SEMESTER AT SEA COURSE SYLLABUS

Fall 2012  DAY B   ROOM: 1      TIME: 1045-1200
Discipline: Anthropology
ANTH 1010: Introduction to Cultural Anthropology
Division: Lower
Faculty Name: Leo R. Chavez

Pre-requisites: None

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Cultural anthropology explores the nexus of society, culture, and human diversity, with an emphasis on how individuals and communities are shaped by social, political, and economic forces. This course introduces students to the different theories and methodologies that anthropologists use to study societies and their cultures. The ports will provide excellent opportunities to see cultural practices at work, and provide a context in which to examine such topics as kinship, religion and ritual, illness and healing, and globalization. A special focus is on the role of food in survival, national identity, tradition, and globalization.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

The principal aims of the course are as follows:
1. The course will familiarize the student with some of the major themes and topics in cultural anthropology, including race, cultural relativism, ethnographic methods, ethnocentrism, kinship, and many others.
2. Students will understand how anthropologists use the term “culture.”
3. Students will recognize that he/she is also a product of his/her own culture.
4. Students will learn the cultural significance of food for health, identity, and globalization.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS

AUTHOR: Robert H. Lavenda and Emily A. Schultz
TITLE: Core Concepts in Cultural Anthropology
PUBLISHER: McGraw Hill
COST: $38.15 paperback (amazon.com)
TOPICAL OUTLINE OF COURSE

CLASS B1: Introduction to Course

Topics: Introduction to class topics; goals; syllabus

CLASS B2: Anthropology’s focus, culture, food and identity

Read: Core Concepts in Cultural Anthropology, chapters 1, 2.

Read: -Mary Douglas, Deciphering a meal

-Marvin Harris, The Abominable Pig

CLASS B3: The world beyond ourselves

Concepts: ethnocentrism, cultural relativism, culture shock, culture and globalization


CLASS B4: Discussion of core concepts in practice


READ: The Journey of New World Food

CLASS B5: Religion and World View

Read: Core Concepts in Cultural Anthropology, chapter 5: Expressive Culture: Religion and World View


READ: Bruegel and Laurioux, The Role of Food in Early Islamic Spain The role of food in the conflict of two identities: Moriscos and Castillians in Early Modern Times.

CLASS B6: Spanish culture, national identity, and food
CLASS B7: Religion and World View


READ: Shakespeare in the Bush. Laura Bohannan

CLASS B8: Gender roles, marriage

Read: Read: Chapter 9 and 10, in *Core Concepts in Anthropology*


Topics: marriage rules, matrilineages, patrilineages, polygamy

CLASS B9: Food and Culture, Africa, Ghana


CLASS B10: MIDTERM

CLASS B11 Hunters and Gatherers and Modern Life

READ: – *Core Concepts in Cultural Anthropology*, chapter 8


CLASS B12: Modern Life and Ethnocentrism

Topics: discuss field component

CLASS B13: Constructing Others: Social Evolution, and “race”


CLASS B14: Race and Gender in the Americas

Read: Schneider, Fashionable Savages

CLASS B15: Food and Argentine Identity


CLASS B16: The Gauchó, Tango as National Identity


CLASS B17: Brazil as a Multicultural Society;

Read: Fajans, Can *moqueca* just be fish stew?: Food and identity in Salvador, Bahia (Brazil). *Anthropology of Food*, S4, May 2008

CLASS B18: Globalization, Culture Change, poverty

Read: *Core Concepts in Cultural Anthropology*, chapter 11

Read: Nancy Scheper-Hughes, Maternal Thinking: Maternal Detachment and Infant Survival in a Brazilian Shantytown.

CLASS B19 Indigenous peoples in Amazon and the Media


CLASS B20: Indigenous People in the Amazon and Change

CLASS B21 Discussion of Field assignments

Field Assignment paper due

CLASS 22: Follow up on unfinished material

CLASS B23: REVIEW

B FINAL TUESDAY DEC. 4

FIELD ASSIGNMENTS:

Field assignments make up 30% of your course grade. Do either three Field Assignments (I) or a combination of field assignments and Independent Study (II). Details of these assignments, advice about procedures, and how grades are awarded will be given in class before we reach Ireland.

Because this is a course about culture and social behavior, there is plenty to look at in each country. Think about the topics we cover in class. For example, a key focus is food and culture. Examine in ports what people eat; where it comes from; local and global connections; identity, tradition and change in relation to food; social inequalities, class differences, and gender differences as seen through food; food and social relationships: who eats together, where, when, etc. What foods are different and similar, acceptable/not acceptable to you.

