
SOCIO-CULTURAL ANTHROPOLOGY in Fall 2019 (AN1002A)

Course Code	AN1002A	Professor(s)	Christy Shields
Prerequisites	None	Office Number	G-304
Class Schedule	MR: 13:45-15:05 in C-103	Office Hours	M/TH 11-12 (please schedule via email beforehand), or by appointment
Credits	4	Email	cshields@aup.edu
Semester	Fall 2019	Office Tel. Ext.	824

Course Description

[In this class students will be introduced to central areas of anthropological inquiry \(e.g.. gift exchange, symbol, ritual, religion, politics...\) and a range of theoretical approaches \(e.g. structuralism, functionalism, political-economy\). Students will also be introduced to basic methods \(in-depth interviewing, participant observation\), and carry out an oral history project of their own.](#)

The class is divided into three parts: 1) part one introduces students to key foundations; 2) part two is devoted to the study of central conceptual tools (i.e. taboo, gift, symbol, ritual) and human institutions (i.e. kinship, politics,) 3) and in part three we will explore anthropological perspectives of globalization and transnationalism, with a focus on immigration in particular.

Course Learning Outcomes

Identify and define key debates, concepts, subfields and people in the discipline of sociocultural anthropology

Demonstrate an introductory understanding of the discipline's key research methods (participant observation and/or in-depth interviewing).

Apply the discipline's cross-cultural, comparative and holistic perspectives to societal debates and questions, especially those concerning the processes and transformations associated with globalization

Apply knowledge of and appreciation for the variety of human cultures and lifeways when exploring, through oral or written expression, the human condition.

Mobilize intercultural competencies in relationships with others (and thus in class discussions and writing assignments as well). These include: a critical awareness of one's own social and cultural positions and identities; recognition of multiple perspectives; and, empathy and openness towards others and their points of view.

General Education

This course fulfills one or more General Education requirement

Course Outline

CLASS OUTLINE: (may be slightly revised during the course of the semester in accordance with class rhythms)

Part One: Foundations

Week 1

M, Sep 2: Introductions

Th, Sep 5 : What Anthropologists Do

-Hendry, Introduction (p 1 – 7)

-Lee, Christmas in the Kalahari

Week 2

M, Sep 9: Early History of the Discipline: Social Evolutionism and Colonial Encounters

-Hendry, Introduction (p 7 – 16)

-Lassiter, Ch 1 (p 4 – 16)

-From Savage to Self: Anthropology is Born (BBC podcast):

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/b06ybg7y>

-From Savage to Self: The Colonial Encounter (BBC Podcast):

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/b06zdjvc>

Th, Sep 12: Ethnography and Classification: Introduction to European Traditions

-Hendry, Ch 1

-Lassiter, p 71-79 (“British Social Anthropology and Malinowski”)

-Levi-Strauss, The Culinary Triangle (Skim and read starred paragraphs only)

-Clark, *the Raw and the Rotten: Punk Cuisine* (2004)

-Optional: From Savage to Self : Participating and Observing (Podcast):

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b06zdkb7>

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Week 3

M, Sep 16: Cultural Relativism and the Critique of Race: Intro to American Traditions

-Lassiter, pgs. p 17 to end of chapter

-Benedict and Welfish, *The Races of Mankind*

(<https://archive.org/stream/TheRacesOfMankind/pamphlet#page/n9>)

-From Savage to Self: Culture Goes Plural: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/b06zdk01>

-Optional: “How Cultural Anthropology Redefined Humanity” *The New Yorker*, August 19, 2019.

Th, Sep 19: Interviewing: Collaboration and Collecting Others’ Stories

-Hurston, *Barracoon: The Story of the Last “Black Cargo”* (excerpts)

-Calais Writers, *Voices from the “Jungle”: Stories from the Calais Refugee Camp* (experts)

-Optional: Shields-Argelès, Mastering French Cuisine, Espousing French Identity: The Transformation Narratives of American Wives of Frenchmen. Can be found on-line at:

<https://journals.openedition.org/aof/6616>

Homework: Find an interviewee

Week 4

M, Sep 23: Culture

-Lassiter, Ch 2

-Geertz, Thick Description

Th, Sep 26: NO CLASS (professor at conference)

Note: An evening guest lecture will be organized to make up for this class. Date and time to be announced

Week 5:

M, Sep 30: NO CLASS (professor at conference)

Note: An evening guest lecture will be organized to make up for this class. Date and time to be announced

Th, Oct 3: Identity, Ethics and the Fieldwork Experience

-Eriksen, Identification

-Conquergood, Performing as a Moral Act: Ethical Dimensions of the Ethnography of Performance

