

**Anthropology 102-1760 Cultural Anthropology**  
**6:00pm – 9:00pm Tuesday**  
**ColHS-A243**

**Tommi L. White, M.A.**  
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**Office Hours:** TR 12:15p.m. – 1:15p.m. HWSC Rm 54 and as arranged.

**Required Reading:**

- 1) *Humanity: An Introduction to Cultural Anthropology*, 7<sup>th</sup> edition. Peoples, James & Garrick Bailey. 2006. ISBN: 978-0-534-64643-1
- 2) *Anthropology 09/10*, 18<sup>th</sup> edition. Angeloni. 2009. ISBN: 978-0-07-339783-2 (Note: Older editions okay provided they have the appropriate articles. Check TOCs against syllabus.)
- 3) *The Forest People*. Turnbull. 1962. ISBN: 978-0-671-64099-6.
- 4) *Yanomamo*, 5<sup>th</sup> edition. Chagnon. 1997. ISBN: 978-0-15-505327-4

I urge students to search online for used copies of the above to help alleviate the cost of your books. If an older reader lacks a required article I will place the article on Reserve.

**Course Objectives and Prospectus:**

Cultural anthropology is the study of human social behavior. Cultural anthropologists study behaviors around the world, from band level societies of 15 to 50 people, to the behaviors of sub-cultures in large nation-states, such as our own. In this course, we will cover a basic introduction to the study of cultural anthropology; we will look at the leading figures in the field, their theories and contributions, methods of research, modern theoretical debates, modern issues that anthropologists are uniquely trained to address and current issues that anthropologists are divided over, such as extreme female circumcision (infibulation), and the impact upon such practices and the discipline of anthropology by the development of universal human rights.

We will look at the unique methodology employed by cultural anthropologists to gather information on human behaviors. Cultural anthropology has been called the “hardest of the soft sciences” as we do not have the luxury of putting behaviors under a microscope and must combine soft and empirical methodologies to ensure our studies are as accurate as possible.

We will look at the application of anthropology to a wide variety of modern issues, such as improving health care for infants or lowering infant death rates by merging western medicine (allopathy) and native beliefs; the effects of changing the work week to help ease economic strife; and we will address other applications to the fields of economics, medicine, political science and education to name but a few.

**Course Schedule / Reading Assignments:**

I have listed topics for each week of the semester, along with exam dates and the term paper due date. I will assume, with the exception of the first week, that you will have read the scheduled readings ahead of class and will be prepared to participate in any class discussion on the readings assigned. **Any changes to the schedule will be announced both in class and on Blackboard. Homework assignments will also be found on Blackboard.** Please note that on the night of Exam 1 a film will be offered during the first portion of class and then the exam provided after a short break, so that you need not return to class after completing the exam. **The following schedule is tentative & may change. We will not read Ch. 7 of the text. Readings are not entirely in order as presented in the books, & text readings for 10/20 & 11/10 are doubled.**

