

ANT3212: World Ethnographies (Summer A, 2023)

Professor: Dr. Juliet Erazo

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Office Hours: There will be 6 optional “drop in office hours” during the course where I will be available on Zoom to answer questions related to the course material and assignments. They will be scheduled at different times (see Announcements in Canvas). I am also available for one-on-one meetings. Email me to schedule.

Course Description and Purpose

This course provides an introduction to ethnography, which has long been the principal genre of writing in cultural anthropology and is increasingly used in qualitative sociology, geography and some sub-fields of history and psychology. We will study how ethnographic research is done and the process of converting that research into a meaningful book or essay. Throughout the course, we will study ethnographies that describe and analyze diverse cultures, including hunters and gatherers in Sub-Saharan Africa; sex workers in China; Indigenous people in the Amazon; Muslim women in multiple Middle Eastern countries; *favela* (shanty-town) residents of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, and migrant farm-workers in the United States. In the final unit of the course, we will explore some of the ways in which ethnography can be used to help bring about positive social change. Films and pre-recorded lectures will be used to provide ethnographic material that complements assigned readings. This course will enable students to compare cultures and societies; to critically examine the methods, writing styles and formats of ethnographies; and to increase their knowledge of the interrelatedness of local, global and intercultural issues and systems.

Course Objectives (GL signifies that they are Global Learning Objectives)

Students will be able to:

1. Evaluate what does and does not constitute ethnographic fieldwork and methods using Malinowski’s framework as a standard of comparison.
2. Discuss and analyze the meaning of culture
3. Examine the role of power differentials in different cultural contexts
4. Assess some of the effects that state modernization projects and globalization have had on specific cultures (GL)
5. Analyze how similar cultural practices can have very different meanings in different cultural contexts (GL)
6. Recognize common racial and ethnic stereotypes and how these stereotypes shape lives (GL)
7. Explain various ways in which culture is contested and negotiated, not bound by strict rules

Major & Curriculum Objectives Targeted

This course fulfills both the University Core Curriculum requirement (Societies & Identities category) and the Global Learning Foundational Course requirement. It is also required for the BA degree in Sociology & Anthropology (Anthropology track).

Teaching Methodology

This course consists of several 15-25 minute lectures, short film segments and one full-length film. Students will also read ethnographies (in-depth descriptions of cultures or subcultures) from different parts of the world and different points in history. The lectures provide guidance on identifying key issues of interest to anthropologists in the readings and the films. Students then use the assessment tools and concepts identified in the lectures to analyze the materials provided in the readings and the film. For each book, a study guide is provided to help students identify material in the books that is most relevant to succeeding on the quizzes and the analysis assignments. Some questions on the quizzes will cover material in the lectures and films.

Late policy

Please communicate with me (through Canvas Messages) if you need an extension. I am generally willing to give short extensions on deadlines as long as you do not abuse the privilege. I do not like being put in the position of trying to judge whether an excuse is real or invented, so there is no need to send me photos of your crashed car or doctor's notes. I strongly encourage you to keep up with the class as there are many small assignments and it is easy to get very behind once you start missing things, but I understand if you need some extra time once or twice during the course of the class.

Plagiarism

Do NOT cheat by forming groups chats and sharing quiz questions. Plagiarizing means that you take something written by another student or something on the web and you include it in an assignment, without specifically citing it. More details are available here: [Types of Plagiarism | College of Arts, Sciences & Education | Florida International University \(fiu.edu\)](#). Almost every semester, I catch students either cheating or plagiarizing. In response, I complete an Academic Misconduct Report for each student, which goes in their student file and potentially other consequences (see: [Student Conduct and Academic Integrity - Get Support Student Affairs - Florida International University - FIU](#)).

Course Prerequisites: There are no prerequisites for this course.

Required Books and Course Materials

1. **Book: Life in Oil: Cofán Survival in the Petroleum Fields of Amazonia**

Michael Cepek

University of Texas Press, 2018

ISBN-13: 9781477315088

The library has a digital copy of this book but only one person can read it at a time. I therefore STRONGLY recommend you get your own copy.

2. Book: Fresh Fruit, Broken Bodies: Farmworkers in the United States

Seth M. Holmes

University of California Press, 2013

ISBN-10: 0520275144

ISBN-13: 9780520275140

The library has a digital copy of this book and multiple people can read it at a time.

However, I cannot guarantee that reading the book online through the library website will go smoothly. You may wish to purchase or rent your own copy.

