

**INTRODUCTION TO CULTURAL ANTHROPOLOGY (ANTH 1001)**

Baruch College – Spring 2013

Tuesday/Thursday, 4:10-5:25pm, Vertical Campus, Room 4165

Instructor: Cihan Tekay

Office: Vertical Campus, Anthropology Dept, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, 4-240 I

Office Hours: Tuesdays, 2-4pm & by appointment

Email: [Cihan.Tekay@baruch.cuny.edu](mailto:Cihan.Tekay@baruch.cuny.edu)

**PLEASE READ THIS SYLLABUS CAREFULLY.**

**1. Introduction and Course Objectives**

This course has three main objectives:

(1) to provide an overview of key topics in cultural anthropology; (2) to encourage critical thinking about key anthropological and social scientific debates, past and present; and (3) to analyze explanations for, and causes of cross-cultural similarities and differences. We will attempt to understand both the universal process through which human beings constitute themselves through culture, and the great diversity of cultural forms that result. In the past, anthropologists usually studied distant and “foreign” peoples, the more different from “us” the better. We will look at this “we/they” dichotomy in the context of today’s increasingly interconnected world – connected through complex political-economic processes – and explore what happens when anthropological tools are used not only to look at the “other”, but in the analysis of our own complex, diverse society. Related to these objectives, the aim of this class is to think critically, that is to form arguments based on empirical evidence and to challenge some of the assumptions we (or our cultures) may have about gender, race, class, politics, sexuality, power and history.

**2. Assignments and Grading**

	Percentage of Grade
Class Participation & Attendance	15%
(2x) Short Response Papers to Readings (1-2 pages each)	20%
1 Midterm Paper (4-5 pages)	30%
Final Paper (8-10 pages):	35%

Students must complete **all** assigned readings/course material on a particular topic **before** the first meeting of the week in which that topic is discussed.

**All of the information on this syllabus will also be available on the Blackboard site of this course.**

**Class Participation:**

Class participation involves actively listening to one another and contributing to discussions and raising relevant questions in class. Activities in class, and small group discussions also contribute to your participation evaluation. **It is important that you do the readings for class beforehand so that you**

**can actively contribute to discussions! It is also important that you attend all of the class sessions. Missing more than 2 classes will affect your participation grade negatively. I would rather have you come late to class than not at all, but please remember that lateness disrupts the attention of everyone in the classroom, including your peers and myself.**

**Response Papers:**

You are required to write 2 short response papers (1-2 pages) on 2 pieces of reading (a chapter or an article) assigned for this class. You will choose the readings you want to write your response paper on, so try to choose from the topics that interest you the most among those that we have covered. **Response Paper #1 is due in class Tuesday 3/5. Response paper #2 is due 5/2 in class. You can submit response papers on or before these deadlines.**

Here are some leading questions for your response papers:

- What do you find interesting, provocative, and/or problematic about the article/chapter?
- Do you have any questions or critiques on this article/chapter? What did you like about it?
- Did the article remind you of anything from your own life experiences?

**Midterm Paper and Final Paper:**

**You are required to submit 1 Midterm (4-5 pages) and 1 Final Paper (8-10 pages) for this class. These are both take-home exams. The midterms are due in class on Tuesday 3/19. The finals are due by e-mail on Friday 5/24.**

**Grading will follow Baruch's grading scale as indicated below:**

**UNDERGRADUATE**

LETTER GRADE	GPA VALUE	GRADE SCALE
A	4.0	93.0–100.0
A-	3.7	90.0–92.9
B+	3.3	87.1–89.9
B	3.0	83.0–87.0
B-	2.7	80.0–82.9
C+	2.3	77.1–79.9
C	2.0	73.0–77.0
C-	1.7	70.0–72.9
D+	1.3	67.1–69.9
D	1.0	60.0–67.0
F	0.0	below 60.0

[http://www.baruch.cuny.edu/registrar/webgrade/Webgrade\\_system.htm](http://www.baruch.cuny.edu/registrar/webgrade/Webgrade_system.htm)

### 3. Required Readings and Materials

**All of the required readings and materials will be on reserve at the Baruch College Library (<http://newman.baruch.cuny.edu/>) or accessible online either at the Blackboard site or through direct links on this syllabus.** There is no textbook for this class.

We will also be screening **films and videos** during class. If you happen to miss class on a day when we have a film screening, you will be responsible for watching the film or video either at the library or online. Please e-mail me if this happens and I will provide you with the necessary information.

