

LEHMAN COLLEGE
DEPARTMENT of ANTHROPOLOGY
ANTHROPOLOGY 211
INTRODUCTION TO CULTURAL ANTHROPOLOGY
Spring 2010
Prof. Valentina Pagliai
Syllabus

Class Meeting:	MW 11am-12:15pm	CA/311
Office:	Davis 418	Code: 0047
Office Hours:	MW 12:15-1:15pm	Sec.: I301
E-mail/Phone:	valentina.pagliai@qc.cuny.edu	3 hours, 3 credits
Web-page	http://www.aiserarchive.com/LanguageCultureSociety/	

Course Description: While presenting the diversity in the ways humanity has organized its social institutions and cultural systems, the course will focus on examining the approaches through which cultures can be understood. The students will conduct their own fieldwork during the course, and they will themselves engage in “writing culture.” At the same time, we explore topics related to the study of cultural anthropology, such as the relations between economic systems and political systems; the meanings of “family ties;” and how individuals are both creatures of their culture and agents of their own lives. We explore patterns of global inequality – by class, ethnicity, race, gender, sexuality and nation. As we read through the ethnographies, we will encounter examples from small-scale societies to the contemporary U.S. and covering most continents.

Course Materials:

All required readings will be available on the course’s webpage.

Acronyms: 1) Seeing Anthropology, by Karl G. Heider 2004 = SA
2) Cultural Anthropology, by Richard Robbins 2001 = CA

The course materials will also include videos, videoclips and webpages.

To access the video clips and links to webpages you must create a facebook account at <http://www.facebook.com/> and become my friend on Facebook. My facebook name is Vale Pagliai. Please do not use your personal Facebook account but create a new one for the class.

Course Format and Requirements:

The class will combine lectures, film viewing, and discussion. Attendance is required. The tests will include material covered in the lectures and not included in the readings, and vice versa. You are expected to have completed the readings ahead of class. Course grades will be determined as follows:

Assignment #1	10%
Assignment #2	10%
Test 1	15%
Mid-Term	25%
Final Exam	35%
Participation	5%
Total	100%

Assignments are due at the beginning of the class session. They must be typed. They will be graded down 1 point for each day that they are late (including weekends). E-mailed assignments are not acceptable.

Exams may include true/false questions, definition questions, multiple choice questions, list questions and short answer questions. Undergraduate Grade Equivalencies are:

A+	97-100	B+	87-89	C+	77-79	D+	67-69
A	93-96	B	83-86	C	73-76	D	60-66
A-	90-92	B-	80-82	C-	70-72	F	0-59

Participation to class Discussions is fundamental. Everybody is expected to participate actively to class discussions. Merely attending class does not constitute active in-class participation.

Make-Up Policy:

Only students who have a legitimate reason and with official written documentation will be permitted to make up a test or exam. Proper documentation is required and if granted permission, you must take the make-up exam on a day agreed upon with the instructor. I will not change any grades or give any make-up assignments after the end of the semester, unless we have previously agreed to an incomplete.

Semester Outline:

The following schedule provides information on how the semester is broken down into topic units, and provides a list of required readings for each class. You are expected to have completed reading assignments ahead of class. Any changes to the schedule will be announced in class.

I: INTRODUCTION

	Topics	Readings
2/1 M	Introduction to the course. What is culture? What is Ethnography?	- SA pp. 32-49 “Understanding Culture”
2/3 W		- Wikan – “Generous Betrayal,” pp. 20-24 & 75-88.

II. WAYS OF SEEING: IDENTITY, RELIGION AND ART

2/8 M	Arriving in the field. Belonging and Exclusions. Assignment #1 Distributed.	- Smadar Lavie pp. 3-26
2/10 W	The identity of the Anthropologist.	- Dorinne Kondo pp. 11-24. - Don Kulick, “On Being a Ghost.” Pp. 268-272.
2/15 M	Ways of Representing the “other” - 1 st part of Assignment #1 Due to your partner - Video: "The Axe Fight" Tim Asch	- Horace Miner “Body Ritual Among the Nacirema.” P. 27-31 - Mullin, “The Patronage of Difference,” Pp. 166-186.
2/17 W	Religion, ritual, taboo & ethnocentrism	- Gmelch, “Baseball Magic” pp. 348-357. - Mary Douglas, “Taboo.”