Week 1	8/25	Introduction; Subfields, Relativism; Film: Warriors of the Amazon (Yanomamo)	<b>Read for this week:</b> Peoples, Ch. 1.
Week 2	9/1	Aspects of Culture; Definition of Culture; Film: American Tongues.	<b>Read for this week:</b> Peoples, Ch. 2; Turnbull, Foreword, Ch. 1; Angeloni: Article 2: Eating Christmas in the Kalahari; Article 29: Body Ritual Among the Nacirema.
Week 3	9/8	Culture & Language; Begin: Development of Anthropological Thought.	<b>Read for this week:</b> Peoples, Ch. 3; Turnbull Ch. 2; Chagnon, Prologue, Ch. 1. Angeloni: Article 6: Do You Speak American?; Article 9: Shakespeare in the Bush.
Week 4	9/15	Theories & Methodology; Stereotyping; Culture Shock.	<b>Read for this week:</b> Peoples Ch. 4, Turnbull Ch. 3; Chagnon Ch. 2, pp. 45–59 & pp. 71-91
Week 5	9/22	Theories & Methodology continued; Film: Dead Birds;	<b>Read for this week:</b> Peoples Ch. 5; Turnbull Ch. 4; Chagnon Ch. 6. Angeloni article 3: Tricking & Tripping. Angeloni article 16: Death Without Weeping.
Week 6	9/29	Subsistence: Understanding human adaptation; Food acquisition & production. <b>Review</b>	<b>Read for this week:</b> Peoples Ch. 6; Turnbull, Ch. 5; Chagnon Ch. 2, pp. 60–70 & pp. 91-97. & Ch. 5; Angeloni article 12: Ties that Bind; 31: Why Can't People Feed Themselves?
Week 7	<b>10/6</b>	Film: Hidden Faces; <b>EXAM 1:</b> Covering all lectures, readings, h/w assignments & films.	<b>No homework assignments due this week.</b>
Week 8	10/13	Exam Return; Social Inequality & Stratification; Leveling Mechanisms. Film: Dadi's Family.	<b>Read for this week:</b> Peoples Ch.13; Turnbull Ch. 9; Chagnon Ch. 4.; Angeloni: articles 14: Sick of Poverty & 23: Eyes of the Ngangas.
Week 9	10/20	Marriage & Families; Kinship & Descent	<b>Read for this week:</b> Peoples Ch. 8 & 9; Turnbull Chs. 10 & 11; Angeloni articles: 15: When Brothers Share a Wife; 17: Arranging a Marriage in India. <b>Kinship assignment due.</b>
Week 10	10/27	Religion & Worldview; Film: Holy Ghost People	<b>Read for this week:</b> Peoples Ch. 14. Turnbull Ch. 8 & 12; Chagnon Ch. 3.; Angeloni articles: 25: Citizen, Heal Thyself; & 30: Baseball Magic
Week 11	11/3	Religion continued: Revitalization Movements; Film: TBA	<b>No readings for this week.</b>
Week 12	11/10	Enculturation & the Life Cycle, Gender in Comparative Perspective.	<b>Read for this week:</b> Peoples Ch. 10 & 11.; Angeloni article 19: The Berdache Tradition.
Week 13	11/17	Art & Aesthetics	<b>Read for this week:</b> Peoples Ch. 15.
Week	<b>11/24</b>	<b>Thanksgiving Holiday No classes</b>	

14		<b>11/23-11/29</b>	
Week 15	12/1	Globalization	<b>Read for this week:</b> Peoples Ch.16; Turnbull Ch. 15; Chagnon, Ch. 8.
Week 16	12/8	<b>Last day of class. Term paper due at start of class. Ethnicity &amp; Ethnic Conflict. Final Review</b>	<b>Read for this week:</b> Peoples Ch. 17
Week 17	<b>12/15</b>	<b>FINAL EXAM 6:00PM – 8:00PM.</b> Covers: Lectures; all assigned readings, homework articles & films since Exam 1. (Not comprehensive)	

### Grading:

I do **not** grade on a curve. You receive the grade you earn. There are 500 points possible in this class between the homework assignments, paper, exams and attendance. There will also be one bonus assignment worth 10 points. In this class there will be:

- Two (2) closed book exams at 100 points each (including the Final Exam).
- Fifteen (15) homework assignments of one paragraph to one page in length each, worth 10 points for a total of 150 points.
- One Term Paper on any topic covered in class or a topic of your choice with instructor approval worth 100 points.
- Attendance will be tabulated each class for a semester total of 30 possible points.
- One Kinship diagram valued at 10 points.
- **Bonus points:** Up to 10 points possible as follows:
  1. You may complete a one paragraph to one page response on ghost beliefs or superstition as provided by your professor. **OR:**
  2. You may complete one additional article analysis from the Angeloni reader. The article must not be included in the articles covered in the homework assignments.

### Grading System: Scoring system of 500 points:

500 – 485 = A+	449 – 435 = B+	399 – 385 = C+	349 – 335 = D+
484 – 465 = A	434 – 415 = B	384 – 365 = C	334 – 315 = D
464 – 450 = A-	414 – 400 = B-	364 – 350 = C-	314 – 300 = D-

299 & below = F

Assignments will be explained separately, and will also be posted on Blackboard. I am always available for questions before or after class. In addition to my office hours this semester, meeting times can be arranged in advance, and I am always available via e-mail at [tommiwhite@u.boisestate.edu](mailto:tommiwhite@u.boisestate.edu)

### Core Learning Outcomes:

#### Critical Thinking / Problem Solving:

- ✓ Apply and evaluate a variety of strategies for solving a problem; how to explain diversity and continuity (origin and causes of marriage, religion, superstition, warfare)
- ✓ Understand that a variety of strategies for solving a problem may exist (How do various cultures handle overpopulation?)
- ✓ Analyze quantitative information (e.g., numerical data, charts, graphs, or tables) to understand diversity and similarities in behavior

- ✓ Analyze qualitative data (e.g., symbols, texts, artifacts or behaviors) to understand diversity and similarities in behavior
- ✓ Identify assumptions or hypotheses embedded in arguments.

