Introduction to Sociocultural Anthropology
Anth1002 – Section 11

Mondays and Wednesdays, 12:45 – 2 pm
MPA, B07

Professor Erica C. Wortham
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Course Description
This course is an introduction to sociocultural anthropology. One of the four fields of anthropology in the US, sociocultural anthropology offers ways of understanding the diversity of human cultural practices. Designed to teach you to “think like and anthropologist,” this course will cover basic anthropological research methods and survey some of the central ideas and developments in the field over the last century with a particular emphasis on recent attention to globalization. Please note that this syllabus is subject to change! Revisions will be announced in class and on blackboard.

Course Requirements and Grading

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Due</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Field Notes/Research Report</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>W 10/3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mid-Term Examination</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>W 10/26</td>
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<tr>
<td>Short Paper/Book Project</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>M 11/28</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Examination</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>TBD</td>
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1. This class will be run as lecture—discussion. Attendance and participation are essential and comprise a substantial part of your overall grade. For each class meeting, several students will prepare and present a 2-3 paragraph response paper to the assigned reading and include 3 discussion questions. Each student must do two response papers during the term.

2. Exams will be in class and consist of short answer and short essay questions.

3. There are two related writing assignments in first and third quarters of this course. The first is a field notes or research report based on a topic of interest to you, and the second is an original, polished short paper or book project based on the same topic. Topics are to be approved by me by midterm. Book projects will be shepherded in part by Kerry McAleer-Keeler, Professor of Art and Design at the Corcoran School of Art and Design. Details will be discussed in class and uploaded to Blackboard announcements.
Technology in the classroom
I have a strong preference for NO laptops or cellphone use in the classroom. Hand-writing notes is far more productive for learning and makes for a more engaging classroom with less distractions. Please see me for exceptions.

Required Readings and Screenings
Coates, Ta-Nehisi
2015 Between the World and Me, Melbourne: The Text Publishing Company

Guest, Kenneth J.
2016 Essentials of Cultural Anthropology New York: W.W. Norton & Company

Mauss, Marcel

Myerhoff, Barbara

A Bridge Over the River/Un Puente Sobre El Río (2009, 30 min) Rigoberto Jimenéz
HAFU (90 min, 2015) Megumi Nishikura and Lara Pérez Takagi
The Kayapo II: Out of the Forest (1989, 53 min) Terrance Turner
Ongka’s Big Moka: The Kawelka of Papua New Guinea (1976; 60 min) Granada Television, Disappearing Worlds Series
Number Our Days (1976, 28 min) David Littman

Additional readings are on Blackboard or available on line via a URL provided here. Please complete the readings by the day they are listed. Films screened in class are required course material.

Learning Goals (general): Critical Thinking and Cross-Cultural Perspectives
This course will contribute to student mastery of:

- critical thinking skills, where critical thinking is defined as analyzing and engaging with the concepts that underlie an argument.
- the ability to demonstrate critical thinking through written communication skills, which will be evaluated in the short papers and exams; oral communication skills will be evaluated through class participation, though oral communication skills will not necessarily be a primary focus.
- cross-cultural perspectives, through which students critically analyze cultural difference as a fundamental aspect of human nature.

Learning Goals (specific)
By the end of this class, students will be able to:

- understand the human capacity to create culture and social organization.
use broad anthropological concepts such as culture, society, structure, social
construction and ritual to understand social processes in their own and other societies

have some familiarity with the major anthropological figures of the last century and their
contributions to the discipline

Academic Integrity
All students must practice academic integrity. Do your own work, quote and carefully site the
work of others. If you have any questions about how to do this, please speak to me.
Plagiarism, and all breaches of academic integrity (for example, the sale of lecture-notes from
this class, or the use of content from the internet as though it was your own), will be handled in
accordance with the University’s policies and procedures:
http://www.gwu.edu/~ntegrity/code.html.

Following departmental guidelines, the policy on academic integrity in this
course is that if you commit a breach of academic integrity in any assignment or
exam, you will receive a zero for that assignment or exam. This infraction will be
reported to the University’s Academic Integrity Council. You will be clearly
notified by the instructor in person OR by email before the Council is informed.

Support
Please let me know right away if you have any special needs with respect to how this course
will be conducted. Don’t wait to do this. If you need extra time for exams, you must register
with DSS; please let us know if you need to do this, and don’t wait.

