DEPARTMENT OF GLOBAL AND SOCIO-CULTURAL STUDIES
Introduction to Anthropology, ANT 2000

Fall 2011
Professor Ida Tafari, PhD, MPH
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Office hours by appointment

PG5 Market Station 155
Tuesday-Thursday
9:30-10:45 a.m.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:
This is the study of the Human Species from a biological and cultural perspective, which includes the theory of culture, an understanding of human evolution, and social-cultural organization. Emphasis is on the process of human biological adaptability, variation and social cultural organization of world populations to the present time. It is the intersection of biology, environment and culture that is most emphasized in this course. This is a reading intensive course, and attendance is required.

Credit: 3

Textbook:


Upon completion of the course students will be able to:

1. Communicate effectively using listening, speaking, reading and writing skills.
2. Use quantitative and qualitative analytical skills to evaluate the readings
3. Solve problems using critical and creative thinking, and an understanding of scientific reasoning.
4. Formulate strategies to locate, evaluate, and apply information.
5. Demonstrate knowledge of diverse cultures, including global and historical perspectives.
6. Create strategies applicable to personal, civic, and social responsibilities
7. Demonstrate knowledge of ethical thinking and its applications to issues in society.
8. Use computer and emerging technologies effectively
9. Demonstrate an appreciation for cultural diversity
10. Describe what distinguishes humanness and recognize the oneness of mankind.
11. Encourage self reflection and understanding
GUIDELINES ON ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:

Students have an obligation to exhibit honesty in carrying out their academic assignments. Students may be found to have violated this obligation if they plagiarize or cheat. Plagiarism is presenting the work of others as one’s own and cheating is taking or accepting any illicit advantages for any course work inside or outside of the classroom. Refer to Florida International University’s catalog for further information.

Note: exam dates are not listed on the syllabus. Exam dates will be announced in class at least a week prior to the exam date. As the instructor in the class I have the right to make changes in the syllabus as we move through our readings. Current events going on in town and on campus from time to time may be incorporated into our curriculum. To be informed, attendance is mandatory.

SCHEDULE

August 23-25

Chapter 1 (Kottak, p.2-23). What is Anthropology? An Introduction to the discipline of Anthropology and the course organization.

Aug. 30-Sept 1
Film Strange Beliefs viewing and discussion.

Sept. 6-8
Chapter 2 Culture (Kottak, p 24-47)

Sept. 13-15
Chapter 3 (Kottak, p 48-78) Method and Theory in Cultural Anthropology
Globalization and World Culture

Sept 20-22
Applying Anthropology (Kottak, p 78-99) Examples of Rapid Assessment Response and Evaluation Methodology

Sept. 27-29
Chapter 5: Language and Communication (Kottak, p100-123)
Annual Edition p 26-31

Oct 4-6 Research Topic Due:

Oct. 11-13
Chapter 6: Ethnicity and Race (p 124-153)
Film clip: Neo-Africans
Oct 13-20
Chapter 7: Making a Living (p 154-181)

Oct. 25-27
Chapter 8, Political Systems (p182-209)
Film: Life and Debt

Nov. 1-3
Chapter 9, Gender, p 210-237
Film: Monday’s Girls

Nov. 8-10
Chapter 10, Families, Kinship, and Descent, p. 238-259
Film: Keita
Annuals: p 82-85 “Sick of Poverty”

Nov 15-17
Chapter 11, Marriage, p. 260-283
Film: TBA

Nov. 22-24
Chapter 12, Religion, p. 284-309
Annuals, pp 122, Religion, Belief, and Ritual

Nov. 28-Dec 3
Chapter 13, Arts, Media, and Sports p. 310

Student presentations should be given throughout the term, and not reserved to the end. There is a grade for presenting and there is a grade for the paper.

Student Presentations

The course will be divided into three examination components. The exams are not cumulative. Students are asked to select a research topic to present as a paper to the class. Emphasis will be on how anthropologist study, that is methodology, i.e. participatory research, archival inquiries, comparative analysis, applied research, and so on. The paper should focus on a clear anthropological issue today or historically. It should be descriptive and analytical. In your analysis you should explain the theory that emerges from the work. Student Presentations should be about 10 minutes. Students will receive a grade for the research paper and the presentation.

The final grade will be based on three exams, the evaluation of one of the ethnographic entries, and the presentation of the ethnography.

Once a week, a student will present a synopsis of one of the readings from the Annual Edition. A grade will be issued on the presentation based on the student assessment of the work.