#### **Communication Skills:**

- ✓ Interpret written materials
- ✓ Write clearly for specific purposes through class papers, both synoptic and experiential
- ✓ Employ speaking and listening skills effectively in interactions with others via participation in class discussions and Q&A
- ✓ Use information sources appropriately in oral and written communication (MLA, APA, and American Anthropologist)

#### **Cultural Perspective:**

- ✓ Compare the distinguishing characteristics of your own culture to those of other cultures (i.e., American individualism vs. group centered behaviors of other cultures)
- ✓ Use an understanding of another culture as a lens to understand your own cultural perspectives
- ✓ Compare the creative accomplishments valued by another culture to those of your own culture
- ✓ Recognize the rights and responsibilities of active citizenship and that those rights may differ in various cultures

#### **Breadth of Knowledge and Intellectual Perspective:**

- ✓ Demonstrate an understanding of the essential concepts underlying theories in the field
- ✓ Apply theories to typical problems in the field
- ✓ Demonstrate an understanding of the basic methods of inquiry used in this field
- ✓ Identify important issues for which a diversity of interpretation between experts in the field exists

#### **General Decorum:**

**Attendance:** You are responsible for attending lectures and exams. Attendance will be scored, and may affect your grade, however and of greater importance, exams focus not only on reading materials, but also on films and lectures presented in class. It is to your benefit to attend. Attendance will also enable you to take full advantage of Blackboard, on which I will post announcements, study guides and other pertinent information to help you succeed.

**Missed Exams:** Exams must be taken as scheduled except in cases of extreme emergency. If you have an emergency and miss an exam, please notify me as soon as possible so that I may prepare a make-up exam. Due to time constraints, I cannot provide make-up exams for the Final. If you know you will miss the Final Exam, please notify me beforehand so that other arrangements may be made.

**Academic Dishonesty:** Academic dishonesty defrauds all those who depend upon the integrity of the University, its courses, its degrees, and its certificates. Students are expected to behave ethically as outlined in the Student Code of Conduct. **Violations of this policy include cheating and plagiarism. Cheating:** will result in an “F” for that exam. **Plagiarism:** will result in an “F” for flagrant violations, possible “F” in the course, and potential further action by the university.

**Standards of Student Conduct: The student has the right and responsibility to exercise the freedom to learn.** The student is expected to conduct him/herself in accordance with the

standards of Boise State University that are designed to perpetuate its educational purposes. What this means is: no disruptive behavior in the classroom. No talking over the instructor. No talking during films (laughing, when appropriate, is okay, but please remember that other students are trying to watch the film and may not appreciate additional commentary). Remember that you and your classmates are paying quite a bit for your education.

**Students with disabilities:** If you have a documented disability that may require assistance, you will need to contact the Disabled Student Services. I cannot do this on your behalf.

**Finally...two personal pet peeves:**

1. **DO NOT, AT ANY TIME** bring cell phones, pagers or other electronic devices into my classroom. EXCEPTIONS: a) when you are required by your employer to carry such a device; or b) when there are potential home emergencies. Please inform me if you meet these conditions. If you do not fit into either category, you will be expected to turn it off immediately **without answering**. If it happens a second time, you will be asked to leave the room and not be allowed to return for the remainder of the class period. Such devices, although very convenient, can be horribly distracting in a classroom setting, and therefore, cannot be tolerated.
2. Please do not ask to use the restroom during an exam. You will generally not need the entire exam period to complete an exam, and unless you are ill or pregnant, I expect you to take care of these needs prior to the start of the exam.

**WARNING:** Some films or film clips presented in this class contain violence against humans or animals, animal sacrifices, nudity and/or coarse language. Viewer discretion is advised.