

**ANTHROPOLOGY 2150 - WORLD CULTURES**  
**FALL 2009**  
**TR, 9:30-10:50, GAB 104**

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Office hrs: Tues. 11:00-12:00, Thurs. 11:00-12:00

### **REQUIRED TEXTS**

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

Reed, Richard  
2009 *Forest Dwellers, Forest Protectors: Indigenous Models for International Development, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition*. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson Education, Inc.

### **REQUIRED LAB FEE**

\$10.00 payable on line. This fee is associated with the Community Action Website Project in Anthropological Ethics (discussed below).

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES**

**Description:** This course uses the concepts of cultural anthropology to introduce students to the ways that humans have subsisted in three different cultural worlds: tribal, imperial, and commercial. This approach focuses on the interaction between people and their environments. Students discover the crucial role of social power in determining the forms that human cultures have taken over time right into the present. The end of the course focuses on capitalism as a cultural form and examines its impacts on indigenous groups in our increasingly interdependent world. Concepts such as colonialism and globalization are addressed through theoretical and ethnographic material in this course.

**Objectives:** By the end of the course, students will:

- Have mastered the basic vocabulary of cultural anthropology
- Be able to describe the research methods of cultural anthropology
- Be able to articulate key ethical considerations in anthropological research
- Be able to articulate definitions and distinguish between the three different cultural worlds defined in this class using specific material drawn from the case studies of groups presented in the textbook and in lectures
- Be able to articulate the varieties of ways that humans have adapted to address the challenges of their environments (physical and social)
- Be conscious of the profound impact colonialism and worldwide capitalism have had on every society on earth
- Understand the interconnectedness of our present world system

**How to Succeed in This Class:** Learning is a process of exercising your curiosity muscles. I want you to develop as scholars in the following ways:

- to learn how to take notes in class
- to read assigned material *actively* (at a minimum, this means having a dictionary by your side to look up words you don't understand)
- to develop the habit of reading course assignments **before** lectures to enhance your understanding of lectures
- to develop your critical thinking skills through short writing assignments

Diligently engaging in these activities will enhance your understanding of the course material. Your mastery of these scholarly skills will be reflected in your performance on exams and papers.

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 steps will help you to avoid the deadly effects of procrastination.

### **INFORMATION FOR STUDENTS SEEKING ADA ACCOMMODATION**

Please give me your official “Request for Accommodation” letter during the first week of class. Please plan to come to see me during my office hours (or make an appointment) as early in the semester as possible so that we can make sure that all reasonable steps are being taken to maximize your learning opportunities in the class.

### **BLACKBOARD VISTA**

These items are (or will be) posted on Blackboard Vista:

- Course syllabus
- Additional required and/or optional readings
- Calendar with important dates highlighted
- PowerPoint slides AFTER the day's lectures (please note, these are not a substitute for YOUR OWN notes)
- Grades when they become available
- Samples of exemplary papers (see “Additional Writing Assignments,” below, p. 4)
- Announcements as necessary throughout the term

### **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**.

## CLASSROOM COMMUNITY

I encourage you to ask questions during class, or email me questions (if that makes you more comfortable) which I will address at the next scheduled 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.*

*AS A COURTESY TO YOUR CLASSMATES AND ME, PLEASE TURN OFF YOUR CELL PHONES, PAGERS, AND TEXT MESSAGING SYSTEMS DURING CLASS.*

## STUDENT EVALUATION

	Percent	Points
Quizzes (best five out of seven)	15%	30 each; 150 total
Midterm Exam	15%	150
Final Examination	25%	250
Community Action Website Project	15%	150
Papers (each worth 15%)	30%	150 each; 300 total
<b>TOTAL POSSIBLE PTS:</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>1000 points</b>

Grades will be standard: 90% or higher = A, 80-89% = B, etc.

**1) Quizzes:** Seven short (about 10 minutes) quizzes will be given throughout the semester. Please note these dates on your syllabus. Questions will be based on material covered in previous two or three class sessions. Best five out of seven will count toward grade. Quiz will either be 10 “objective” questions (see Exams, below) or 1 “short answer essay” question.

→ **Quiz dates:** 9/8, 9/17, 9/29, 10/20, 10/29, 11/12, 11/24

**2) Exams:** There will be one midterm and a final examination. The format will be a combination of objective questions (multiple choice, matching, true/false, fill-in-the-blanks) and “short answer essay” questions. Assigned readings, movies shown in class, class discussion and class lectures are fair game for exam questions. The final will be comprehensive, but will stress materials from the last half of the course.

→ **Exam dates:** Midterm – 10/8, Final – 12/17 (at 8:00 AM note time)

**3) Participation in Community Action Website Project in Anthropological Ethics, November 2 - November 18:** Using the internet to draw students at various universities together into an intellectual community, the Community Action Website encourages students to consider ethical issues that lie at the interface of anthropology and the contemporary world. Participating in the Community Action Website project helps students improve both their critical thinking and writing skills.

Students pay a \$10 register fee to participate in the project. Once registered, students have full access to the website, a copy of the book used with the project, and all activities associated with the project. Twenty-five percent of the income accruing from the project is donated to a Brazilian Yanomami NGO.

**For this project, promptness in participating at each step is essential. Although there is some leeway, you will be better off if you complete steps promptly. You will receive 10 extra credit points (total of 30) for completing each step by 5 PM on the due dates (TBA). WHOLE Project must be completed in order to receive credit for this activity. There will be NO partial credit.**

**4) Two Papers:** All assignment details are posted on the course Blackboard page. Though assignments are slightly different, samples of well-written papers from last year's class are also posted there.

