’t about “making nice-nice”. It promotes dialogue and makes people feel more comfortable about sharing “ideas in formation.”

Please turn off your cell phones during class. Computer note-taking is permissible, but please be aware that your use of the computer for other activities may be disruptive.

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WITHDRAWAL

If you can’t complete the course, **you have to withdraw between September 12 and November 6.** This is a formal procedure (for which there is a form) which **YOU** must initiate. You must obtain my signature on the form to withdraw from the class. If you simply stop participating in the class without formally dropping it, you will receive an “F.” *However, I will do everything in my power to contact you if I notice that you have stopped coming to class. Please answer my emails/phone calls!!!!*

I like people to succeed!

Anthropology Department Undergraduate Plagiarism Policy

Plagiarism is defined as misrepresenting the work of others (whether published or not) as your own. It may be inadvertent or intentional. You should always provide references for any facts, statistics, quotations, or paraphrasing of information that are not common knowledge. 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/>.

Weekly Topics and Reading Assignments

Aug 29: Organizing, thinking about the nature of human nature

Sept 3, 5: Overview

Bodley, John.

2004 Excerpts from Chapter 5 (pp. 133-142 [top]; pp. 147-157 [top]) in *Cultural Anthropology: Tribes, States, and the Global System*. New York: McGraw-Hill.

Suggested: <http://www.carroll.edu/msmillie/philhumbeing/theorieshumannature.htm>

Sept 10, 12: The Psychology of “Primitive” People

- Bock, Chapter 1

Sept 17, 19: “Total Human” – Biology, Psychology, Society Are Entertwined

- Mahler, Chapter 3 (BB Learn)
- Hinton, Introduction, pp. 1-15 (BB Learn)

Sept 24, 26: What’s Freud Got to Do with It?

PAPER DUE 9/24

- Bock, Chapter 2

Oct 1, 3: What is the relationship between culture and personality?

- Bock, chapter 3
- Mead, “Swaddling”

Oct 8, 10: What can we make of the notion of “national character?”

- Bock, chapter 4
- Bock, chapter 5
- Review Mead, “Swaddling”
-

Oct 15, 17: The criticisms of the culture and personality school **PAPER DUE 10/15**

- Bock, Interlude
- Wallace, “The Cultural Distribution of Personality Characteristics” (BB Learn)

Oct 22, 24: Review and Midterm

- October 22 – Come to class with Questions!!!
- October 24

MIDTERM 10/24

Oct 29, 31: What Role Does Child Development Play?

- Bock, chapter 9
- Ochs and Izquierdo, 2009
- New Yorker article, letters in response to

Nov 5, 7: Emotion – to what extent cultural, to what extent universal?

- Bock, chapter 12
- Erchak, chapter 6 (BB Learn)
- Rosaldo, *Ethos* article (BB Learn)
- Hinton, Introduction, review pp. 1-15,
- Fessler, “Toward an understanding of the universality of second order emotions” (BB Learn)

Nov 12, 14: Mental Illness – Local or Global?

PAPER DUE 11/12

- Watters, Introduction, chapter 1
- Kleinman, “Medical Anthropology and Mental Health: Five Questions for the Next Fifty Years” (BB Learn)

Nov 19: How do cultures deal with “trauma?”

- Watters, Chapter 2
- Pennebaker chapter in *Social and Cultural Lives of Immune Systems* (BB Learn)

Nov 26: Class canceled

Dec 3, 5: Globalization and Depression

- Watters, chapter 4
- Wilce, chapter in *Social and Cultural Lives of Immune Systems* (BB Learn)
- Janis Jenkins, El Salvador article (BB Learn)
- Good & Good, amuk article (BB Learn)

PAPER DUE 12/6