
SOCIO-CULTURAL ANTHROPOLOGY in Fall 2020 (AN1002B)

Course Code	AN1002B	Professor(s)	Tanya Elder
Prerequisites	None	Office Number	
Class Schedule	M: 14:30-16:05 in C-102 R: 09:00-10:35 in C-102	Office Hours	Teams: Tuesdays 11:00 –12:30 By appointment
Credits	4	Email	telder@aup.edu
Semester	Fall 2020	Office Tel. Ext.	

Course Description

Course Description: Social Anthropology is the comparative study of human societies and cultures. It emphasizes first-hand observation, pays attention to the details of everyday life, examines social relations, and asks not only how things work, but also what they mean to the people concerned. It uses ethnography, comparison and a holistic approach to make sense of the strange and unfamiliar amongst other peoples, and to question what seems normal and natural to ourselves. In this course students will be acquainted with a range of theoretical approaches and anthropologists that have contributed to the discipline, they will be introduced to how in different societies identity is constructed both socially and culturally, and finally through their own experience in the field they will gain an understanding of what it entails to conduct ethnographic research. The course is divided in to three major parts. Part 1 will introduce students to both anthropology as a discipline and to field work. Part 2 is dedicated to the study of the central concepts and fields of study within cultural anthropology and Part 3 will relate anthropology to contemporary issues such as globalism, indigenous peoples rights and cultural change.

Course Learning Outcomes

Identify and define key debates, concepts, subfields and people in the discipline of sociocultural anthropology

Demonstrate an introductory understanding of the discipline's key research methods (participant observation and/or in-depth interviewing).

Apply the discipline's cross-cultural, comparative and holistic perspectives to societal debates and questions, especially those concerning the processes and transformations associated with globalization

Apply knowledge of and appreciation for the variety of human cultures and lifeways when

exploring, through oral or written expression, the human condition.

Mobilize intercultural competencies in relationships with others (and thus in class discussions and writing assignments as well). These include: a critical awareness of one's own social and cultural positions and identities; recognition of multiple perspectives; and, empathy and openness towards others and their points of view.

General Education

GLACC:

The Global Liberal Arts Core Curriculum (GLACC) degree requirements include the following categories of courses:

- Integrative Inquiry (coded CCI)
- Experiential learning (coded CCX)
- Research, Interpretation, and Writing (coded CCE)
- Digital Literacy and Communication (coded CCD)
- Disciplinary Research Methods and Writing (coded CCR)
- Quantitative Reasoning (coded CCM)
- Experimental Reasoning Course with Lab (coded CCS)
- Expression Française (coded FR)
- AUP Capstone (coded CCC)

This course can be used to fulfill the *Integrative Inquiry (CCI)* requirement and as such has the following learning outcomes (Learning Outcomes for GLACC components are defined on the [AUP GLACC Website](#)):

- *Local and Global Perspectives*: You will enhance your intercultural understanding of languages, cultures and the histories of local societies, and the global issues to which these relate
- *Exploring and Engaging Difference*: You will think critically about cultural and social difference. You will identify and understand power structures that determine hierarchies and inequalities relating to race, ethnicity, gender, nationhood, religion or class
- *Civic and Ethical Engagement*: You will demonstrate awareness of ethical considerations relating to specific societal problems, values or practices (whether historical or contemporary, global or local) and learn to articulate possible solutions to prominent challenges facing societies and institutions today so as to become an engaged actor across various levels of our interconnected world.

Course Outline

Class Schedule

I. Introduction to the discipline

Week 1

September 24 – Introduction to Anthropology, ethnography and fieldwork and where to find everything.....

Week 2

September 28 - Defining the field of Anthropology

Reading: Ebook. Thomas Hylland Eriksen *What is Anthropology*. Pp. 1-11 and Ch. 1 in *Small Places, Large Issues an Introduction to Social and Cultural Anthropology*

Podcast: From Savage to Self: Anthropology is Born (BBC podcast)

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b06ybg7y>

October 1st – Culture

Reading: Ebook. Thomas Hylland Eriksen *What is Anthropology*. Pp. 26-30

Week 3

October 5th – The historical roots and gradual transformation of the discipline

Reading: Ebook. Thomas Hylland Eriksen *Small Places, Large Issues an Introduction to Social and Cultural Anthropology* Ch. 2

View a movie: Human Zoos. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nY6Zrol5QEk>

Podcast: From Savage to Self: The Colonial Encounter (BBC podcast)

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b06zdjvc>

October 8th – Ethnographic field work

Reading:

- Article Marjorie Shostak “*Nisa – The Life and Words of a !Kung women*” and
- Article Sara Delamont “*Ethnography and Participatory Observation*”

October 10th - MUSEUM VISIT – QUAI BRANLY

Groups 1. 10:00 am – 11:30 and Group 2. 11:30 – 13:00

- Points Témoins
- La Boite a Histoire

Week 4

October 12th - Ethics of conducting fieldwork

Reading: American Association of Anthropology code of conduct

Movie: “Primates like us” on Library website. Database: Academic online video premier.

http://proxy.aup.fr/login?url=https://search.alexanderstreet.com/view/work/bibliographic_entity%7Cvideo_work%7C3227781?account_id=40507&usage_group_id=57947

October 15th - Observations, interviews and writing fieldnotes.