➔ **Paper due dates:** Paper #1 – Thursday, October 1; Paper #2 – Tuesday, December 8

**ANTHROPOLOGY DEPARTMENT  
STATEMENT ON PLAGIARISM**

Plagiarism is defined as misrepresenting the work of others (whether published or not) as your own. It may be inadvertent or intentional. For example, quoting or close paraphrasing of a text without citation of its source is a form of plagiarism. You should always provide references for any facts, statistics, quotations, or paraphrasing of information.

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/>.

**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>.**

**COURSE SCHEDULE AND READING ASSIGNMENTS**

**Thursday, August 27**

Course organization and introduction to the topic  
No assigned reading

**Tuesday, September 1**

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

**Thursday, September 3**

Topic(s): Introduction to culture scale  
Assigned Reading: Bodley, Ch. 1, pp. 18-30

**Tuesday, September 8 – QUIZ DAY #1**

Topic(s): Australian Aborigines; The Dreaming  
Bodley, Ch. 2, pp. 31-45

**Thursday, September 10 – Last day to drop class without needing instructor's permission**

Topic(s): Foraging technology; Kinship  
Assigned Reading: Bodley, Ch. 2, pp. 45-62

**Tuesday, September 15**

Topic(s): Conflict Management in Australian Aboriginal Culture  
Review all of Chapter 2, Bodley

**Thursday, September 17 – QUIZ DAY #2**

Topic(s): The Amazonian Rain Forest  
Assigned Reading: Bodley, Ch. 3, pp. 63-82; Reed, Chs. 1 (skim), pp. 1-20

**Tuesday, September 22**

Topic(s): Subsistence Practices and Social Power in Amazonia

Assigned Reading: Bodley, Ch. 3, pp. 76-88; Reed, Chs. 2 and 3, pp. 21-56

**Thursday, September 24**

Topic(s): Conflict Management in Amazonia; Anthropological Ethics

Assigned Reading: Bodley, Ch. 3, pp. 89-97

**Tuesday, September 29 – QUIZ DAY #3**

Topic(s): Pastoralism in East Africa

Assigned Reading: Bodley, Ch. 4, pp. 99-110

**Thursday, October 1 – PAPER #1 DUE TODAY**

Topic(s): The Cattle Complex, Marriage and Kinship

Assigned Reading: Bodley, Ch. 4, pp. 110-122

**Tuesday, October 6 – Last day to change grading status to P/F**

Topic(s): Social Power and Conflict Management in Pastoralist Society; Midterm Review

Assigned Reading: Bodley, Ch. 4, pp. 122-131

**Thursday, October 8 – MIDTERM EXAMINATION**

**Tuesday, October 13**

Topic(s): Pacific Islanders/Oceania

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

**Thursday, October 15**

Topic(s): Political transformations: Chiefdoms in Polynesia

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

**Tuesday, October 20 – QUIZ DAY #4**

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

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

**Thursday, October 22**

Topic(s): Ancient Inca

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

**Tuesday, October 27**

Topic(s): South Asian Great Traditions - Introduction

Assigned Reading: Bodley, Ch. 9, pp. 280-295

**Thursday, October 29 – QUIZ DAY #5**

Topic(s): South Asian Great Traditions - continued

Assigned Reading: Bodley, Ch. 9, pp. 296-315

**Friday, October 30 – LAST DAY TO DROP OR WITHDRAW FROM CLASS**

**Monday, November 2 – Action Period for Community Action Website Project begins**

You can begin registering on the website: [www.publicanthropology.net](http://www.publicanthropology.net)

**Tuesday, November 3**

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

**Thursday, November 5**

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

**Tuesday, November 10**

Topic(s): Historical examples of state decline, conclusion  
Review Bodley, Ch. 10.

**Thursday, November 12 – QUIZ DAY #6**

Topic(s): The Commercial Scale and the Culture of Capitalism  
Assigned Reading: Bodley, Ch. 11, pp. 340-354

**Tuesday, November 17**

Topic(s): The British Industrial Revolution: Poverty at home, Colonialism abroad  
Assigned Reading: Bodley, Ch. 11, pp. 360-372

**Thursday, November 19**

Topic(s): Finish the British Industrial Revolution  
Review Bodley, Ch. 11, pp. 360-372

**Tuesday, November 24 – QUIZ DAY #7**

Topic(s): Indigenous People  
Assigned Reading: Bodley, Ch. 14 – all

**Thursday, November 26 – HAPPY THANKSGIVING!**

**Tuesday, December 1 – NO PHYSICAL CLASS – LECTURE POSTED ON BLACKBOARD**

Topic(s): Sustainable Development in the Rain Forest  
Assigned Reading: Reed, Chs. 4 and 5, pp. 57-96

**Thursday, December 3 – NO PHYSICAL CLASS  
CLASS ASSIGNMENT POSTED ON BLACKBOARD**

**Tuesday, December 8 – Paper #2 due**

Topic(s): Toward a Sustainable World  
Assigned Reading: Bodley, Ch. 15, pp. 507-571

**Thursday, December 10 – REVIEW SESSION**

**Thursday, December 17 – FINAL EXAMINATION, 8:00 AM (NOTE TIME), GAB 104**