

ANTHROPOLOGY 2150
WORLD CULTURES
FALL 2005
Tues. /Thurs., 9:30-10:50, GAB 104

Instructor: Beverly Ann Davenport, PhD, MSPH
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Office Hours: Wednesdays, 2:45-5:00 or by appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Content: This course introduces students to the diversity and complexity of human life across geographic space in the modern world. Both historical and modern cultures will be discussed and considered with respect to the interdependent world of today. You will develop an understanding of the different economic survival strategies and patterns of social organization that humans at varying social scales have developed in the context of their environments. Concepts such as colonization, imperialism, globalization and indigenous rights will be discussed through theoretical and ethnographic material in the latter half of the course.

Learning Objectives: Learning is a process of exercising your curiosity muscles. By the end of this class, I expect that you will have mastered the basic vocabulary and key terms of cultural anthropology, as well as the major points in the content areas I will present. I also expect to help you develop as scholars – to learn how to take notes in class, to read critically, to evaluate the texts that you read by asking questions of yourself and the material (at a minimum, this means having a dictionary by your side to look up words you don't understand). All of these activities will facilitate greater understanding. This is not a passive process – it requires your active engagement. Your mastery of the course content as demonstrated on exams and papers will undoubtedly reflect your increasing mastery of these scholarly skills.

Please know that I understand that students come from a variety of backgrounds and ALL have strengths AND weaknesses. If you have any questions or feel unsure about any class material, come see me after class or during office hours. Don't wait, don't be shy! We will work together to find a solution. It is better to come in sooner than later – don't wait until the end of the semester. This is another scholarly skill I am trying to encourage in you and me – **start early, do some coursework most days** – these deceptively simple tips will help you to avoid the deadly effects of procrastination.

REQUIRED TEXT:

Bodley, John H.
2005 **Cultural Anthropology: Tribes, States, and the Global System, 4th edition.** New York: McGraw-Hill Higher Education.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

This is a very large class and except at the beginning of the semester when I have to hand in paperwork to the Registrar's Office, I will not be taking formal attendance. The course is organized around the required text, but **lectures will not simply follow the text**. There will be an array of supplemental material and activities offered during class time, including a number of short movies, the content of which will be covered in exam questions. Therefore, **students who intend to do well in this class are advised to attend class regularly**. If you have to miss class, handouts will be posted on the WebCT/VISTA course website that I will be using to communicate with the class as a whole. You will receive more information about WebCT/VISTA shortly.

CLASSROOM COMMUNITY

I would like to incorporate discussion to the extent possible. In order for discussions to be most useful, I expect you to **complete the reading assignments BEFORE class**. I encourage you to ask questions and make comments, or email me questions (if that makes you more comfortable) which I will address at the next available class time. There is no such thing as a stupid question. *The only thing that is stupid is NOT TO ASK a question when you have one.*

Cell phones, pagers, and text messaging systems must be OFF during class. No exceptions, not even for me.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Exams: There will be two midterms and a final examination. The format will be a combination of objective questions (multiple choice, matching, true/false) and short answer and essay questions, with material coming from assigned readings, movies shown in class, class discussion and class lectures. The final will be comprehensive, but will stress materials from the second half of the course. **The dates of exams are listed in the course outline.**

Writing Assignments: [NOTE: Please read carefully the Department of Anthropology Plagiarism Policy (see below)]:

Students will write four short papers on world current events that relate to material or ideas presented in the class. Articles can be selected from a local paper, a national paper, or a major magazine, but it must be a story about a country other than the United States, and it must have a "cultural" slant. Suggested sources for articles include the *Dallas Morning News*, the *Fort Worth Star-Telegram*, the *New York Times*, the *Los Angeles Times*, *The Economist (magazine)*, and *National Geographic (magazine)*. You may also read an article from a reputable source on the web, for example, Reuters (<http://today.reuters.com/news/> – the International, Science, Health, and World Crises sublinks often have relevant and interesting articles) or OneWorld.net.

Papers should be 500-750 words (there are approximately 250 words on a typed, double-spaced page using 12 pt. font). Please put your name on the paper, with the pages stapled (no folders, please) and paper-clip a copy of the article you selected to the paper. Papers

must be handed in on the day they are due – physical copies only, no email versions. **No late papers will be accepted.**

Each paper must include the following:

- 1) Properly formatted bibliographic information on the article.
- 2) Why you selected this article and how it pertains to the topical material in this class.
- 3) A brief summary of the content, highlighting three key points the article makes.
- 4) At least two questions that this article raises for you that make you want to learn more about the topic.

For more information on writing papers, including how to avoid plagiarism and how to use citations, see the Department of Anthropology's Writing Guide at <http://www.unt.edu/anthropology/writing.htm>.

Plagiarism Policy: The Department of Anthropology does not tolerate plagiarism or any other form of academic dishonesty. Students suspected of academic dishonesty will be given a hearing in which they are informed of the charges. Clear evidence in support of the charge will merit failure in the course. For more information on the university's policies regarding academic integrity and dishonesty, see the Center for Student Rights and Responsibilities at <http://www.unt.edu/csrr/>. Plagiarism is defined as misrepresenting the work of others (whether published or not) as your own. It may be inadvertent or intentional. You should always provide references for any facts, statistics, quotations, or paraphrasing of information that are not common knowledge.