Please complete all reading before class and bring the readings to class with you, as we will be going over the texts as we discuss them.

**A note on classroom culture:** We will at times be discussing sensitive issues that many people feel strongly about one way or another. Please keep your mind open and the discussion respectful – other people might have different views than your own about a certain issue or topic. I will not tolerate personal attacks, insults or offensive language in class.

Please turn off your mobile phones in class. If you are using computers or mobile devices for any other purposes than taking notes, you will be asked to leave the class.

**Due dates and Late Assignments:** Assignments are due in-class on the day they are assigned and electronic submissions will not be accepted. Late assignments will result in deductions from your grade. Extensions will be granted in case of serious emergencies only. If you are falling behind in assignments, please see me earlier rather than later. I have weekly office hours as listed in the beginning of this syllabus.

**Writing Assistance:** This course demands relatively high writing skills. If you require help in this area please feel free to contact me or make an appointment at the **Baruch Writing Center**. (<http://www.baruch.cuny.edu/writingcenter>)

#### **Academic Integrity:**

**I fully support Baruch College's policy on Academic Honesty which states, in part:**

"Academic dishonesty is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. Cheating, forgery, plagiarism and collusion in dishonest acts undermine the college's educational mission and the students' personal and intellectual growth. Baruch students are expected to bear individual responsibility for their work, to learn the rules and definitions that underlie the practice of academic integrity, and to uphold its ideals. Ignorance of the rules is not an acceptable excuse for disobeying them. Any student who attempts to compromise or devalue the academic process will be sanctioned. "

Academic sanctions in this class will range from an F on the assignment to an F in this course. A report of suspected academic dishonesty will be sent to the Office of the Dean of Students. For more information, please see: [http://www.baruch.cuny.edu/academic/academic\\_honesty.html](http://www.baruch.cuny.edu/academic/academic_honesty.html)

#### 4. Schedule of Topics and Readings

##### Week 1: Introduction

###### Tue 1/29

Introduction, Review of Class Syllabus

Handout:

What is Anthropology? American Anthropological Association

<http://www.aaanet.org/about/whatisanthropology.cfm>

###### Thu 1/31

American Anthropological Association Statement on “Race” (May 17, 1998)

<http://www.aaanet.org/stmts/racepp.htm>

Smedley, Audrey. 2007. “The History of the Idea of Race... and Why It Matters.” Race: Are We So Different? The American Anthropological Association.

<http://www.understandingrace.org/resources/pdf/disease/smedley.pdf>

##### Week 2: The Method of Anthropology: Ethnography

###### Tue 2/5

Watch before coming to class:

**BBC Documentary: Tales From the Jungle: Malinowski**

**Watch the 5 Parts, Available online at:**

Part 1: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MzfZhedtJDQ&feature=related>

Part 2: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vGCDUuj6ksI>

Part 3: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N-sBtFJMNRa&feature=endscreen&NR=1>

Part 4: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=df9BISbYiKY&feature=relmfu>

Part 5: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qAt3zhOjdtk&feature=relmfu>

(This will give you an introduction to the Malinowski reading assigned for this week, see below)

**In-class group activity & discussion**

###### Thu 2/7

Malinowski, Bronislaw. 1922. “The Subject, Method, and Scope of this Inquiry” in *Argonauts of the Western Pacific*. Pages 1-25

##### Week 3: Basic Concepts: Power

###### Tue 2/12

**NO CLASS**

###### Thu 2/14

Fillingham, Lydia Allix. 2007. *Foucault for Beginners*. Selected pages.

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#### **Week 4: Structure**

##### **Tue 2/19**

Radcliffe-Brown, A.R. 1940. "On Social Structure." In *Structure and Function in Primitive Society*. New York, Free Press. Pages 188-204

##### **Thu 2/21**

Evans-Pritchard, E.E. 1940. "Chapter IV: The Political System." *The Nuer: A Description of The Modes of Livelihood and Political Institutions of A Nilotic People*. New York and Oxford: Oxford University Press. Pages 139-191

#### **Week 5: Symbols and Meaning**

##### **Tue 2/26**

Geertz, Clifford. 1973. "Thick Description: Toward and Interpretive Theory of Culture." *Interpretation of Cultures: Selected Essays by Clifford Geertz*. Pages 3-30.

##### **Thu 2/28**

Geertz, Clifford. 1973. "Notes on a Balinese Cockfight."

