

Anthropology 4701.002
Psychological Anthropology – Fall 2014
TR 3:30 PM – 4:50 PM, MATTHEWS 102

Instructor: Beverly Ann Davenport, PhD, MSPH
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Office hrs: Tuesdays 8:30-10:00 AM, Wednesdays 3:30-5:00 PM, or by appointment

REQUIRED BOOKS AND ARTICLES

- Philip K. Bock, 1999, *Rethinking Psychological Anthropology: Continuity and Change in the Study of Human Action*, 2nd 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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| • Midterm | 150 |
| • Papers (Three, each 5-7 pages) @250pts. | 750 |
| • In class exercises – 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? Age-old questions come into play here, starting with questions philosophers from all corners of the globe have asked. 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 -2014

Aug 26, 28: Organizing; philosophical underpinnings of psychological anthropology

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

Sept 2, 4: Overview

- Bodley, “Excerpts from chapter 5” (BB)

Sept 9, 11: The psychology of “primitive” people

- Bock, Chapter 1

Sept 16, 18: What’s Freud got to do with it?

- Bock, Chapter 2

Sept 23, Sept 25: What is the relationship between culture and personality?

- Bock, chapter 3
- **Paper #1 due by 5:00 PM, Friday, September 26**

Sept 30, Oct. 2: What can we make of the notion of “national character?”

- Bock, chapter 4
- Bock, chapter 5
- Mead, “Swaddling” (BB)

Oct 7, 9: The criticisms of the culture and personality school

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

Oct 14, 16: Catch-up, review and midterm

- October 22 – Come to class with Questions!!!
- **October 24 – In-Class, Open Book Examination**

Oct 21, 23: “Total Human” – biology, psychology, society are intertwined

- Mahler, Chapter 3 (BB Learn)
- Hinton, Introduction, pp. 1-15 (BB Learn)
- Bock, chapter 12
- Thomas, chapter 9

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Nov 4, 6: Emotion – to what extent cultural, to what extent universal?

- Erchak, chapter 6 (BB)
- Rosaldo, *Ethos* article (BB)
- Fessler, “Toward an understanding of the universality of second order emotions” (BB)

Nov 11, 13: Mental Illness – Local or Global?

- Watters, Introduction, chapter 1, and chapter 3
- **Paper #2 due by 5:00 PM, Friday, November 14**

Nov 18: How do cultures deal with “trauma?”

- Watters, Chapter 2
- Pennebaker chapter in *Social and Cultural Lives of Immune Systems* (BB Learn)

Nov 25: Class canceled

Dec 2, 4: Globalization and Depression

- Watters, chapter 4
- Wilce, chapter in *Social and Cultural Lives of Immune Systems* (BB Learn)
- **Paper #3 due by 5:00 PM, Friday, December 5**