

Anth 1002.11 Introduction to Sociocultural Anthropology

Spring 2017: Hybrid Version

Professor Barbara Miller, barbaramillergw@gmail.com

Office hours: Friday, 11:30-12:30 (please email in advance to confirm)

Hybrid course mission:

A so-called hybrid course involves less time in a traditional classroom setting and requires more independent, self-monitored work by the student outside of class. In this case, class time will not be devoted to lectures or watching full-length documentary films. Instead, class time will be used for structured discussion of readings, film viewings, and independent research projects. Given the altered course delivery, evaluations of student achievement will not be based on the traditional testing model. In all, the class will consider students to constitute a community of scholars, working toward the common goal of learning a lot about sociocultural anthropology and how it connects to our everyday lives through reading, viewing, sharing, and independent observational research and analysis.

Given GW guidelines about expected class time per week, we will spend 90 minutes a week in class (attendance is required; please see below for details). Each student is expected to devote at least six hours, on average, outside of class to this course each week.

Expectations: Each student will:

Do the assigned reading, watch the assigned films, and be prepared to discuss them in class and participate in Blackboard XXX TBA expectation

Take a turn being a class note-taker for one-half of a class session (45 minutes), so each student will have an opportunity; there will be a list/sign-up sheet; if something goes wrong and you cannot take notes at your assigned time, it is your responsibility to swap a time with another student (social capital at work)

Contribute thoughtfully and carefully to a minimum of 8 of the Exercises that all ask the question: Optical research: what it can and cannot do

Special activity (see page X)

SP? : Anthro in the news? Class starter each week

REQUIRED BOOKS (on sale in GW bookstore; 2-hour reserve in Gelman Library):

Barbara D. Miller, *Cultural Anthropology* (2017, 8th edition016). ISBN

James Spradley and David W. McCurdy, eds., *Conformity and Conflict* (2016, 15th edition); referred to below as C&C. ISBN 13-978-0-205-98079-5 [selected chapters]

Elizabeth Thomas, *The Old Way: A Story of the First People* (2006, any edition)

Seth Holmes, *Fresh Fruit, Broken Bodies: Migrant Farmworkers in the United States* (2013)

Jon D. Holtzman, *Nuer Journeys, Nuer Lives: Sudanese Refugees in Minnesota* (2000, any edition)

GW SUPPORT:

▶ Instructional Technology Help Desk open every day 24 hours: Tel. 202-994-4948; ithelp@gwu.edu

▶ Disability Support Services (DSS): Marvin Center 242, telephone 994-8250; <http://gwired.gwu.edu/dss>

▶ Mental Health Services, counsellors available all day, every day at 202-994-5300; <https://counselingcenter.gwu.edu/>

Week- by-Week overview of in-class topics, readings, discussions, individual projects

Week 1. January 17 Introductions and orienting ourselves

Create a Tumblr site for the class: we will do this in class by deciding on its name and mini-description

Readings before class: Miller Chapter 1

Viewing: Trekking on Tradition or The Fast Runner, depending on which is available through Gelman e-reserves via streaming

Week 2. January 24. Research methods: "Truth," objectivity/intersubjectivity, ethics

Class discussion: can ethnography improve voter preferences? If so how?

Readings before class: Miller Chapter 2 and 3

C&C Chapter 31 "Body Ritual among the Nacirema"

C&C Chapter 4 "Nice Girls Don't Talk to Rastas"

Start reading Thomas, *The Old Way*

Discussion Board

Exercise 1 due by midnight Sunday, Jan 29 on Tumblr: choose a Key Concept (listed at the end of the chapter) from Chapters 1, 2, or 3 and take a photo from your daily experiences connecting to your chosen concept, write 100-150 words about it, and post on Tumblr

Week 3. January 31. Economic systems: On working, eating, sharing, exclusion

Class discussion of one's own post for Exercise 1 and comments on classmates' post

Readings before class: Miller Chapter 4 and 5

C&C Chapter 3 "Fieldwork on Prostitution in the Era of AIDS"

C&C Chapter 13 "Poverty at Work: Office Employment and the Crack Alternative"

C&C Chapter 14 "Women in the Mine"

C&C Chapter 2 "Eating Christmas in the Kalahari"

Keep reading Thomas

Discussion Board

Exercise 2 due by midnight Sunday February 5 on Tumblr: choose a Key Concept from Chapter 4 or Chapter 5 and take a photo from your daily experiences connecting to your chosen concept, write 100-150 words about it, and post on Tumblr

Week 4. February 7: Reproduction, the life cycle, and well-being

Class discussion of one's own post for Exercise 2 and comments on classmates' post

Readings before class: Miller Chapter 6 and 7

C&C Chapter 16 "Mother's Love: Death without Weeping"

C&C Chapter 37 "Medical Anthropology: Improving Nutrition in Malawi"