-AAA Principles of Professional Responsibility 2012:
<http://ethics.americananthro.org/category/statement/>

and

Interviewing Project II: Asking for consent

-Students present their interviewee to the class

-Example of a consent form

Homework: Preparation form + consent form (graded P/F)

A Few Key Concepts and Human Institutions

Week 6

M, Oct 7: Gifts, Exchange and Reciprocity

-Hendry, Ch. 3, "Gifts, Exchange and Reciprocity"

-Meigs, "Food as a Cultural Construction"

Th, Oct 10: Rituals

-Hendry, Ch. 4, "The Ritual Round"

-Reed-Danahay, "Champagne and Chocolate"

Week 7

M, Oct 14: Symbols: Fat is Beautiful

-Hendry, Ch 5, "Society: A Set of Symbols"

-Sobo, "The Sweetness of Fat"

-Popenoe, "Ideal"

Oct 16: Midsemester

Th, Oct 17: In-class midterm exam

Week 8

M, Oct 21: Interviewing Project III: Preparing an Interview Guide

-Readings to be announced

Homework: prepare an interview guide (graded)

Th, Oct 24: Cosmology: Shamanism, Adaptation and Healing

-Hendry, Ch. 7 and 8

-Lassiter, Ch 7

-In-class film: *Between Two Worlds: The Hmong Shaman in America* (1984, Dwight Conquergood)

**Homework: Turn in interview guides*

Week 9:

M, Oct 28: Money and Power: Economics and Politics (A Very Brief Introduction)

-Allison, Japanese Mothers and Obentos: The Lunch Box as Ideological State Apparatus

-Ho, Disciplining Investment Bankers, Disciplining the Economy: Wall Street's Institutional Culture of Crisis and the Downsizing of 'Corporate America'

Th, Oct 31 NO CLASS (Fall Break)

Week 10

M, Nov 4: Kinship, Transnationalism and Social Media

-Hendry, Ch 11 (Family, Kinship and Marriage)

-Yount-André, Gifts, Trips and Facebook families: children and the semiotics of kinship in transnational Senegal, 2018

Part 3: Anthropology and Globalization

Th, Nov 7: Global Tourism: Consuming Others

-Hendry, Ch 13

-Conran, They Really Love Me! Intimacy in Volunteer Tourism

-Optional: Watch Cannibal Tourism (1988)

Week 11

M, Nov 11: NO CLASS (Armistice Break)

Th., Nov 14: Interviewing Project IV: Writing Up, Representing Others

Readings to be announced

Homework given: Final document and presentation

Week 12

M Nov 18: Public Anthropology, Medical Anthropology and Migration

-Hendry, Ch 14

- Holmes, *Fresh Fruit, Broken Bodies: Migrant Farmworkers in the USA*, Ch 1 and Ch 2

Th Nov 21: Migration

Holmes, Ch 3-5

Week 13

M. Nov 25: Migration

Holmes, Ch 6-7

Th Nov 28: Ethnographic Film and Immigration

In-class film, *Taxiway* (Alicia Harrison, 2013)

Week 14

M Dec 2: Interviewing Project V

Student Presentations

Th Dec 5: Conclusions

Final Exam: TBA

Textbooks

This course doesn't have any textbook.

Attendance Policy

Students studying at The American University of Paris are expected to attend ALL scheduled classes, and in case of absence, should contact their professors to explain the situation. It is the student's responsibility to be aware of any specific attendance policy that a faculty member might have set in the course syllabus. The French Department, for example, has its own attendance policy, and students are responsible for compliance. Academic Affairs will excuse an absence for students' participation in study trips related to their courses.

Attendance at all exams is mandatory.

IN ALL CASES OF MISSED COURSE MEETINGS, THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR COMMUNICATION WITH THE PROFESSOR, AND FOR ARRANGING TO MAKE UP MISSED WORK, RESTS SOLELY WITH THE STUDENT.

Whether an absence is excused or not is ALWAYS up to the discretion of the professor or the department. Unexcused absences can result in a low or failing participation grade. In the case of excessive absences, it is up to the professor or the department to decide if the student will receive an "F" for the course. An instructor may recommend that a student withdraw, if absences have made it impossible to continue in the course at a satisfactory level.

Students must be mindful of this policy when making their travel arrangements, and especially during the Drop/Add and Exam Periods.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY STATEMENT:

As an Anglophone university, The American University of Paris is strongly committed to effective English language mastery at the undergraduate level. Most courses require scholarly research and formal written and oral presentations in English, and AUP students are expected to strive to achieve excellence in these domains as part of their course work. To that end, professors include English proficiency among the criteria in student evaluation, often referring students to the university Writing Lab where they may obtain help on specific academic assignments. Proficiency in English is monitored at various points throughout the student's academic career, most notably during the admissions and advising processes, while the student is completing general education requirements, and during the accomplishment of degree program courses and senior theses.

