**CULTURAL ANTHROPOLOGY**

**WHAT IS ANTHROPOLOGY?**

Anthropology, defined in simple terms, is the scientific and humanistic study of human species (Kottack 2011). This discipline originated in the West more than a century ago to study the non-industrial and simple societies, which fascinated the scholars of the industrialized Europe and America. The discipline is immensely broad in scope: ranging from the prehistoric past of our ancestors to the post-industrial age of the present world we live in. Its vastness has required the creation of four sub-fields: Biological (or Physical) Anthropology; Archaeology; Sociocultural Anthropology; and Linguistic Anthropology.

Among these four categories, Sociocultural Anthropology (or simply Cultural Anthropology) is the most diverse, as it focuses on contemporary human groups and includes myriad facets of society including politics, religion, economy, environment, art, race, gender, ethnicity and medicine - to name only a few!

**COURSE OBJECTIVE**

The core objective of this course is to introduce the diversity of human societies and cultures by offering tools to better understand their lifestyles and beliefs. It is hoped that this course will allow the students to see, understand, and respect the mesmerizing diversity of cultures that make our species unique. With the help of case studies and documentaries, this course will be a roller coaster ride through remote corners of the planet, introducing strange cultural practices that prevail around us.

**REQUIRED READINGS**

**Textbook**: Kottack, Conrad P. 2011. Anthropology – Appreciating Human Diversity 14th edition. New York: McGraw Hill.

**Supplementary Reader:** Hirschberg & Hirschberg. *One World Many Cultures.* 3rd edition. Boston: Allyn and Bacon. 1998.

There will be additional readings, which would be distributed in the class, emailed and/or uploaded on Moodle.

**Grade breakup:**

Class participation and attendance 10%

Quizzes 20%

Mid-term exam 30%

Final Exam 40%

**METHODOLOGIES**

Assigned reading; lectures; class discussions; group exercises; homework assignments; Moodle; quizzes; and a final exam.

**READING PLAN**

**WEEK 1**

Topics included: Human adaptability, variation and change; subfields of Anthropology; Anthropology and other academic fields.

Text Readings: Kottack, Conrad. 2011. *Anthropology*. 14th Edition. New York: McGraw Hill.

Review Table of Contents. Read Chapter 1.

**WEEK 2**

Topics included: Culture; elements of culture; cultural diversity; cultural change

Text Readings: Kottack. *Anthropology*. Read Chapter 2.

Supplementary Readings: Edward Hall. *Hidden Culture*. Pp 6-10 in *One World Many Cultures,* edited by Hirschberg, Stuart and Hirschberg, Terry. Boston: Allyn and Bacon. 1998.

Rigoberta Menchú. 1983. *Birth Ceremonies*. Pp. 36-45 in *One World Many Cultures, op. cit.*

**WEEK 3**

Topics included: Ethnographic research and methods

Text Readings: Kottack. *Anthropology*. Read Chapter 13.

Supplementary Readings: Bernard, H. R. 2006. *Research Methods in Anthropology: Qualitative and Quantitative Methods*,4th ed. Walnut Creek, CA: AltaMira.

**WEEK 4**

Topics included: Ethnicity; race; nations; nationalities; ethnic conflicts; assimilation; multiculturalism

Text Readings: Kottack. Anthropology. Read Chapter 15.

Supplementary Readings: James Palmer (2013) *The Uighurs, China's Embattled Muslim Minority, Are Still Seeking an Identity* printed in The Atlantic.

Molnar, S. 2006 *Human Variation: Races, types, and Ethnic Groups*, 6th ed. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall.

Wade, P. 2002. *Race, Nature, and Culture: An Anthropological Perspective.* Sterling, VA: Pluto Press.

**WEEK 5**

Topics included: Communication; structure of language; language, thought and culture; sociolinguistics; historical linguistics; cyberspace

Text Readings: Kottack. *Anthropology.* Read Chapter 14.

Supplementary Readings: Bonvillain, N. 2008. *Language, Culture, and Communication: The Meaning of Messages,* 5th ed. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall.

Foley, W.A. 1997. *Anthropological Linguistics: An Introduction.* Cambridge, MA: Blackwell Publishers.

