

HONORS OPTION for CARA AARON
ANTHROPOLOGY 3
CULTURE, TRADITION AND TRANSFORMATION
FALL 2008

I submit this as the individually negotiated honors option (INHO) for Cara Aaron in my Anthropology 3 course of Fall 2008. I am attaching a copy of a tentative syllabus for the course.

The required texts are projected to be the following:

Peoples and Bailey, *Humanity: An Introduction to Cultural Anthropology*.

Wadsworth/Thomson Learning, 2009. Eighth Edition.

Lansing, Stephen J. *The Balinese*. Harcourt Brace College Publishers, 1995.

Lundren, Nancy, *Watch and Pray: A Portrait of Fante Village Life in Transition*. Harcourt Brace College Publishers, 2002.

Honors work: The specific tasks, adapted to the topics raised by these texts, are outlined below. In addition to readings, three short presentations, and three short analytical papers (3-4 pages), Cara will also be encouraged to expand her final "world problems" research paper with additional references from the literature on the complexities of the anthropological approach. We will meet three times during the term to discuss her readings for each major segment of the course. Grading will stress the application of anthropological perspectives and concepts within her analysis of ethnographies and issues within each of the three broad topics. This should contribute to a deeper engagement with the topics and contribute to a broader understanding of issues and concerns in the literature on these regions.

I) Overview of Anthropological Thought

Cara will read some additional material on contemporary issues in ethnographic studies. The goal is for Cara to examine the history of anthropological thought and some of the broad changes in anthropological theory. She will read and explore further some of the issues involved in contemporary critiques of traditional anthropological theory and its representation of "others." She will write a 3-4 page reaction/analysis to demonstrate her familiarity with the readings and some of the issues involved. **[with class presentation]**.

II) Marriage and Family

Cara will read further than the assigned reading on issues of marriage and family in cross-cultural contexts. She will consider the relation of this literature to themes emphasized in the class text and assess what new insights they offer to ethnography on this topic. This will enable her to extend our discussion of patriarchal and matriarchal kinship systems. She will share her analysis with the class stimulating discussion. **[with class presentation]**

III) Religion

She will complete some additional readings on the topic of anthropological approaches to religion and discuss these materials with me during scheduled meetings. She will also compose and present a short paper relating these materials to class readings exploring the ways in which they refine or extend upon those materials. **[with class presentation]**

ANTHROPOLOGY 3
Culture, Tradition and Transformation
Professor: Timothy P. Daniels
 Timothy.P.Daniels@hofstra.edu

Term: FALL, 2008

Place: 15 Davison Hall
 Office: 200A Davison Hall
 Phone: 463-6366

Time: TTH 9:35-11/11:10-12:35PM
 Office Hrs: TTH8-9:30; 12:45-2:15
 or by appointment

Course Description:

Cultural anthropology is the study of various ways of living and thinking in the human community by means of fieldwork and comparative analysis. Thanks to its unique approaches, cultural anthropology offers a broad perspective on a wide range of important social issues. These issues are important because their consequences are determinative to the survival and well-being of all human societies which are increasingly interdependent.

In this introductory course, after briefly introducing what anthropology as a discipline is about and how anthropologists work, we will examine topics such as the “primitive” and “civilized” dichotomy, culture, social organization, economic systems, headhunting, plural marriage, religion, and globalization.

This course should help you understand and appreciate cultural variation in time and space from a global perspective, enhance your awareness and sensitivity of cultural diversity and change in your living environment, and develop your interpretive skills for a variety of cultural phenomena.

Texts:

James Peoples and Garrick Bailey Humanity: An Introduction to Cultural Anthropology, Seventh Edition. Belmont, CA: Wadsworth/Thomson Learning, 2006. (P&B in the reading schedule)

Lansing, Stephen J. The Balinese Fort Worth, TX: Harcourt Brace College Publishers, 1995.