Grading Policy

EVALUATION:

Grading Scale:

100 = A+	74 – 76 = C
94 – 99 = A	70 – 73 = C-
90 – 93 = A-	67 – 69 = D+
87 – 89 = B+	64 – 68 = D
84 – 88 = B	60 – 63 = D-
80 – 83 = B-	59 and below = F
77 – 79 = C+	

Grading Summary:

Your final grade is based on:

10% - Attendance and participation

15% - Black crow quizzes

25% - Oral History Project

25% - Midterm exam

25% - Comprehensive final exam

Grading Details:

Attendance and Participation (10%):

Active participation and regular attendance is required for this class. This grade will therefore be based on your attendance record as well as the professor's subjective appreciation of your class participation. You are expected to be respectful to your classmates and to the professor during class. This means paying attention to what is said (by professors and other students), responding thoughtfully in discussions (informed by class reading) and taking notes. In other words, I ask that you actively engage in class interaction and dialogue. This means that students should refrain from text messaging (or using cell phones in any way), surfing the internet, chatting with peers, arriving to class late or leaving early.

In terms of attendance, I begin deducting from your grade if you miss more than three classes (for whatever reason, excused or not). If you know you are going to miss a class, please let me know ahead of time. If you do miss a class, doing the readings, obtaining notes and catching up on assignments is entirely the student's responsibility. See "Attendance Policy" below for additional information.

Black crow quiz (15%) Each class will start with a short 10-minute quiz on the class readings assigned for that day. After students turn in the quiz the professor will roll the dice. The quiz will be graded when the dice falls on the black crow. The quiz will not be graded if it falls on the color sides (there are four of them). Students will receive a bonus point if the dice falls on the basket.

In any case, all quizzes contribute to the final grade. For those quizzes not graded, they will nonetheless count as a point if they are completed (and obtain a check), if a quiz is obviously incorrect because the student did not do the reading or incomplete (because the student was absent), the student does not earn a point (and will receive a check minus).

The professor may also assign a homework assignment (a take home quiz if you like) from time to time in the semester. If she does so, it will be graded and that grade will be added into the Black Crow Quiz average.

Interview Project (25%)

This assignment will be done in stages. There will be two graded assignments: 1) Interview Guide (10%), and 2) Final Document and Presentation (10%). The other 5% of this grade will be based on completing the earlier steps of the process: identifying an interviewee on time, obtaining a consent form and providing a transcript.

Midterm and Final Exams (25% + 25%):

These exams will be taken in class and cover readings, films, power point presentations and discussions. The final exam covers the entire semester. Exams will consist of three sections: key terms, short answer questions and an essay.

If you need extra time for the exams (and have had this request approved by Student Services), then you need to speak to me very early in the semester so that we can set this up through the proper administrative channels.

Late Assignments:

All assignments must be handed in on time. Any exceptions must be discussed with me PRIOR to the assignment's due date. I reserve the right to reduce the grade on a late assignment by 1/3 per day late (So, from an A- to a B+ in 24 hours). Please see me if you have any problems that impede your ability to do the work: it will be easier for me to take this into consideration if you speak to me first. I DO NOT ACCEPT ANY ASSIGNMENTS VIA EMAIL.

Note Concerning Email Etiquette:

A few basic emailing rules apply to this class:

- Please know that I generally do not respond to emails during the weekend or on weekdays after 5pm. (In other words, writing to me at 10pm on a Sunday evening to ask a question about an assignment due in-class on the next day is not acceptable and does NOT excuse you from completing that assignment on time).
- Please look to the syllabus BEFORE you send me an email. (In other words, do NOT send me an email to ask what the readings are for the next class, this information is available on the syllabus and I reserve the right to NOT respond to the email).
- We see each other twice a week. So for routine questions, please try to ask me before or after class. (For example, you want to make an appointment to see me? Great. Let's schedule a meeting together after class).
- Also there are confidential questions that I will not answer over email (e.g. What is my current grade in your class?) If you have such questions, please schedule an appointment.
- If you do send an email, please make sure it is respectful (and that is a rule that should really hold for all your classes). I reserve the right to not answer emails that are disrespectful in any way. For a respectful email:
 - Always start with a greeting (ex. Dear Professor Shields; Hello; Good Afternoon);
 - Do not write in CAPITALS (as this indicates shouting) and beware of repetitive use of "!" and "?";
 - Keep emails short, professional and to the point. If you have a question or comment which I cannot answer in 3 to 5 sentences, I will advise you to come see me after class or during office hours;

End your email with an appropriate salutation (e.g. Thank you; Best; Sincerely)

Other