Reading: Articles Hammersely and Atkinson “*Insider accounts: listening and asking questions*”

Recommended: Article – Emerson et al “Fieldnotes in Ethnographic Research”

Podcast: From Savage to Self: Participating and Observing (BBC podcast)

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b06zdkb7>

II Fields of study

Week 5

October 19th – The Social Person and society

Reading: Ebook. Hylland Eriksen. *Small Places, Large Issues an Introduction to Social and Cultural Anthropology* Ch.4 and 6

October 22th – Social identity

Reading: Thomas Hylland Eriksen *What is Anthropology* Ch. 9

Karl Petzer “*Personality and Person Perception in Africa*”

Podcast: From Savage to Self: Coming of Age (BBC podcast)

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b06zdkdv>

Week 6

October 26th - Race and ethnicity

Reading:

- Article Jack David Eller *Cultural Anthropology - Global Forces Local Lives* Ch. 6.
- Article, Robin Diangelo White Fragility, Ch. 2 and 4

October 29th – Midterm

Possible visit to the Quai Branly

Week 7

November 2st – Kinship and descent

Reading: Ebook. Hylland Eriksen. *Small Places, Large Issues an Introduction to Social and Cultural Anthropology* Ch.7 and Ch.8

- Find an article on kinship systems around the world

November 5th - Gender

Reading: Ebook. Hylland Eriksen. *Small Places, Large Issues an Introduction to Social and Cultural Anthropology* Ch .9

- Article. Gayatri Reddy “With Respect to Sex” Ch. 5

Video AUP database: BBC Correspondant, Dowry Law. https://search-alexanderstreet-com.proxy.aup.fr/view/work/bibliographic_entity%7Cvideo_work%7C2109258

Week 8

November 9th – Class cancelled

Fall Break – November 11-13

Week 8

Novembre 16th - Politics social order and social control

Reading: Ebook. Hylland Eriksen. *Small Places, Large Issues an Introduction to Social and Cultural Anthropology* Ch.11

November 19th – Exchange and Consumption

Reading: Ebook. Hylland Eriksen. *Small Places, Large Issues an Introduction to Social and Cultural Anthropology* Ch. 12 and 13

Week 9

November 23rd - Religion

Reading: : Ebook. Hylland Eriksen. *Small Places, Large Issues an Introduction to Social and Cultural Anthropology* Ch. 14

Youtube: The Tibetan book of the dead <http://www.faena.com/aleph/articles/leonard-cohen-narrates-the-history-of-the-tibetan-book-of-the-dead/>

November 27th - Language

Reading: : Ebook. Hylland Eriksen. *Small Places, Large Issues an Introduction to Social and Cultural Anthropology* Ch. 15

III GLOBALIZATION AND CULTURAL CHANGE

Week 10

November 30th - Cultural dynamics of change and globalization

Reading: : Ebook. Hylland Eriksen. *Small Places, Large Issues an Introduction to Social and Cultural Anthropology* Ch. 16

- Article Jack David Eller " *Cultural Anthropology - Global Forces Local Lives*" Ch.11

December 3rd – Ethnicity and minorities

Reading: Ebook. Hylland Eriksen. *Small Places, Large Issues an Introduction to Social and Cultural Anthropology* Ch. 17 and 18

Week 11

December 7th – Embodied Anthropology and Migration

Reading: Article *Fresh Fruit, Broken Bodies: Migrant Farmworkers in the USA*, Ch 1 and Ch.2

Podcast: From Savage to Self: Anthropology Gets Practical:
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b06zh55v>

December 10th – Us and Them today – Systems of oppression and white savior complex

Reading: Article Jack David Eller " *Cultural Anthropology - Global Forces Local Lives* Ch 11

Movie: Darwins Nightmare

Textbooks

This course doesn't have any textbook.

Attendance Policy

Attendance and Absence Policy: Students at the American University of Paris are expected to attend all sessions. Certain absences may, however be excused. Excused absences fall into two categories: sickness or unforeseen emergency, and university –sponsored activities such as study trips. When a student misses class, he or she must present an excuse to the teacher. If three consecutive classes are missed, however the student must go to the Student Affairs Office to present third-party verification in order for the absence to be excused. In all cases the responsibility for making up missed work rests solely with the student. However, the instructor may recommend administrative withdrawal of a student whose absences, excused or not, have made it impossible to continue in the course at a satisfactory level. In the case of excessive absences, it is up to the professor or the department to decide if the student will receive an "F"

for the course. Attendance at all exams is mandatory. Students must be mindful of this policy when making their travel arrangements, and especially during the drop/add and exam periods.