You may purchase both books online at the [FIU Bookstore](#)..

3. Film: Persepolis.

Available for rent through Amazon.com (\$3) or to watch in the Green Library, fifth floor, at the MMC campus (check library hours at <https://libraries.fiu.edu/>)

Note: additional reading selections will be provided in PDF throughout the course.

Grading

Course Requirements	Number of Items	Points for Each	Total Points Available
Quizzes (multiple choice and short answer questions)	10	55 points plus 5 extra credit points	550 regular points plus 50 extra credit points
Discussion Board Posts	5	60	300
Discussion Board reaction to peer	5	15	75
Research proposal	1	75	75
Total			1050. Includes 50 points of extra credit. (Total grade is divided by 1000)

A	Above 930	B	830 - 869	C	700-769
A-	900 - 929	B-	800 - 829	D	595 - 699
B+	870 - 899	C+	770 - 799	F	Below 595

Assignment Descriptions:

Quizzes: There are ten quizzes, each worth about 6% of your grade. They include 10 multiple choice questions and two short answer questions (that you should answer with a short paragraph). The quizzes are open note and open book, but you only have 60 minutes to complete them. The best way to prepare is to complete the study guides as you read, to listen to the lectures at least once to understand the broader context, and to have the lecture pdf's available to refresh your memory. If films are assigned for the module, there will also be questions on the films.

Discussion Board posts: Discussion Board Assignments ask you to write a short essay (1 page long) where you analyze class materials. The reason I use the "Discussion Board" in Canvas rather than making it an essay assignment is that I always give you two choices for the questions that I ask. Then, after you submit your answer to one of the questions, you read through some of the posts answering the question you did not answer, and write a very short response to one of them. (Total of 5 original posts and 5 response-to-peer's-post, which all together make up 37.5% of your grade.)

Final Mini Research Proposal: This 3-page essay assignment allows you to imagine yourself as an anthropologist and create a research project (you do not need to do the research, only describe it.) You will answer various questions about your project that will help you reflect on various things we have covered in the course. (Worth 7.5% of your grade).

EXTRA CREDIT: Each quiz includes 5 extra credit points.

Assignment Calendar

Unit	Lesson	Assignment	Points	Available by noon on	Due at 11:59pm on
Unit 1	Lesson 1	Practice Quiz	0	Monday, May 8	N/A
	Lesson 2	Quiz 1	55+5 E.C.	Monday, May 8	Sunday, May 14
	Lesson 3	Quiz 2A	55+5 E.C.	Monday, May 8	Tuesday, May 16
		Discussion Board Post 1	60	N/A	Thursday, May 18
		Response to Peer for DB 1	15	(you must wait until some of your classmates have posted)	Friday, May 19
Unit 2	Lesson 4	Quiz 2B	55+5 E.C.	Wednesday, May 17	Tuesday, May 23
	Lesson 5	Quiz 3	55+5 E.C.	Wednesday, May 17	Tuesday, May 23
	Lesson 6	Discussion Board Post 2	60	N/A	Thursday, May 25
		Response to Peer for DB 2	15	(wait until some of your classmates have posted)	Friday, May 26
Unit 3	Lesson 7	Quiz 4	55+5 E.C.	Wednesday, May 24	Tuesday, May 30
	Lesson 8	Quiz 5	55+5 E.C.	Wednesday, May 24	Tuesday, May 30
	Lesson 9	Discussion Board Post 3	60	N/A	Thursday, June 1
		Response to Peer for DB 3	15	(wait until some of your classmates have posted)	Friday, June 2
Unit 4	Lesson 10	Quiz 6	55+5 E.C.	Wednesday, May 31	Tuesday, June 6
	Lesson 11	Quiz 7	55+5 E.C.	Wednesday, May 31	Tuesday, June 6
	Lesson 12	Discussion Board Post 4	60	N/A	Thursday, June 8
		Response to Peer for DB 4	15	(wait until some of your classmates have posted)	Friday, June 9
Unit 5	Lesson 13	Quiz 8	55+5 E.C.	Wednesday, June 7	Tuesday, June 13
	Lesson 14	Quiz 9	55+5 E.C.	Wednesday, June 7	Tuesday, June 13
	Lesson 15	Discussion Board Post 5	60	N/A	Thursday, June 15
		Response to Peer for DB 5	15	(wait until some of your classmates have posted)	Friday, June 16
Final Project		Mini Research Proposal	75	N/A	Saturday, June 17
TOTAL			1000 +	50 points Extra Credit	