Another observable aspect of culture is gender, gender roles, gender representations, clothing, body types, social relations in public. Similarly, family life, religious life, and other social aspects of life are also good topics. Ethnic/race relations are also good topics, as they reflect social relationships, assumptions about difference, inequalities, etc.

The field practica are excellent sources of information. You can ask questions of tour guides, observe people interacting, working in restaurants, stores, etc. You can talk to locals you meet. Please bring examples to class for class discussion. Think about how things are done differently than in the United States and in other countries we visit.

To complete the assignment, students should go through the following steps. First, make a
carefully composed, thoughtful entry soon after each of your three selected country visits, including when and where you went. Second, after the three visits are completed, you should evaluate and compare how the information from the 3 sites speaks to one or more topics raised in class. You should think carefully, muster the reasons for your opinions, and organize and write about them well.

**Field Lab: Mandatory**

Township Xhosa Cultural Cooking Day Port: Cape Town, South Africa Day 5

This field lab provides insights into the Xhosa people, their culture and especially their cuisine.

One of they key foci of our class include ethnic/cultural identity and the cultural meaning of food. This field lab will provide students with a cross-cultural experience of people and their food by traveling to Gugulethu Township, where Xhosa people live. Xhosa refers to both a cultural group of people as well as the language (isiXhosa) spoken by this people group. There are currently approximately eight million people in South Africa who are culturally identified as Xhosa. The Xhosa people have a rich cultural history that predates the arrival of the Dutch in the 1600s. The staple food of the Xhosa people is umngqusho made from cracked maize and beans. Maize meal ‘pap’ is also very popular. There are many different kinds of vegetable dishes that feature alongside the staples and various meat dishes are also often prepared. Food is traditionally prepared by women in the Xhosa culture.

At Gugulethu Township, students will meet local ‘mamas’ - women who will teach you about traditional Xhosa cuisine. The mamas will show you the various ingredients important in Xhosa cuisine and where necessary they’ll explain the cultural significance of certain foods. Students will have an opportunity to discuss with the mamas their history, the effect of Europeans on their food, what they believe is food that is important to their ethnic identity, food they grow themselves verses food that is imported, and the importance of global food markets on their diet.

**METHODS OF EVALUATION:**

Grades will be based on class participation, exams, and a paper.

- Field Assignment and paper 30%
- Midterm 35%
- Final 35%

**RESERVE LIBRARY LIST**

**AUTHOR:** Robert H. Lavenda and Emily A. Schultz  
**TITLE:** Core Concepts in Cultural Anthropology  
**PUBLISHER:** McGraw Hill  
**ISBN #:** 978-0-07-353098-7  
**DATE/EDITION:** 2010 on the book itself [but 2009 at Amazon.com]. Just make sure it is the 4th edition.  
**COST:** $38.15 paperback (amazon.com)
[NOTE: I WILL BRING ALL ADDITIONAL COURSE MATERIALS IN PDF FORMAT ON A MEMORY STICK AND ON MY COMPUTER. THESE CAN BE UPLOADED TO THE CLASS WEBPAGE]

AUTHOR: Steven J. Salm and Toyin Falola
CHAPTER TITLE: Chapter 2: Religion and Worldview
BOOK TITLE: *Culture and Customs of Ghana*,
VOLUME:
DATE: 2002
PAGES: 33-57

AUTHOR: Steven J. Salm and Toyin Falola
CHAPTER TITLE: Chapter 6: Marriage, and Family.
BOOK TITLE: *Culture and Customs of Ghana*.
VOLUME:
DATE: 2002
PAGES: 125-145

AUTHOR: Richard Lee
CHAPTER TITLE: Chapter 4: Foraging for a living
BOOK TITLE: *The Dobe Ju/'hoansi*
VOLUME: 2nd edition
DATE: 1993, 2nd edition
PAGES: 39-60

AUTHOR: Audry Smedley
ARTICLE/CHAPTER TITLE: “Origins of Race.”
JOURNAL/BOOK TITLE: *Anthropology Newsletter*
VOLUME:
DATE: November 1997
PAGES:

AUTHOR: Terence Turner
ARTICLE/CHAPTER TITLE: Defiant Images: The Kayapo Appropriation of Video
JOURNAL: *Anthropology Today*
VOLUME: 8, No. 6
DATE: Dec. 1992
PAGES: 5-16