Covid-19 temporary amendments: *Students studying at The American University of Paris are STILL EXPECTED TO ATTEND ALL scheduled classes. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, students will have the option of attending classes remotely when special circumstances apply. For example when students are placed under quarantine by the French authorities or by their doctor, or when students present symptoms of Covid-19 and are directed, by their doctor or the AUP Health Office, to remain home. It is still the student's responsibility to be aware of any specific attendance policy that their professor might have set in the course syllabus. In particular, Students attending remotely from distant Time Zones should check with their professors about the specific attendance policy for remote learners.*

Assignments. Students are expected to complete course assignments on time. Failure to do so may lead to deduction of a grade point for each day the project or essay is late. (For example an A- will result in a B+ if handed in 24 hours late) **Do not send work by e-mail.** Work is to be handed in personally or left in my mail box, preferably with a time/date stamp from the building receptionist. If you are unable to hand in your assignment in time please see me before hand so that I can discuss the issue with you.

Note concerning Email etiquette.

- Please know that I generally do not respond to emails during the weekend or on weekdays after 17:00. In other words, writing to me at 10 pm on Sunday evening to ask a question about an assignment due in class the next day is not acceptable does NOT excuse you from completing that assignment on time.
- Please look at the syllabus before you send me an email. If the information is accessible on the syllabus I reserve the right to not respond to the email
- We see each other twice a week. So for routine questions, please ask me before or after class.
- For confidential questions such as your grade, please be aware I will not answer over email. Please schedule an appointment to discuss sensitive issues.

Plagiarism. All forms of copying are strictly forbidden and may lead to a failing grade for the course. Students are expected to express their thoughts and ideas in their own words. They are also expected to use appropriate methods of quotation, with full references, when others' ideas,

words or data are used.

English Language Proficiency Statement: As an Anglophone university, The American University of Paris is strongly committed to effective English language mastery at the undergraduate level. Most courses require scholarly research and formal written and oral presentations in English, and AUP students are expected to strive to achieve excellence in these domains as part of their course work. To that end, professors include English proficiency among the criteria in student evaluation, often referring students to the university Writing Lab where they may obtain help on specific academic assignments. Proficiency in English is monitored at various points throughout the student's academic career, most notably during the admissions and advising processes, while the student is completing general education requirements, and during the accomplishment of degree program courses and senior theses.

Grading Policy

Assignments and grading policy

Participation and class attendance	10 %
------------------------------------	------

Active participation and class attendance is required for this class. Students are expected to have completed the assigned reading, podcasts or videos before coming to class and contribute to class discussions through the use of individual class notebooks. Each reading is indicated in the syllabus. Students will be each keep a **notebook** to indicate their participation and contribution to the class.

Research project on anthropologist. Visual map + oral presentation	15%
--	-----

1. Each student will choose an important figure into the field of anthropology. You will be expected to produce a biography, a bibliography and a short description of his/her contribution to the field. (5%)
2. In addition each students will read a book or 2-3 academic articles by the author and which they are expected to review and present in class. (10%)

Field Experience (8 - 10 pages) + oral presentation 25%

Through participatory observation and informal interviews you are expected to gather information concerning the importance and the traditions associated with café culture in Paris. Each student has to keep a note book within which they are expected to record their observations. There should be at least 6 entries in each notebook and the students are expected to refer to the literature/course. At least one of the journal entries needs to be conducted in a different café in order to provide a comparative element. As part of your assignment you will be asked to "analyze" your finding by using one of the concepts/theories found in anthropology.

Midterm 25%

The midterm exam will be given in class on the 27th of October and will cover the material covered between the 23rd of September and the 27th of October. Students will collaboratively construct the midterm, using course literature, case studies and other resources to test their knowledge of the field. Together students will develop questions and the format of the exam. The midterm will test students' comprehension of the central concepts and terms used in anthropology and their ability to critically apply this knowledge to contemporary issues. The midterm consists of short answer questions and a couple of essay questions.

Final Exam 25%

The final will be an open book take home exam that will test the students' ability to apply anthropological perspectives to the contemporary field of globalization, social change and development. Students will be expected to reflect on how anthropology can be applied to contemporary issues.

Grading Scale:

100 = A+	74 – 76 = C
94 – 99 = A	70 – 73 = C-
90 – 93 = A-	67 – 69 = D+
87 – 89 = B+	64 – 68 = D

84 – 86 = B

60 – 63 = D-

80 – 83 = B-

59 and below = F

77 – 79 = C+

“A” papers will generally demonstrate **excellent comprehension** of key concepts and application of these concepts to an insightful discussion of the data, **clear written organization** (i.e. clear main idea, logical progression of ideas, good use of transitions, a clear introduction main body and conclusion) and a **clean written style** (spell- and grammar checked, sentences that are syntactically clear to the professor, name and page numbers at the top of each page). “B” papers will be lacking in one of these 3 areas. “C” papers will be lacking in two of these 3 areas. “D” or “F” papers will be lacking in all three.

Assignments. Students are expected to complete course assignments on time. Failure to do so may lead to deduction of a grade point for each day the project or essay is late. (For example an A- will result in a B+ if handed in 24 hours late) **Do not send work by e-mail.** Work is to be handed in personally or left in my mail box, preferably with a time/date stamp from the building receptionist. If you are unable to hand in your assignment in time please see me before hand so that I can discuss the issue with you.

Other
