ANTH V1002.001 : THE INTERPRETATION OF CULTURE

Paige West

Course Objectives

This course is an introduction to the basic theories and methods of cultural anthropology. It introduces students to anthropology via an exploration of the diversity of the human condition, as well as to the various means through which cultural anthropologists have attempted to understand what it means to be human in specific times and places.

Method of Instruction

Assigned readings are drawn from a range of sources and represent a variety of approaches within anthropology. Readings are due on the day they are listed on the syllabus. Close reading of the required texts is mandatory, as is attendance at all course lectures. The course lectures will not repeat the content of the readings but will draw on the content and the substantive issues raised by the readings.

Method of Evaluation

Midterm Exam 35%
Final Exam 35%
Participant Observation part I 15%
Participant Observation Part II 15%

Exam policy: Students are expected to take the exams on the assigned dates. No exceptions will be made to this rule for the midterm exam. Students with a conflict on the day of the final exam (another exam or a lab exam) must notify Prof. West in person before November 1, 2010 and they must have written proof from the registrar. Students who are registered with disability services and who need extra time or other testing accommodations must see Prof. West before October 1, 2010.
Wednesday, 8 September

Ethnic Tourism, Anthropology, or Both? The illicit pleasure of knowing the other versus the production of knowledge.

STRANGERS IN THE FOREST; Contacting an isolated people-on a guided tour., The New Yorker, April 18, 2005, FACT; Letter From New Guinea; Pg. 124, 7432 words, LAWRENCE OSBORNE


Monday, 13 September

Representation and Production


Wednesday, 15 September

The Development of Anthropological Thought


Monday, 20 September

The Development of Anthropological Thought

**Wednesday, 22 September**

The Development of Anthropological Thought


**Monday, 27 September**

The Culture Concept


**Wednesday, 29 September**

"Theory"

Benjamin - Paris, Capital of the Nineteenth Century

Foucault - Space, Knowledge, and Power

Lefebvre - The Urban Revolution

Simmel - The Metropolis and Mental Life

**Monday, 4 October**

Fieldwork


**Wednesday, 6 October**

Culture and Capitalism and Change I


**Monday, 11 October**

Culture and Capitalism and Change II

M. Sahlins 1994 "Cosmologies of Capitalism" in Dirks, Eley, and Ortner, Culture / Power / History. 412-455

**Wednesday, 13 October**

Capital and the Working Day (BVS)


http://www.bibliomania.com/2/1/261/1294/frameset.html

READ: Commodities (sections 1, 2, and 3) and The Working Day

**Monday, 18 October**

Representations: Ethnography and Other Narrative Styles


**Wednesday, 20 October**

Midterm Exam

**Monday, 25 October**

Colonialism

Wednesday, 27 October
Development


Monday, 1 November
ELECTION HOLIDAY. No Class.

Wednesday, 3 November
Gender


Monday, 8 November
The State and Indigenous Politics


Wednesday, 10 November
Environment and Development


Monday, 15 November

Why do Anthropologists Critique Everything All the Time?

Wednesday, 17 November

Cannibal Tours (Film)

Monday, 22 November

TA GUEST LECTURE

Wednesday, 24 November

No Class - Thanksgiving Break

Monday, 29 November

Consumption I


Wednesday, 1 December

Consumption II

Pleasures and Perils: Girls' Sexuality in a Caribbean Consumer Culture


Monday, 6 December

TBA
Wednesday, 8 December
TBA

Monday, 13 December
Course Summary