STUDENT EVALUATION

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|-------------------------|-----|
| Midterm Exam #1 | 15% |
| Midterm Exam #2 | 15% |
| Final Examination | 30% |
| Papers (each worth 10%) | 40% |

COURSE SCHEDULE AND READING ASSIGNMENTS

Tuesday, August 30

Course organization and introduction to the topic
No assigned reading

Thursday, September 1

Topic(s): Key terms: what is culture?
Assigned reading: Bodley, Chapter 1, pp. 3-17.

Tuesday, September 6

Topic(s): Introduction to culture scale; foragers; Australian Aborigines; Dreaming
Assigned Reading: Bodley, Ch. 1, pp. 18-29
Bodley, Ch. 2, pp. 32-44

Thursday, September 8

Topic(s): Foraging technology; kinship

Assigned Reading: Bodley, Ch. 2, pp. 45-62

Tuesday, September 13

Topic(s): Horticulture; Amazonia

Assigned Reading: Bodley, Ch. 3, pp. 63-82

Thursday, September 15

Topic(s): Yanomami/Ethics in Anthropology

Assigned Reading: Bodley, Ch. 3, pp. 83-96

Tuesday, September 20

Topic(s): Pastoralism; East Africa

Assigned Reading: Bodley, Ch. 4, pp. 99-115

Thursday, September 22

FIRST PAPER ASSIGNMENT DUE

Topic(s): Kinship and Descent Groups/Political Organization/Belief Systems in East African Pastoralist context; Introduction to Body/Mind/Soul – The quality of tribal life

Assigned Reading: Bodley, Ch. 4, pp.115-131 (Pastoralists) and Ch. 5, pp. 134-146

Tuesday, September 27

Topic(s): Body/Mind/Soul – The quality of tribal life, continued.

LAST HALF-HOUR – Review for Midterm – COME TO CLASS WITH QUESTIONS

Assigned Reading: Bodley, Ch. 5, pp. 151-160

Thursday, September 29

MIDTERM EXAMINATION #1

Tuesday, October 4

Topic(s): Pacific Islanders/Oceania

Assigned Reading: Bodley, Ch. 6, pp. 166-177

Thursday, October 6

Topic(s): Political transformations: Chiefdoms in Polynesia

Assigned Reading: Bodley, Ch. 6, pp. 178-200.

Tuesday, October 11

Topic(s): Introduction to state formation: ancient empire of Mesopotamia

Assigned Reading: Bodley, Ch. 7, pp. 203-229

Thursday, October 13

Topic(s): Ancient Inca

Assigned Reading: Bodley, Ch. 7, pp. 230-247

Tuesday, October 18

Topic(s): South Asian Great Traditions - Introduction
Assigned Reading: Bodley, Ch. 9, pp. 280-295

Thursday, October 20
SECOND PAPER ASSIGNMENT DUE

Topic(s): South Asian Great Traditions - continued
Assigned Reading: Bodley, Ch. 9, pp. 296-315

Tuesday, October 25

Topic(s): Historical examples of state decline
Assigned Reading: Bodley, Ch. 10, pp. 317-336

Thursday, October 27

Topic(s): Introduction to the Commercial Scale
Assigned Reading: Bodley, Ch. 11, pp. 340-352
LAST HALF-HOUR – REVIEW FOR MIDTERM – COME TO CLASS WITH QUESTIONS

Tuesday, November 1

MIDTERM #2 (covers material through Bodley, Chapter 10)

Thursday, November 3

Topic(s): Origins and rise of capitalism in the European setting; example of British Industrial Revolution
Assigned Reading: Bodley, Ch. 11, pp. 353-376

Tuesday, November 8

Topic(s): Capitalism in the U.S.
Assigned Reading: Bodley, Ch. 12, pp. 379-401

Thursday, November 10

Topic(s): Elites and Power
Assigned Reading: Bodley, Ch. 12, pp. 402-413

Tuesday, November 15

Topic(s): The Impoverished World – Daily Realities
Assigned Reading: Bodley, Ch. 13, pp. 417-426

Thursday, November 17
THIRD PAPER ASSIGNMENT DUE

Topic(s): Development and Growth
Assigned Reading: Bodley, Ch. 13, pp. 427-452

Tuesday, November 22

Topic(s): Indigenous People
Assigned Reading: Bodley, Ch. 14, pp. 455-469

Thursday, November 24

HAPPY THANKSGIVING!!

Tuesday, November 29

Topic(s): Indigenous People, continued

Assigned Reading: Bodley, Ch. 14, pp. 470-487

Thursday, December 1

NO CLASS – AAA meetings

Tuesday, December 6

FOURTH PAPER ASSIGNMENT DUE

Topic(s): Toward A Sustainable World

Assigned Reading: Bodley, Ch. 15, pp. 507-516

Thursday, December 8

REVIEW CLASS

Come prepared with questions about final exam

Tuesday, December 13

FINAL EXAMINATION (comprehensive)