Disability Support Services (DSS)
Any student who may need an accommodation based on the potential impact of a
disability should contact the Disability Support Services office at 202-994-8250 in the
Rome Hall, Suite 102, to establish eligibility and to coordinate reasonable
accommodations. For additional information please refer to: gwired.gwu.edu/dss/

Mental Health Services 202-994-5300
The University's Mental Health Services offers 24/7 assistance and referral to address
students' personal, social, career, and study skills problems. Services for students
include: crisis and emergency mental health consultations confidential assessment,
counseling services (individual and small group), and referrals. For additional
information please refer to: counselingcenter.gwu.edu/

University Policy on Religious Holidays
1. Students should notify faculty during the first week of the semester of their intention
to be absent from class on their day(s) of religious observance.
2. Faculty should extend to these students the courtesy of absence without penalty on
such occasions, including permission to make up examinations.
3. Faculty who intend to observe a religious holiday should arrange at the beginning
of the semester to reschedule missed classes or to make other provisions for their
course-related activities.
Average minimum amount of independent, out-of-class, learning expected per week:
In a 15 week semester, including exam week, students are expected to spend a minimum of 100 minutes of out-of-class work for every 50 minutes of direct instruction, for a minimum total of 2.5 hours a week. A 3-credit course should include 2.5 hours of direct instruction and a minimum of 5 hours of independent learning or 7.5 hours per week.

Emergency Response Handbook
Please familiarize yourself with the handbook and keep important numbers accessible:
Schedule

Week 1
M Aug 29  **Introductions**; syllabus review
W Aug 31  **Anthropology in a Global Perspective**

Guest, Chapter 1, Anthropology in a Global Age


Week 2
M Sept 5  LABOR DAY; NO CLASS
W Sept 7  **The Culture Concept**

Clifford Geertz, Ch. 1, “Thick Description,” 3-30, Bb.

Guest, Chapter 2, Culture

Week 3


W Sept 14  **Fieldwork and Methods**


Guest, Chapter 3, Fieldwork and Ethnography


Week 4
M Sept 19  **Language**

Guest, Chapter 4, Language

W Sept 21  Race

Guest, Chapter 5: Race and Racism

Ta-Nehisi Coates, Part I, Between the World and Me, pp. 1-71


* OPENING OF NMAAHC – ATTEND! *
https://nmaahc.si.edu/visit/opening
Friday, Sept 23 – Sunday, Sept 25

Week 5
M Sept 26  Reciprocity and Material Culture: People and Things

Guest Lecture, Kerry McAleer-Keeler, Professor of Art and Design, Corcoran School of Art and Design

Marcel Mauss, The Gift, pp. vii-46

W Sept 28  Marcel Mauss, The Gift, pp. 47-83


Week 6
M Oct 3  * FIELD NOTES/RESEARCH REPORT PAPER DUE *

Screening: Ongka’s Big Moka: The Kawelka of Papua New Guinea (1976; 60 min) Granada Television, Disappearing Worlds Series

W Oct 5  Ethnicity and Nationalism

Guest, Chapter 6, Ethnicity and Nationalism

Week 7
M Oct 10  Gender


Guest, Chapter 7, Gender

W Oct 12  **Sexuality**


Guest, Chapter 8, Sexuality

W Oct 19  **Visit GW’s Special Collection Corcoran Artists’ Books**

Class will meet at the Special Collections Research Center, Gelman Library, 7th Floor

W Nov 2  Barbara Myerhoff, *Number Our Days*, pp. 79-152

Week 11  M Nov 7  Barbara Myerhoff, *Number Our Days*, pp. 153-231

W Nov 9  Barbara Myerhoff, *Number Our Days*, pp. 232-281
Week 12

M Nov 14  Guest, Chapter 12, Religion

W Nov 16  **Our in Globalized World**

Guest, Chapter 10, Class and Inequality


Week 13

M Nov 21  Guest, Chapter 11, The Global Economy


W Nov 23  THANKSGIVING – NO CLASS

Week 14

M Nov 28  **SHORT PAPER / BOOK PROJECT DUE**


**A Bridge Over the River/Un Puente Sobre El Río** Rigoberto Jimenéz (2009, 30 min)

W Nov 30  **Politics**

Guest, Chapter 12, Politics and Power

Screening: *The Kayapo II: Out of the Forest* (53 min, 1989) Terrance Turner

Week 15

M Dec 5  **Health and Illness**

Guest, Chapter 14, Health and Illness


M Dec 12   REVIEW – LAST CLASS

**FINAL EXAM**
December 14 – 22, TBA