FRONTIERS OF CULTURAL ANTHROPOLOGY  
Professor: Professor D. Goldstein  
Teaching Assistants: Colleen Scanlan Lyons and Shana Harris  
Spring 2003

Lectures: T Th:11:00-11:50 a.m. in Education 220

General Information:
Professor Goldstein’s Office Hours: Hale 445  
Wed.: 1-3:00  
(please use sign-up sheet on office door; walk-ins possible if empty slots)

Tel.: (303) 492-5484 (please call during office hours, if possible)

Colleen Scanlan Lyons’s Office Hours:  
Monday. 4:00-5:00 p.m. and Thurs. 9:30-10:30  
Grad Student Office: Hale 335, carrel #18  
Tel.: (h) 303.545-5308  
email (preferred): colleen.scanlanlyons@colorado.edu  
Recitations: 8:00 Thurs. and 8:00 Fri.

Shana Harris’s Office Hours:  
Thurs. 9:30-10:30 and Fri. 1:30-2:30  
Telephone number: (h) 303.440.1448  
Email address (preferred): shana.harris@colorado.edu  
Graduate Student Office: Hale 335, carrel #13  
Recitations: 3:00 Fri. and 4:00 Fri.

In Case of Emergency, Anthropology Department Front Desk: 492-2547

Final Exam Date: Tuesday May 6 at 10:30-1:00 in Education 220  
(Do Not Plan to Leave Town Before This Examination: There are No Make-ups)

Note: The College will make reasonable accommodations for persons with documented disabilities. Students should notify the Counselor for Students with Disabilities, Disability Services Office, located in Willard 322 (phone 303-492-8671) and their instructors of any special needs. Instructors should be notified the first day of classes. Students with disabilities who may need academic accommodations should discuss options with me during the first two weeks of class.

Course Description:
This course covers a broad array of past and current theories in cultural and social anthropology and discusses the nature of fieldwork. It is a survey-style general introductory course that will introduce some basic historical anthropological concepts and methods, as well as explore some of the major theoretical approaches to the study of rural, urban, tribal, non-tribal, Western and non-Western cultures that have characterized the field.

The course will try to strike a balance between reading and understanding anthropological theory as well as analyzing (critically) the work of some classical and more contemporary ethnographic works. Topics that will be broadly covered in the course include: 1) Introduction to fieldwork; 2) Introduction to structural-functionalism, cultural materialism,
psychological approaches, interpretive anthropology and the study of ritual, and 3) Issues
related to poverty, modernization, and globalization.

WHAT YOU WILL NEED:

1) Required Books:
There are two books to purchase at the University bookstore or anywhere else you
may find them.

(Taiwanese Village)
2. Bourgois, Philippe. In Search of Respect: Selling Crack in El Barrio. Cambridge:
University Press.

2) Required Reader Articles:
You will need to buy the reader from your Teaching Assistants during the first week of
class. Please recognize that this is a courtesy we have tried to provide you with at a more
reasonable price.

The following excerpts are in the reader:


2. Malinowski, B. 1922. “The Subject, Method and Scope of This Inquiry.” In: Argonauts
of the Western Pacific, pp. 1-25.


5. Mead, Margaret. 1972. “Introduction” and “Conclusions” In Sex and Temperament in
Three Primitive Societies. New York: Morrow Quill Paperbacks, pp. v-xiv and on pp. 331-
322.


7. Tsai, Kellee S. “Women and the State in Post-1949 Rural China.” Journal of

41, in internet downloaded form pp. 1-6.


11. Harris, Marvin. 1985. “The Riddle of the Sacred Cow.” In Harris, ed.: Good to Eat:


WITHOUT THESE ARTICLES AS A SET OF YOUR OWN TO MARK UP AND TO READ AT HOME, YOU WILL NOT HAVE THE COMPLETE INFORMATION TO PERFORM WELL IN THIS CLASS. ALL OF THE ABOVE ARE REQUIRED.

Expectations:
I hope that you will want to attend this class, and that you will participate and take notes on the lectures, films, recitations, and readings. Class participation is very important, especially in recitation. It is calculated as part of your final grade. If you miss a class, please ask to borrow a fellow student’s notes for that day. You are (at the very least) expected to read the assignments before class and come prepared to discuss the topic of the day.
During many classes, I will set aside discussion time at the end, or ask you at the beginning to interrupt the day’s lecture with commentaries. I will keep you posted about any scheduling changes that may occur during the course of the semester.

I adhere to the academic honesty rules of this and other universities. I expect you to do your own work. Cheating on exams is simply unacceptable. In the case of cheating, there will be a zero given for the course.

Examinations:
There are two midterm examinations and one final examination in this course. The format of each of the midterm examinations will be short essays and identifications based on lectures, readings, recitations, and films. You will be given a study guide about a week in advance and this will help prepare you for the midterm examinations. The midterms are presently scheduled for **February 20th and April 1**.

Midterm examinations are mandatory. If you miss a midterm examination, you have the option of taking a make-up examination immediately following the final examination on May 6 in Education 220. However, by exercising this option, your final grade will be reduced by **20%**, no matter how well you do on these exams. This, of course, will not be the case for somebody with a legitimate excuse: medical note, family emergency, etc. Family vacations and ski days are not legitimate excuses.

