

Anthropology 3691—Nonverbal communication—Fall 2031

SYLLABUS

This course in nonverbal communication explores the various sub-disciplines in which extensive research has been done, i.e., proxemics, kinesics, occulesics, haptics, olfactics, chronemics, optics, atmospherics, and vocalics. It also delves into an area in which much research remains to be done, namely, the uses of silence as a medium of communication. Finally, it examines, from various perspectives, one kind of patterned movement—dance—that can be, and often is, used to communicate messages of varying sorts. The main textbook, Andersen's *Nonverbal Communication: Forms and Functions*, concludes with 3 interesting chapters on various practical applications of knowledge and understanding of nonverbal communication and its social and psychological functions. The class will get to vote on which of these chapters they wish to devote the next-to-last week of classes to reading and discussing. (The last week will be reserved for student reports on their research projects.)

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Office hours: Wednesdays, 2:00-3:30. and by appointment.

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Required Texts:

Andersen, Peter J. *Nonverbal Communication: Forms and Functions*. (2nd ed., 2008). Waveland.

Donaldson, John K. "Silence in Native American Classroom Communication" (2013). Actualizaciones en Comunicacion Social, Centro de Linguistica Aplicada, Santiago de Cuba. (handout)

Guerrero, Laura K., and Michael L. Hecht. *The Nonverbal Communication Reader*. (3rd ed., 2008). Waveland.

Hall, Edward T. *The Hidden Dimension*. (1990 [1959]). Anchor.

Mendoza, Zoila S. *Shaping Society through Dance: Mestizo Ritual Performance in the Peruvian Andes*. (2000). Chicago

Requirements and grading: Although there will be some lectures scattered throughout the course of the semester, most class sessions will be devoted to discussion of the required readings. Therefore it is imperative that all students do all the assigned readings so as to be able to discuss them effectively in class. Attendance will be taken, and while neither attendance nor class participation will be receive a separate grade, they will be taken into account for the end-of-semester evaluation in resolving cases of borderline grades. For example an average that is on the C+/B- cusp, could become an B- or even a B if both attendance and class participation have been good, or be reduced to the C+ if they have not.

There will be three major graded activities in the course: a midterm examination, a final, and a research

project. These three will count equally in determining the final grade. Information on the research project will be distributed in the form of a handout a little later in the course.

Schedule:

- Wk. 1** Aug. 26. General Introduction.
Aug. 28. Hall, chapters I, II, IV-XII, and pp. 173-174.
- Wk. 2** Sep. 2 Labor Day holiday.
Sep. 4 Andersen, 1-54.
- Wk. 3** Sep. 9 Guerrero, 103-142.
Sep. 11 Guerrero, 395-416.
- Wk. 4** Sep. 16 Guerrero, 182-330.
Sep. 18 Andersen, 54-58; Guerrero, 151-174.
- Wk. 5** Sep. 23 Andersen, 58-67; Guerrero, 270-296.
Sep. 25 Guerrero, 59-80, 94-101.
- Wk. 6** Sep. 30 Andersen, 67-70; Guerrero, 242-269.
Oct. 2 Andersen, 77-106; Guerrero, 21-25.
- Wk. 7** Oct. 7 Midterm examination.
Oct. 9 Introduction to the research project. Guerrero 27-42.
- Wk. 8** Oct. 14 Silence. Guerrero, 175-180. Donaldson, handout.
Oct. 16 Further discussion of silence.
- Wk. 9** Oct. 21 Dance. Film TBA. Begin reading of Mendoza, starting at p. 56.
Oct. 23 Dance, cont'd. Film TBA. Continue reading of Mendoza.
- Wk. 10** Oct. 28 Dance, cont'd. Film TBA. Continue reading of Mendoza.
Oct. 30 Dance, cont'd. Discussion of Mendoza
- Wk. 11** Nov. 4 Discussion of Mendoza, cont'd.
Nov. 6 Discussion of Mendoza, cont'd.

Wk. 12 Nov. 11 Students' choice of chapters 10 (influencing others), 11 (deception and detection), or 12 (control, power, and status) for reading and discussion.

Nov. 13 Continuation of Nov. 11 discussion.

Wk. 13 Nov. 18 Student reports on research projects.

Nov. 20 Student reports, cont'd.

Wk. 14 Nov. 25

Nov. 27 Thanksgiving break

Wk. 15 Dec. 2 Review session

Dec. 3 Make-up day (if needed)

Final Exams: Dec. 11-Dec. 19.

Remember **NOT** to make your end-of-semester travel arrangements until the Final Exam Schedule has been announced!!!!

N.B. A syllabus is not a contract. It is a proposed plan of action that is subject to modification if student needs or unforeseen events warrant doing so. The instructor reserves the right to make modifications if, in his judgment they are needed and/or advisable. Any such modification would, of course, be announced in advance.

Finally, here's hoping we all spend a profitable and enjoyable semester in each other's company. Best wishes and Good Luck to all.