SOAN 110: Introduction to Anthropology  
Fall 2013  

Carleton College  
Department of Sociology and Anthropology

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Office Location: Leighton 232  
Office Hours: Mondays 10-noon and Tuesdays 3:15-5:15 pm (sign up via Moodle)

COURSE GOALS
A substantial proportion of what we do -- some even argue most of what we do -- is guided by culture: what we believe in, how we dress, what we eat, who we marry, and even if we marry. Although our actions regarding these decisions may seem “logical”, normal, or simply the obvious way of doing things, you can be certain that there is another society that does things in a completely different way. In anthropology, these differences are known as cultural diversity and socio-cultural anthropologists aim at understanding, documenting, and explaining this variation among contemporary societies.

In addition to academic pursuits, much of the information produced by anthropologists can and is being used to solve contemporary issues related to conservation, development, human rights, and public health. There are even many applications to the business world as well as a wide range of industries as in the case of digital technologies. For this reason, the course will also seek to expose you to and encourage you to think about the ways in which anthropology can be applied to solving real world problems.

In other words the primary goal for the course is to show you that anthropology matters!

This will be achieved through four major goals:
1- To explain cultural diversity through classic and contemporary ethnographic case studies.
2- To show variation in anthropological thought and thus the wide range of subdisciplines and paradigms that are found in anthropology today.
3- To teach you anthropology’s unique methodological tradition, from classic ethnographic approaches such as participant observation to more interdisciplinary approaches such as the use of GIS.
4- To uncover the value of sound cultural analysis to helping solve real world problems.

LEARNING OUTCOMES
As part of Carleton's assessment initiative, the SOAN Department of has identified six Student Learning Outcomes for SOAN majors. In this course you will learn four of these outcomes:

• Formulate appropriate sociological and/or anthropological research questions about socio-cultural phenomena.
• Select appropriate sociological and/or anthropological research methods to study socio-cultural phenomena.
• Apply sociological and anthropological theory to analyze socio-cultural phenomena.
• Draw upon your understanding of historical and contemporary socio-cultural phenomena to engage the world.

GRADING AND ASSIGNMENTS
Your grade during the term will be assessed through a combination of assignments and exams. More specifically your final grade will be divided into three broad sections: 1) participation and attendance, 2) exams (a midterm and a final), and 3) project-based assignments (bio-sketch, looking activity, participant observation, and magazine analysis). Instructions, rational and objectives for each assignment will be clearly outlined for you before you begin and generally posted on Moodle or handed out during class.

Assignments and exams are weighed as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Weight</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Attendance and Participation</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bio Sketch Assignment</td>
<td>5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Looking Assignment (Fieldnotes)</td>
<td>5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Participant Observation Assignment</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Magazine Analysis Assignment</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Midterm Exam</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>25%</td>
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LATE AND MAKE-UP POLICY
Please note that I am very strict about due dates. Unless you have a legitimate excuse for turning in an assignment late or missing and exam I will either not accept the assignment or deducts points from your grade. Although I am certainly sympathetic to emergencies I do ask you to try to let me know what is happening before the assignment or exam comes around in order to avoid misunderstandings.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY
You are expected to adhere to Carleton’s code of academic honesty. Even in the event of participating in team projects, your final work should still reflect your own ideas and other people’s ideas should always be credited. If you have any questions regarding this policy please visit http://apps.carleton.edu/campus/doc/integrity/ or come speak to me. Failure to follow Carleton’s expectation will result in a failing grade and formal action with the administration.

POWER POINT LECTURES AND NOTES
I will post the basic structure of Power Point presentations before lectures (these are pdfs that do not include images). I strongly encourage you to print these out and take notes on them during class. If you have any questions about these lecture notes please feel free to come see me during office hours or email me.

OFFICE HOURS AND COMMUNICATIONS
I hope you will all come see me during office hours to discuss the course, ideas for projects, or career plans. Interacting with students is one of the aspects that I most enjoy about my job so please DO NOT BE SHY and take advantage of office hour! If you cannot make office hours let me know and we can always schedule an alternative time, or even go out to lunch through the
dinning services “take a prof out to lunch” scheme (it is free to both of us and we get three a term).

Regarding email please note that I will try to answer emails within a 24 hr period and I do not tend to answer emails during the weekend (late Sundays are often the exception but do not expect it). I also do not text students so please do not try because I will probably miss them. Finally, although I encourage you to contact me via email with questions, if the question requires a long answer I may ask you to come see me personally so I can give you a proper response.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES
If you need any help dealing with the requirement of the course please let me know so I can direct you to the multitude of resources available to you at Carleton. Although I will be posting relevant resources to individual assignments do let me know if you are having trouble taking notes, studying for the exam, writing up assignments, stress, etc. I will be more than delighted to help direct you and work with you with what you need.

In case you are interested in exploring your options on your own, a comprehensive list of resources can be found here: https://www.carleton.edu/student/support/

LIBRARY: Worth mentioning is our fabulous library staff, in particular Kristin Partlo (the social sciences reference librarian). If you have any questions or need help finding resources for the class, she is a great resource. You will meet her during the course but if you need to contact her please email her at: kpartlo@carleton.edu.