The final examination is scheduled for **May 6th at 10:30 a.m. in Education 220**. If you come to class and recitation and take notes, do the readings seriously and think critically, you should do very well in this class. **THE FINAL EXAMINATION IS CUMULATIVE, THAT IS, IT COVERS THE MATERIAL FROM THE ENTIRE COURSE.**

Required Recitations and Films:
Attendance in recitation is required. Please arrive to recitation on time and remain with the recitation that you are signed into during the first week of classes. Each recitation will carry on as a coherent group throughout the semester. Some films will begin at the start of the class in order to have enough time to view them, and may go over by a few minutes. If you miss a film or want to watch a particular film again, you can go and see it on your own at the Academic Media Services on the 3rd floor of the Stadium building (Gate 9). They have viewing rooms there. The following films are available, but there are others that have been ordered that you will not be able to see if you miss class.

1. “The Nuer”
2. “Margaret Mead: Taking Note”
4. “Without Father or Husbands”
5. “Natural Love” (O Amor Natural)
6. “Kawelka: Ongka’s Big Moka”
7. “China’s Only Child”

There may be other films added or substituted and some viewed during class lecture depending on availability.

Grading:
First Midterm Examination: 30%
Second Midterm Examination: 30%
Attendance and Participation in Recitations: 10%
Final Examination: 30%
Week 1. Introduction to Anthropological Theory, Method, and Fieldwork

Required Readings:

Lecture:
January 14: Introduction to Class, Syllabus, Policies
January 16: Introduction to Anthropology as a discipline, fieldwork, cultural relativism, anthropological methods, the timeless native, changes in representational style

Recitation:
Introduction of Students, Attendance Policy, Questions about Syllabus

Week 2. British Structural-Functionalism

Required Readings:

Lectures:
January 21: British Structural Functionalism 1
January 23: British Structural Functionalism 2

Recitation:
Film: “The Nuer” and discussion of Evans Pritchard as quintessential structural functionalist

Week 3. British Structural Functionalism (Continued) and Early American Anthropology: Boas, Culture and Personality

Required Readings:

Lectures:
January 28: Lecture: Franz Boas and His Legacy
January 30: Film: Margaret Mead: “Taking Note”

Recitation:
Discussion of British Structural Functionalism and North American Culture and Personality School
Week 4: Kinship and Family Structure: Case of Taiwan in the 1950s

Required Readings:
1. Read first half of *House of Lim*.

Lectures:

February 4: First 30 minutes of “Small Happiness” plus discussion of Taiwan and China, cultural construction of gender and kinship, and importance of social structure

February 6: Birth planning, abortion, infertility in contemporary China

Recitation:

Film: Second half of “Small Happiness” with discussion

Week 5: Continuation of China, Kinship, Social Structure

Required Readings:
1. Read second half of *House of Lim*.

Lectures:


February 13: House of Lim, China Material, Review Sheet Handed Out

Recitation:

Midterm Review

Week 6. Tying up of China Material, Midterm Examination #1

Required Readings:
None

Lectures:

February 18: Tying up of China Material in Light of the Na people
Film: The Na of China: A Society Without Fathers or Husbands

February 20: Midterm Examination #1

Recitation:
Cancelled
Week 7. Clifford Geertz and Marvin Harris-Anthropology in the 1970s

Required Readings:

Lectures:
February 25: Introduction to Clifford Geertz: theory of culture, thick description, interpretive anthropology
February 27: Introduction to Marvin Harris

Recitation:
Film: “Ongka’s Big Moka”
Think About how Geertz and Harris would analyze the dilemma of the pigs in Ongka’s Big Moka.

Week 8: Some New Questions: Representation, Feminist Anthropology, and the Crisis of Representation

Required Readings:

Lectures:
March 4: Said, Crisis of Representation
March 6: New Ethnography, Feminist Anthropology

Recitation:
Discussion of Lecture Material

Week 9. Brazil, Poverty, AIDS, Sexuality

Required Readings:

Lectures:
March 11: Film “O Amor Natural”
March 13: AIDS and Constructions of Sexuality in Brazil
Recitation:
Discussion of Brazil Material
Week 10. Brazil Continued:

Required Readings:

Lectures:
March 18: Presentation of Fieldwork, Shantytown in Rio de Janeiro, Race, Class, Sexuality, and Gender in Brazil

March 20: Discussion of Article, “Interracial Sex and Racial Democracy in Brazil” and Chapter 5 on Violence in Urban Brazil

Handout of Review Materials for Midterm Examination #2

Recitation:
Review for Midterm Examination Week After Spring Break

Week 11: SPRING BREAK: NO CLASSES OR RECITATIONS

Week 12: Midterm Examination and Marx, Class, and Resistance

Required Readings:


Lectures:
April 1: Midterm Examination #2
April 3: Marx in Anthropology 1

Recitation: Discussion of Marx in Anthropology, Readings

Week 13: Political Economy and Anthropology: Toward Globalization

Required Readings:


Lecture:
April 8: Marx in Anthropology 2
April 10: Marx in Anthropology 3

Recitation:
Discussion of Mintz and Roseberry

Week 14: Poverty in the USA and Bourgois Book,
Required Readings:

Lectures:
April 15: Class, Capital, and Cultural Reproduction Theory, Bourdieu
April 17: Lecture by Shana Harris on Fieldwork in Scotland

Recitation:
Discussion of Bourdieu, Cultural Reproduction Theory

Week 15: Bourgois Book and New Directions: Globalization

Required Readings:

Lectures:
April 22: FILM: Ehrenreich on Welfare in the USA
April 24: Tying up the Bourgois Book

Recitation:
Discussion of Bourgois and Ehrenreich

Week 16: GLOBALIZATION IN ANTHROPOLOGICAL RESEARCH

Required Readings:

Lectures:
April 29: Colleen: NGO Politics and Globalization in the Brazilian Amazon
May 1: REVIEW FOR FINAL

Recitation:
Review for Final

The Final Examination for this class will take place on
May 6th at 10:30 in EDUCATION 220