Nancy Lundgren Watch and Pray: A Portrait of Fante Village Life in Transition Fort Worth, TX: Harcourt College Publishers, 2002.

General Information:

The class lectures are Tuesday and Thursday 9:35-11:00 AM or 11:10-12:35 PM. Attendance at lectures is encouraged and expected since all examinations are based on lecture material, videos, and course readings.

Class discussion and activities will also take place and students should be prepared to participate

in both oral and written work. Class attendance is not class participation. Participation is active involvement. The instructor will make regular assessments of the quantity and quality of your participation throughout the term. Some in-class 'short write' assignments and small group projects may be used to assess class participation along with discussions.

Course Readings:

You are expected to have done the day's readings prior to attending the lectures. All lectures will assume that students have done the reading for that day. Sometimes lectures will explicate or summarize the readings for that day, at other times additional material will be presented in lecture and familiarity with the readings will be taken for granted.

Course Requirements:

There will be two hourly exams, counting for 20% of overall grade each, and a final exam, counting for 30%. The three exams will consist of a combination of multiple-choice, short answer and essay questions. Each student is also required to write a paper and that will be handed in and presented/discussed in class. These papers will be evaluated and counted as 20% of the grade. Class debates and participation will be 10% of the course grade. Students should come to class ready to actively participate in dialogues about lectures, debates, readings, videos and fellow student reports. *One point will be deducted for each instance of class disruption through talking to other students, using communication devices in class, and so forth.* Each student is required to participate on the assigned debate team in class, and each debate team is responsible for turning in a one-page position statement prior to the debate. Read all assigned reading prior to class.

Grading:

Grading in this course is based upon a 100-point scale. In general, the "A" range will extend from 90-100, the "B" range from 80-89, the "C" range from 70-79, the "D" range starting at 64. The percentage of the final grade for each requirement is as follows:

- 20% Hourly Exam 1
- 20% Hourly Exam 2
- 30% Final Exam
- 20% Paper/Presentation
- 10% Class Debate and Participation

Essays, papers, and presentations will be assessed primarily based upon their content, especially the accurate, relevant, and appropriate use of anthropological concepts and examples from course materials, and then on their organization, clarity and coherence, and technical writing/speaking qualities. Points will be deducted each day for any work turned in late.

Class Attendance: Attendance will be taken each day at the start of class. Make sure to notify

me at the end of class if you came in late after I took attendance. Excessive tardiness may be considered an absence. If you are unable to attend class for whatever reason, you are required to provide written notice informing me of the reason for your absence. You are allowed up to 4 excused absences for a course that meets twice a week. For each absence over the limit, you will lose 2 points from your final grade. It is my prerogative to validate an absence as excused or not.

Paper/Presentation Project:

World Problems/Practice of Anthropology class project:

Each student will be required to collect newspaper and magazine (or scholarly) articles on a particular world problem (other than those discussed in final chapter of text—**population growth and world hunger**) selected in consultation with the instructor. **On or before Feb. 22 each student must turn in an index card with name, major, email address, and topic for the World Problems project.** The articles collected should be kept in a folder which will be handed in with a 4-6 page paper (double-spaced with .5 inch margins) discussing this world problem from an anthropological perspective, using anthropological concepts from this course. Each paper should include a discussion of the role that anthropology should play in relation to this world problem, in understanding and trying to resolve it.

Students are required to discuss these themes in a critical, evaluative fashion, not merely summarizing the collection of articles. A number of relevant and appropriate anthropological concepts should be used in the written paper and oral presentation. The paper will be presented and discussed in class during the final weeks of the semester. No other outside texts are required in these papers, *but cite newspaper or magazine articles, and required class texts if used as references, with page numbers within the body and at the end of the paper.*

Schedule: (This schedule is subject to change according to class announcements.)

