

**Anthropology 4701.002**  
**Psychological Anthropology – Fall 2015**  
**TR 3:30 PM – 4:50 PM, Wooten Hall 114**

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Office hrs: Wednesdays 1:00-3:00 PM; Thursdays 11:30-1:30 PM, or by appointment

**REQUIRED BOOKS AND ARTICLES**

- Philip K. Bock, 1999, *Rethinking Psychological Anthropology: Continuity and Change in the Study of Human Action*, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition. Long Grove, IL: Waveland Press (referred to as “Bock”)
- Watters, Ian, 2011. *Crazy Like Us: The Globalization of the American Psyche*. New York: Free Press. (referred to as “Watters”)
- **Articles and Chapters:** There will be selections from a variety of other sources. All selections will be on <https://learn.unt.edu> organized alphabetically in the readings folder located on the Homepage.

**COMMUNICATING WITH YOU**

I will be sending email messages to the class or to individuals in it, and **I will be using your “my.unt” email address.** If you prefer a different email address for your primary email account, I strongly suggest that you forward your “my.unt” email to that account.

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

**POINTS**

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| • <b>Midterm</b>   | 150 |
| • <b>Papers</b> (Three, each 5-7 pages) @250pts.           | 750 |
| • <b>In class exercises</b> – best 5 out of ????? @20 pts. | 100 |

Total possible = 1000 points

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This class is an exploration of topics in psychological anthropology, but what IS psychological anthropology in the first place? Is it the study of cultural ideas about the processes and functions of the human mind? OR, does it study the question of the relationship between what are *conventionally* defined as psychological processes and culture, broadly defined? To what extent do neurobiology and genetics come into play in this discussion? Age-old questions come into play here, starting with questions philosophers from all corners of the globe have asked about human nature. I have organized a set of readings each week to cover a specific question. My goal is not to provide *definitive* answers to these questions but rather to examine various *approaches* to answering them. The topics are wide-ranging but not comprehensive; rather, they constitute a set of ideas that have persistently piqued my own interests.

**Show up ... Find Support ... Take Control ... Be Prepared ... Get Involved ... Be Persistent**

**COURSE OBJECTIVES – By the end of this class you will:**

- Understand the origins of psychological anthropology
- KNOW leading theorists/contributors to the field of psychological anthropology and be able to distinguish between their varying approaches
- Be able to identify and critique methods of psychological anthropological research
- Be more aware of assumptions you and others may have about the relationship between mind, culture and behavior in everyday life – in media, in books, in movies, etc.

**Weekly Topics and Reading Assignments -2015**

Aug 25, 27: Organizing; philosophical underpinnings of psychological anthropology

- <http://www.carroll.edu/msmillie/philhumbeing/theorieshumannature.htm>

Sept 1, 3: The psychology of “primitive” people

- Bock, Chapter 1

Sept 8, 10: What’s Freud got to do with it?

- Bock, Chapter 2
- Kluckhohn, 1956 (BB)

Sept 15, 17: Freud’s Continuing Influence

- Fox, 1994 (BB)
  - Bock, pp. 149-156
- Please remind me to hand out/post the prompt for Paper #1*

Sept 22, 24: What is the relationship between culture and personality?

- Bock, chapter 3
- **Paper #1 must be uploaded to BB by 11:59 PM, Friday, September 25**

Sept 29, Oct. 1: “National Character?”

- Bock, chapter 5
- Mead, “Swaddling” (BB)

Oct 6, 8: The criticisms of the culture and personality school

- Bock, Interlude, pp. 109-116
- Wallace, “The Cultural Distribution of Personality Characteristics” (BB)

Oct 13, 15: Catch-up, review and midterm

- October 13 – Come to class with questions!!!
- **October 15 – In-Class, Open Book Examination**

Oct 20, 22: Shamanism

- Bock, Chapter 11
- *Please remind me to hand out/post the prompt for Paper #2*

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Oct 27, 29: “Total Human” – biology, psychology, culture are intertwined

- Mahler, Chapter 3 (BB)
- Whiting 2010 (BB)
- Bock, chapter 13, skim

Nov 3, 5: Mental Illness – Local or Global?

- Watters, Introduction and Chapter 1
- **Paper #2 must be uploaded to BB by 11:59 PM, Friday, November 6**

Nov 10, 12: PTSD?

- Watters, Chapter 2
- Collura & Lende 2012 (BB)
- Pennebaker (BB)

Nov 17, 19: Schizophrenia: Universal Diagnosis/Universal Cure?

- Watters, Chapter 3
- *Please remind me to hand out/post the prompt for Paper #3*

Nov 24: Globalization and Depression, Part I

- Watters, chapter 4

Dec 1, 3: Globalization and Depression, Part II

- Wilce, chapter in Social and Cultural Lives of Immune Systems (BB)
- Watters, Conclusion
- **Paper #3 must be uploaded to BB by 11:59 PM, Monday, December 7**

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