AUTHOR: William and Jean Crocker
CHAPTER TITLE: Change in the Lives of a Brazilian Indigenous People: To Pluck Eyelashes (or not?) among the Canela
BOOK TITLE: *Globalization and Change in Fifteen Cultures: Born in One World, Living in Another*
VOLUME:
DATE: 2007
PAGES: 24-53
AUTHOR: Lutz, Catherine A. and Jane L. Collins
BOOK TITLE: Reading National Geographic
VOLUME: 
DATE: 1993, University of Chicago Press
PAGES: 87-117

AUTHOR: M. Bruegel and B. Laurioux,
ARTICLE/CHAPTER TITLE: The Role of Food in Early Islamic Spain The role of food in the conflict of two identities: Moriscos and Castillians in Early Modern Times.
JOURNAL/BOOK TITLE: Histoire et Identites alimenares en Europe.
VOLUME: 
DATE: 2002
PAGES: 

AUTHOR: Laura Bohannan
ARTICLE/CHAPTER TITLE: Shakespeare in the Bush
JOURNAL/BOOK TITLE: Applying Cultural Anthropology
VOLUME: 
DATE: 2003
PAGES: 35-40

AUTHOR: Reggie Annan
ARTICLE/CHAPTER TITLE: African Food Taboos
JOURNAL/BOOK TITLE: World Public Health Nutrition Association
VOLUME: 
DATE: April 2011
PAGES:

AUTHOR: Ran Osseo-Asare
ARTICLE/CHAPTER TITLE: “We eat first with our eyes”: On Ghanaian Cuisine
JOURNAL/BOOK TITLE: Gastronomica
VOLUME: 
DATE: 2002
PAGES: 49-57

AUTHOR: Adela Blay-Brody
ARTICLE/CHAPTER TITLE: Rx. Pepper Soup.
JOURNAL/BOOK TITLE: Gastronomica
VOLUME: 9(4)
DATE: 62-65
PAGES: 2009

AUTHOR: Sylvain, Renee
ARTICLE/CHAPTER TITLE: Disorderly Development: Globalization and the Idea of ‘Culture’ in the Kalahari
JOURNAL/BOOK TITLE: American Ethnologist
VOLUME: 32(3)
DATE: 2005
PAGES: 354-370

AUTHOR: Ariela Zycherman

ARTICLE/CHAPTER TITLE: To Beef or Not to Beef: Defining Food Security and Insecurity in Tucumán Argentina
JOURNAL/BOOK TITLE: Ecological and Environmental Anthropology
VOLUME: 4(1)
DATE: 2008
PAGES: 28-37

AUTHOR: Jane Fajans

ARTICLE/CHAPTER TITLE: Can moqueca just be fish stew?: Food and identity in Salvador, Bahia (Brazil).
JOURNAL/BOOK TITLE: Anthropology of Food
VOLUME: S4
DATE: May 2008
PAGES:

AUTHOR: Slater, Candace

ARTICLE/CHAPTER TITLE: Amazonia as Edenic Narrative.
JOURNAL/BOOK TITLE: Uncommon Ground: Rethinking the Human Place in Nature
VOLUME:
DATE: 1996.
PAGES: 114-131
Cultural anthropology, a major division of anthropology that deals with the study of culture in all of its aspects and that uses the methods, concepts, and data of archaeology, ethnography and ethnology, folklore, and linguistics in its descriptions and analyses of the diverse peoples of the world.

Cultural anthropology is a branch of anthropology focused on the study of cultural variation among humans. It is in contrast to social anthropology, which perceives cultural variation as a subset of the anthropological constant. Cultural anthropology has a rich methodology, including participant observation (often called fieldwork because it requires the anthropologist spending an extended period of time at the research location), interviews, and surveys. Not a standard textbook, "Core Concepts" is more like an annotated bibliography of the terms and concepts that anthropologists use in their work. The book will prepare students to read ethnography more effectively and with less confusion and misunderstanding. He received his Ph.D. in anthropology from Indiana University in 1977 and has done fieldwork in Venezuela, Ecuador, Costa Rica, and small-town Minnesota. He is the author of Corn Fests and Water Carnivals: Celebrating Community in Minnesota, numerous articles on festivals and play, and is co-author of three anthropology textbooks. His special interests are play, festival behavior, world view, culture and communication, Latin America, and North American culture.