C&C Chapter 38 "Public Interest Ethnography: Women's Prisons and Health Care in California"

Finish reading Thomas

Viewing: Maasai Women (e-reserves streaming video)

Discussion Board

Exercise 3 due by midnight Sunday February 12 on Tumblr: choose a Key Concept from Chapter 6 or Chapter 7 and take a photo from your daily experiences connecting to your chosen concept, write 100-150 words about it, and post on Tumblr

Week 5. February 14: People related

Class discussion of one's own post for Exercise 3 and comments on classmates' post

Readings before class: Miller Chapter 8

C&C Chapter 18 "Polyandry: When Brothers Take a Wife,"

C&C Chapter 19, "Marriage and Adulthood in West Africa"

Start reading Holmes

Viewing: Dadi's Family (e-reserves streaming video)

Discussion Board

Exercise 4 due by midnight Sunday February 19 on Tumblr: choose a Key Concept from Chapter 8 and take a photo from your daily experiences connecting to your chosen concept, write 100-150 words about it, and post on Tumblr

Week 6. February 21 Groups

Class discussion of one's own post for Exercise 4 and comments on classmates' post

Readings before class: Miller Chapter 9

C&C Chapter 22 "Mixed Blood"

Finish reading Holmes

Viewing TBA

Discussion Board

Exercise 5 due by midnight Sunday February 26 on Tumblr: choose a Key Concept from Chapter 9 and take a photo from your daily experiences connecting to your chosen concept, write 100-150 words about it, and post on Tumblr

Week 7. February 28 Power and politics

Class discussion of one's own post for Exercise 5 and comments on classmates' post

Readings before class: Miller Chapter 10

C&C Chapter 24 "Cross-Cultural Law: The Case of the Gypsy Offender"

C&C Chapter 6 "Manipulating Meaning: The Military Name Game"

Viewing: Kawelka—Ongka's Big Moka (e-reserves streaming video)

Exercise 6 due by midnight Sunday March 5 on Tumblr: choose a Key Concept from Chapter 10 and take a photo from your daily experiences connecting to your chosen concept, write 100-150 words about it, and post on Tumblr

Week 8. March 7 Communication

Class discussion of one's own post for Exercise 6 and comments on classmates' post

Readings before class: Miller Chapter 11

C&C Chapter 7 "Conversation Style: Talking on the Job"

Start reading Holtzman

Exercise 7 due by midnight Sunday March 19 on Tumblr: choose a Key Concept from Chapter 11 and take a photo from your daily experiences connecting to your chosen concept, write 100-150 words about it, and post on Tumblr

Week 9 SPRING BREAK

Week 10 March 21 Religion and beliefs

Class discussion of one's own post for Exercise 7 and comments on classmates' post

Readings before class: Miller Chapter 12

C&C Chapter 29 "Baseball Magic"

C&C Chapter 30 "Run for the Wall: An American Pilgrimage"

Continue reading Holtzman

Exercise 8 due by midnight Sunday March 26 on Tumblr: choose a Key Concept from Chapter 12 and take a photo from your daily experiences connecting to your chosen concept, write 100-150 words about it, and post on Tumblr

Week 11. March 28 Expressive culture

Class discussion of one's own post for Exercise 8 and comments on classmates' post

Readings before class: Miller Chapter 13

C&C Chapter 32 "How Sushi Went Global

C&C Chapter 33 "Village Walks: Tourism and Globalization among the Tharu of Nepal"

Finish reading Holtzman

Viewing: TBA

Exercise 9 due by midnight Sunday April 2 on Tumblr: choose a Key Concept from Chapter 13 and take a photo from your daily experiences connecting to your chosen concept, write 100-150 words about it, and post on Tumblr

Week 12. April 4 People on the move

Class discussion of one's own post for Exercise 9 and comments on classmates' post

Readings before class: Miller Chapter 14

CC??

Viewing TBA

Exercise 10 due by midnight Sunday April 9 on Tumblr: choose a Key Concept from Chapter 14 and take a photo from your daily experiences connecting to your chosen concept, write 100-150 words about it, and post on Tumblr

Week 13 April 11 People (re)defining development

Class discussion of one's own post for Exercise 10 and comments on classmates' post

Readings before class: Miller Chapter 15

C&C Chapter 11 "Forest Development the Indian Way"

C&C Chapter 36 "Advice for Developers: Peace Corps Problems in Botswana"

C&C Chapter 39 "Using Anthropology"

Viewing: Kayapo

Exercise 11 due by midnight Sunday April 16 on Tumblr: choose a Key Concept from Chapter 15 and take a photo from your daily experiences connecting to your chosen concept, write 100-150 words about it, and post on Tumblr

Week 14 April 18 Last class

Class presentations: Highlights of Tumblr project – 3 minutes each?! Or...to be discussed