Thomas, L. 1999. *Language, Society and Power.* New York: Routledge.

**WEEK 6**

Topics included: Theory in Anthropology

Text Readings: Kottack. Anthropology. Chapter 13.

Supplementary Readings: McGee, R. J., and R. L. Warms. 2008. *Anthropological Theory: An Introductory History*,4th ed. Boston: McGraw-Hill.

Harris, M. 2001. *The Rise of Anthropological Theory: A History of Theories of Culture.* Walnut Creek, CA: AltaMira.

**WEEK 7**

Topics included: Livelihoods; adaptive strategies; cultivation; pastoralism; modes of production; economization and maximization; distribution and exchange

Text Reading: Kottack. Anthropology. Chapter 16.

Supplementary Readings: Bates, D. G. 2005. *Human Adaptive Strategies: Ecology, Culture, and Politics*, 3rd ed. Boston: Pearson/Allyn & Bacon.

Cohen, Y. 1974. *Man in Adaptation: The Cultural Present*, 2nd ed. Chicago: Aldine.

**WEEK 8**

Progress review; Mid-term exam

**WEEK 9**

Topics included: Families; kinship; descent; marriage

Text Reading: Kottack Anthropology. Chapters 19 and 20.

Supplementary Readings: Parkin, R., and L. Stone, eds. 2004. *Kinship and Family: An Anthropological Reader.* Malden, MA: Blackwell.

**WEEK 10**

Topics included: Political systems; bands and tribes; chiefdoms; states; social control

Text Reading: Kottack. Anthropology. Chapter 17.

Supplementary Readings: Cheater, A. P., ed. 1999. *The Anthropology of Power: Empowerment and Disempowerment in Changing Structures.* New York: Routledge.

Gledhill, J. 2000. *Power and Its Disguises: Anthropological Perspectives on Politics.* Sterling, VA: Pluto Press.

**WEEK 11**

Topics included: Belief systems; magic; religion

Text Reading: Kottack. Anthropology. Chapter 21.

Supplementary Readings: Bowie, F. 2006. *The Anthropology of Religion: An Introduction.* Malden, MA: Blackwell.

Moro, P. A, and J. E. Meyers, eds. 2010. *Magic, Witchcraft, and Religion: An Anthropological Study of the Supernatural*, 8th ed. Boston: McGraw-Hill.

**WEEK 12**

Topics included: Art; media; sports

Text Reading: Kottack. Anthropology. Chapter 22.

Supplementary Readings: Hatcher, E. P. 1999. *Art as Culture: An Introduction to the Anthropology of Art*, 2nd ed. Westport, CT: Bergin & Garvey.

Askew, K. M., and R. R. Wilk, eds. 2002. The Anthropology of Media: A Reader. Malden, MA: Oxford, Blackwell.

Blanchard, K. 1995. The Anthropology of Sport: An Introduction, rev. ed. Westport, CT: Bergin and Garvey.

**WEEK 13**

Topics included: Gender

Text Reading: Kottack. Anthropology. Chapter 18.

Supplementary Reading: Brettell, C. B., and C. F. Sargent, eds. 2009. *Gender in Cross-Cultural Perspective*,5th ed. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson/Prentice Hall.

**WEEK 14**

Topics included: The modern world system; colonialism; development

Text Reading: Kottack. Anthropology. Chapter 23.

Supplementary Reading: Bodley, J.H. 2008. *Anthropology and Contemporary Human Problems*, 5th ed. Lanham, MD: AltaMira.

Edelman, M., and A. Haugerud. 2004. *The Anthropology of Development and Globalization: From Classical Political Economy to Contemporary Neoliberalism*. Malden, MA: Blackwell.

Wallerstein, I. M. 2004. *World-Systems Analysis: An Introduction.* Durham, NC: Duke University Press.

**WEEK 15**

Topics included: Current global issues and application of anthropology

Text Reading: Kottack. Anthropology. Chapter 24.

Supplementary Readings: Robbins, R. H. 2008. *Global Problems and the Culture of Capitalism*, 4th ed. Boston: Pearson/Allyn & Bacon.

Johansen, B. E. 2003. *Indigenous Peoples and Environmental Issues: An Encyclopedia*. Westport, CT: Greenwood.