Available online:

Part 1: <http://webhome.idirect.com/~boweevil/BaliCockGeertz.html>

Part 2: <http://webhome.idirect.com/~boweevil/BaliCockGeertz2.html>

#### **Week 6: Structural Violence**

##### **Tue 3/5**

##### **RESPONSE PAPER #1 DUE IN CLASS**

Paul Farmer, *Pathologies of Power: Health, Human Rights and the New War on the Poor*. University of California Press, 2003. Pages 29-50.

##### **Thu 3/7**

Bourgois, Philippe. *In Search of Respect: Selling Crack in El Barrio*. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press, 1996. Ch. 4, Pages 114-173

#### **Week 7: Anthropology Goes to Wall Street: White Collar Sweatshops**

##### **Tue 3/12**

Karen Ho. *Liquidated: An Ethnography of Wall Street*. Durham: Duke University Press, 2009. Chapter 1 - Pages 39-72

##### **Thu 3/14**

Karen Ho, *Liquidated*, Chapter 2 - 73-121

Recommended:

Ho, Karen Z. 2010. "Outsmarting Risk: From Bonuses to Bailouts." *Anthropology Now*. May 14.

Available online: <http://anthronow.com/articles/outsmarting-risk-from-bonuses-to-bailouts>

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**Week 8: Social Suffering and Health**

**Tue 3/19**

**MID-TERM ASSIGNMENT DUE IN CLASS**

**Film screening: Chernobyl Documentary**

**Thu 3/21**

Petryna, Adriana. 2011. "Chernobyl's Survivors: Paralyzed by Fatalism or Overlooked by Science?" *Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists*, 0(0) Pages 1–8

Petryna, Adriana. *Life Exposed*, Chapter TBA

**Week 9: SPRING BREAK, NO CLASS on Tue 3/26 & Thu 3/28**

**Week 10: Kinship & the Family: Gender and Everyday Violence of Poverty in Brazil**

**Tue 4/2 & Thu 4/4**

Scheper-Hughes, Nancy. *Death without Weeping: The Violence of Everyday Life in Brazil*. University of California Press, 1992. Chapter 8: Pages 340-399

**Week 11: Sensory Ethnography: Sports**

**Tue 4/9**

Matthew Atencio, Becky Beal & Charlene Wilson (2009) "The distinction of risk: urban skateboarding, street habitus and the construction of hierarchical gender relations." *Qualitative Research in Sport and Exercise*, Vol. 1, No. 1, Pages 3–20.

**Thu 4/11**

Wacquant, L., 2005. *Body and soul: notebooks of an apprentice boxer*. Oxford: Oxford University Press. Page numbers TBA.

**Week 12: Virtual Space/Identities/Selves: Social Networking, Virtual Reality Worlds**

**Tue 4/16**

McClard, Anne and Ken Anderson. 2008. "Focus on Facebook: Who Are We Anyway?"

*Anthropology News*, Volume 49, Issue 3 (March 2008) Pages: 10-12.

**Thu 4/18**

Tom Boellstorff. (2010) *Coming of Age in Second Life: An Anthropologist Explores the Virtually Human*. Princeton University Press. Chapter 4: Pages 89-117

**Week 13: Globalized Production, Gender and Capitalism**

**Tue 4/23**

Aihwa Ong, (1987, 2010) *Spirits of Resistance and Capitalist Discipline: Factory Women in Malaysia*.

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SUNY Press. Pages 141-178

**Thu 4/25**

Film Screening in Class: *Maquilapolis*

**Week 14: Globalized Production, Gender and Capitalism, *continued***

**Tue 4/30**

Pun Ngai. (2005) *Made in China: Women Factory Workers in a Global Workplace*. Duke University Press. Pages 165-187

**Thu 5/2**

**RESPONSE PAPER #2 DUE IN CLASS**

Film Screening: *The Take*

**Week 15: Ecology/Environment**

**Tue 5/7**

Brosius, Peter, 1997, "Endangered People, Endangered Forests: Environmentalist Representations of Local Knowledge," *Human Ecology* 25(1):47-69

**Thu 5/9**

S. Brian Burkhalter & Robert Murphy, 1989, "Tappers and Sappers: Rubber, Gold and Money among the Mundurucu," *American Ethnologist* 16(1):100-116

**Week 16: Ecology *cont.* & Overview**

**Tue 5/14**

Film screening TBA

**Thu 5/16**

Last Day of Class: Overview of the semester