COURSE READINGS
Readings will be posted in Moodle with the exception of the two ethnographies, which are available in the bookstore for purchase or on reserve in the library. You are expected to complete the assigned readings by class time and come prepared to participate in class discussions. Please note that some weeks have heavier readings loads than others, for this reason I suggest you pay attention to reading guidelines discussed in class.


## COURSE SCHEDULE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>LECTURE THEME &amp; ASSIGNMENTS</th>
<th>READINGS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Week 1</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Tue Sept 17</td>
<td><em>Introduction</em>: What is anthropology? Why study anthropology? What is culture? Where do we find culture?</td>
<td>Miner (Nacirema)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thu Sept 19</td>
<td><em>Case Study</em>: Introduction to the indigenous Ese eja of people of the Peruvian Amazon</td>
<td>Ocampo-Raeder (Ese eja History) Read 3-15 and skim 55-74</td>
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<td><strong>Week 2</strong></td>
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<td>Tue Sept 24</td>
<td><em>Methods in Cultural Anthropology</em>: How do we study culture? What is the ethnographic method? What is the difference between qualitative and quantitative research?</td>
<td>Shostak (Nisa Ch 1-8)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thu Sept 26</td>
<td><em>Ethics in Ethnographic Research</em>: What are some of the key issues anthropologists have to consider while conducting fieldwork?</td>
<td>Shostak (Nisa Ch 9-15) Keesing (Not a Real Fish)</td>
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<td><strong>Week 3</strong></td>
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<td>Tue Oct  1</td>
<td><em>Language and Communication</em>: How do people transmit cultural norms? How different are languages from each other?</td>
<td>Bourke (Fieldwork Stories) Boroditsky (Fora tv video)</td>
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<td><em>LOOKING ASSIGNMENT: IN CLASS ACTIVITY</em></td>
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<td>Thu Oct  3</td>
<td><em>Marriage, Kinship, and Family</em>: How do people define and mediate relationships between each other?</td>
<td>Nanda (Arranged Marriage) Goldstein (Brothers Share Wife)</td>
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<td>Fri Oct  4</td>
<td><em>LOOKING ASSIGNMENT DUE (hardcopy in manila folder in mailbox by 5pm)</em></td>
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<td><strong>Week 4</strong></td>
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<td>Tue Oct  8</td>
<td><em>Sex and Gender</em>: How do notions of sexuality vary across cultures? How do notions of gender vary cross culturally?</td>
<td>Herdt (Sambia)</td>
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<td>Thu Oct 10</td>
<td><em>MID-TERM EXAM</em></td>
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<td><em>Case Study</em>: Introduction to Ayahuasca-based religions.</td>
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Week 5
Tue Oct 15  *Magic, Ritual, and Religion:* How do societies interpret the spiritual world? What are the different ways in which people worship?
Case Study: Introduction to the Azande people of North Central Africa.
*HANDOUT MIDTERM EVALUATIONS*

Thu Oct 17  *Humans and Nature: How does anthropology study human-nature interactions?*
Case Study: Introduction to the Inuit people of the Hudson Bay
*HANDOUT PARTICIPANT OBSERVATION ASSIGNMENT*

Week 6
Tue Oct 22  *Resource Management Practices:* How do people make a living? What are the four main modes of subsistence practiced around the world?

Thu Oct 24  *Economic Systems:* What kinds of economic systems are found around the world? How do they differ from western economic systems?

Fri Oct 25  *PARTICIPANT OBSERVATION ASSIGNMENT DUE (hardcopy in manila folder in mailbox by 5pm)*

Week 7
Tue Oct 29  *Sociobiology and Human Behavioral Ecology:* Do societies follow evolutionary principles? What is the relationship between culture and genes?

Thu Oct 31  *Environmental Anthropology:* How does anthropology inform the environmental and sustainable development movement?
*HANDOUT MAGAZINE ASSIGNMENT*

Week 8
Tue Nov 5  *Case Study:* The Decade of Destruction in Brazil

Thu Nov 7  *Globalization:* How do anthropologists evaluate and trace the process of globalization? What does globalization mean to the future of cultural diversity?
*Begin readings Garcia (Pastoral Clinic)*

Week 9
Tue Nov 12  *The Burden of Legacy (Colonialism, Imperialism and the Social Control):* What are the impacts of history in contemporary social relations?

Thu Nov 14  *Race and Ethnicity:* What is the difference between race and ethnicity? Is race biological or cultural?

HANDOUTS:
- Evans-Pritchard (Witchcraft)
- Gmelch (Baseball Magic)
- Borré (Seal Blood)
- Denevan (Agroforestry)
- Harris (Sacred Cows)
- Wilson (Sociobiology)
- Helmreich & Paxson (Sex on Brain)
- Ocampo-Raeder (Spies and Gossip)
- Bestor (Sushi)
- Garcia (Pastoral Clinic)
- Jablonski (Skin)
- Jablonski (Ted Talk video)
Week 10

Tue Nov 19  New Directions in Anthropology: Understanding the breadth of anthropological inquiry and approaches? Why it anthropology matters?
*MAGAZINE ASSIGNMENT DUE (hardcopy in class)
* HAND OUT FINAL COURSE EVALUATIONS

FINAL  *SELF-SCHEDULE OPTION (instructions TBA)