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| Jan. 30 | Introduction to Course |
| Feb. 1 | Defining Anthropology
Video: “Anthropologists at Work”
Read: P&B Chapter 1
Read: Lansing pp. 1-8
Read: Lundgren pp. xi-xiii |
| Feb. 6 | Ethnography/Cultural Relativism/Culture
Read: P&B Chapter 2
Read: Lansing pp. 17-31
Read: Lundgren pp. 1-13 |
| Feb. 8 | Culture and Language/Practice of Anthropology
Read: P&B Chapter 3 |

- Read: P&B Chapter 18 (pp. 378-9)
Review: Lundgren pp. 1-13
- Feb. 13 **Video: “Bali, Masterpiece of the Gods”**
Read: Salmon and Skinner articles—Electronic Reserve (**for Debate #1**)
Read: Lansing 32-48
- Feb. 15 Anthropological Thought
Read: P&B Chapters 4
- Feb. 20 President’s Day-**No class**
- Feb. 22 Methods of Investigation
Read: P&B Chapter 5
Review: Lansing pp. 32-48
Debate #1: Should Anthropologists Work to Eliminate the Practice of Female Circumcision?
- Feb. 27 **Exam 1**
- March 1 Adaptation: Environment and Cultures
Read: P&B Chapter 6
Read: D.T. Niane—Electronic Reserve (**for Debate #2**)
Read: Lundgren pp. 15-35
- March 6 Economic Systems
Read: P&B Chapter 7
Read: Lansing Chapter 4
- March 8 Marriage and Family
Read: P&B Chapter 8
Read: Lansing pp. 37-42
Read: Lundgren pp. 69-99
- March 13 Kinship and Descent
Read: P&B Chapter 9 (pp. 172-184)
Review: Lansing and Lundgren above
Debate #2: Should “Civilization” be defined narrowly (as in P&B text)?
- March 15 Kinship and Descent/Enculturation and Life Cycle
Read: P&B Chapter 10
Read: Deborah Elliston, “Erotic Anthropology: ‘Ritualized Homosexuality’ in

- Melanesia and Beyond” (on electronic reserve)
Read: Lundgren pp. 101-125
- March 20 Gender/Sexuality in Comparative Perspective
Video: “Gendong Women Workers”
Read: P&B Chapter 11
Read: Lepowsky and Goldberg articles—Electronic Reserve (**debate #3**)
- March 22 Political Life
Read: P&B (pp. 239-249)
Read: Lundgren 37-68
- March 27 Violence and Culture: Headhunting/Lynching
Read: Janet Hopkins, “Introduction: Headhunting as Practice and as Trope” (on reserve)
Read: W. Fitzhugh Brundage, “Introduction” In *Under Sentence of Death: Lynching in the South*.
Debate #3: Do Sexually Egalitarian Societies Exist?
- March 29 Social Inequality and Stratification (Ethnicity, Race, Gender)
Read: P&B Chapter 13 and Chapter 17 (pp. 354-360)
Read: Lundgren pp. 120-123
- April 2-9 Spring Recess—NO classes**
- April 10 **Exam 2**
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- April 12 Religion and Worldview
Video: “Thaipusam Festival”
Read: P&B Chapter 14
Read: Lundgren pp. 127-135
- April 17 Religion/Art and the Aesthetic
Read: P&B Chapter 15
Lansing: Chapter 3
- April 19 Art and the Aesthetic/Globalization
Video: “Lempad of Bali”
Read: P&B Chapter 16
Review: Lansing pp. 37, 44
- April 24 Globalization/Colonialism/Underdevelopment
Review: P&B Chapter 16

Read: Lundgren pp. 137-150
Read: Lansing Chapter 5

April 26 Ethnicity/Race and Conflict/World Problems
Read: P&B Chapter 17
Read: P&B Chapter 18
Review: Lundgren pp. 120-122

May 1 **Presentations**

May 3 **Presentations**

May 8 **Presentations**

All World Problems/Practice of Anthropology papers due in class.

May 15/17 **Final (Exam 3)**