2/22 M	Art, authenticity and the “primitive” - Assignment #1 Due	- Sally Price “Primitive Art in civilized places” pp. 1-3 and pp. 37-67. - Steiner, “The Art of the Trade.” Pp. 151-164.
2/24 W	Discussion: Who owns “native” art?	- Ward Churchill 1994 “Nobody's Pet Poodle.” Pp. 89-113. - Websites (To be announced on Facebook)
3/1 M	Review for Exam 1	
3/3 W	Exam 1	

IV. ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL SYSTEMS

3/8 M	Hunter-Gatherers’ Societies.	CA, “The Meaning of Progress” pp. 34-45. R. B. Lee “The Hunters” pp. 109-123.
3/10 W	Horticulturalism. Video: “Cultivating the Rainforest”	Reed, “Cultivating the Tropical Forest” pp. 134-143.
3/15 M	Egalitarian societies, chiefdoms and state societies.	SA pp. 318-325 “Power and Politics.”
3/17 W	Nation states and corporations.	Robbins “The Nation State in the Culture of Capitalism” pp. 102-130.
3/22 M	World debt, displacement and famine. Video: “Transnational fiesta”	Robbins “The Politics of Hunger” and following, pp. 172-193. Scheper-Hughes “Lifeboat Ethics” pp. 82-88.
3/24 W	Globalization and the environment	- Williamson “Illegal Logging and Frontier Conservation. Pp. 191-200. - Weatherford “Cocaine and Economic Deterioration in Bolivia” pp. 170-180.
4/7 W	Review for the Midterm	
4/12 M	Mid-Term Exam (Non-cumulative)	

V. RACISM AND COLONIALISM

4/14 W	Racism and Racialization. Video Excerpts from: “Race: The Power of an Illusion”	- CA, “Constructing the Ideology of Racism” and “The Social Construction of Intelligence” pp. 207- 216. - Online Program: “About Race.”
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4/19 M	Racism and Racialization: continued.	- Fish "Mixed Blood," pp. 271-280. - Bonilla-Silva "From Bi-racial to Tri-racial." Pp. 652-663.
4/21 W	Colonialism and the idea of "progress."	- CA, "Why are some societies more industrially advanced than others?" pp. 46-56.
4/26 M	Globalization and Indigenous groups: the struggles for land rights. - Video: (Africa – Episode 3) "Voices of the Forest" <u>Assignment #2 Distributed</u>	- Turner, "The Kayapo Resistance" pp. 387-404 - LaDuke "The struggle to Regain a Stolen Homeland," Pp. 87-105.

VI. THE MEANING OF FAMILY

4/28 W	Kinship systems across societies.	- Patton, "Birthmarks" pp. 28-52 & 54-61.
5/3 M	Marriage across societies	- Lu Yuan and Sam Mitchell, "Walking Marriage in China," pp. 236-240. - Small, "How many fathers are best for a child?" pp. 111-114.
5/5 W	Changing meanings: what is a family in the global age? - Assignment #2 Due. - Discussion of Assignment #2	- Patton, "Searching." Pp. 99-129. - Stone, "Gay Marriage and Anthropology." Pp. 115-117.

VII. GENDER AND SEXUAL IDENTITIES

5/10 M	Gender systems and roles.	- Connell, R.W. 1995 <i>Masculinities</i> . (Excerpts).
5/12 W	Sexuality and sexual identities. - Video: "Paris is Burning"	- Bing and Bergwall, "The Question of Questions," pp. 495-504.
5/17 M	Conclusions and Review for the final exam.	

	Final Exam (non-cumulative)	
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