Harper College  
ANT 202-001  
Cultural Anthropology  
Fall Semester 2010

Instructor: Patricia Hamlen, MA  
Associate Professor of Anthropology  
Class: Mondays and Wednesdays 10 to 11:15 am.  
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Course description: This course describes and analyzes how peoples throughout the world define and resolve the problems of life. Some of the basic questions to be addressed are: “How are cultures structured to satisfy basic human needs? What’s it like to live under different cultural conditions? Are race, language, and environment determinants of culture? The goal of this course is to provide an understanding of how tribes, states and global systems work and how they differ in order to bring about a more secure and equitable world.”

Materials required:
Text: Cultural Anthropology  
Tribes, States and the Global System, 4th Edition  
John H. Bodley  
McGraw-Hill Companies, Inc. NY, NY 2005

Short selected essays and handouts will also be required reading.

Course requirements: Three in-class comprehensive exams  
Four short critical analysis reaction papers

Exams will be given based on the lectures, class discussions, text, handouts, and films. A short review guide will be given out previous to each exam.

Each exam is worth 100 points and the grading scale is:  
100-90=A  89-80=B  79-70=C  69-60=D  58-0=F

The short papers are typed 2 page concise critical reactions of 3 films presented in class and one analysis of ethnographic methodology. An outline to guide your analysis will be provided. No make-ups available regarding the in-class film presentations. No late papers or make-up exams without written documentation.

Plagiarism is not tolerated at Harper College please be aware of the penalties as listed in the college catalog.
Your final grade is computed in the following manner:

- Each exam is worth 25%
- Each critical analysis paper is worth 6%
- Language worksheet 1%

Course Schedule for Cultural Anthropology 202

PART ONE: THE TRIBAL WORLD

Week 1
8/23 Introduction
Handouts: Course schedule
Department Questionnaire

8/25 Anthropologists and Ethnographic Fieldwork
Text: Chapter 1
Handouts: What is Culture?
          Contemporary Ethnographic Field Techniques

Week 2
8/30 The Dani, Koteka and Culture
Film clip: “The Dani”
Handouts: Naked Values

9/1 Culture Scale, Growth, and Process
Text: Chapter 1 continued
Handout: Cultural Materialism Notes
          Critical Analysis Outline

Week 3
9/6 Labor Day Holiday No classes

9/8 Mobile Foragers
Text: Chapter 2
Handout: Summary of Political Organizational Trends
Due: Critical Analysis Paper (late papers will be penalized)

Week 4
9/13 An example: Australian Aborigines
Text: Chapter 2 continued
Film: “Dreamtime”

9/15 Horticulturalists with a focus on the Amazon
Text: Chapter 3
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Week 5
9/20  An example: Native Amazonians
Text: Chapter 3 continued
Handout: *How Many Fathers Are Best For A Child?*

9/22  Pastoralists with a focus on Africa
Text: Chapter 4

Week 6
9/27  An example: The Nuer, Dinka, Maasai and more
Text: Chapter 4 continued
Handout: *The Nandi*
*The Road to Resettlement*

Handout: Critical Analysis Outline

Week 7
10/4  Body, Mind and Soul (Part 1: Mind, a History)
Text: Chapter 5

10/6  Magic, Belief and the Supernatural (Part 2: Soul, Native Belief Systems)
Text: Chapter 5 continued
Handouts: *Baseball Magic*
Exam One Review Guide
Film clip: “The Azande”
“The Asmat”
Due: Critical Analysis Paper (late papers will be penalized)

Week 8
10/11 Quality of Tribal Life (Part 3: Body, Cognitive and Health Issues)
Text: Chapter 5 continued
Handout: *Sapir-Whorf Hypothesis*
Film clip: “The Korowai”

10/13 Exam One: Chapters 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5.

**PART TWO: THE IMPERIAL WORLD**

Week 9
10/18 Chiefdoms
Text: Chapter 6
Handout: Language work sheet
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10/20 An example: Pacific Islanders  
Text: Chapter 6 continued  
Film clip: “The Tonga Islands”

Week 10  
10/25 Ancient Empires, Two examples: Mesopotamia and the Andes  
Text: Chapter 7  
Due: Language work sheet

10/27 The Chinese Dynasty  
Text: Chapter 8

Week 11  
Handout: Critical Analysis Outline

11/3 Hinduism and the Traditional Caste System of India  
Text: Chapter 9

Week 12  
11/8 Islam and the Tradition of Purdah  
Text: Chapter 9  
Handouts: Dreams of Trespass  
Exam Two Review Guide  
Due: Critical Analysis Paper (late papers will be penalized)

11/10 Ethnic Minorities and the Collapse of Early States  
Text: Chapter 10  
Handout: Conversations with a Sikh-American Family

Week 13  
11/15 Exam Two: Chapters 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10.

PART THREE: THE COMMERCIAL GLOBAL SYSTEM

11/17 US and the Commercial World  
Text: Chapter 11

Week 14  
11/22 United States and Capitalism  
Text: Chapter 12  
Film clip: “Wal-Mart: The High Price of Low Prices”
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Week 14 continued
11/24 Contemporary American Culture
   Text: Chapter 12

Week 15
11/29 The Impoverished World
   Text: Chapter 13
   Film clip “Rich World, Poor Women”

12/1 Critical Film analysis: “Blindspot: Peak Oil & the Coming Global Crisis”
   Handout: Critical Analysis Outline

Week 16
12/6 Indigenous Peoples
   Text: Chapter 14
   Handout: Final Exam Review Guide
   Due: Critical Analysis Paper (late papers will be penalized)

12/8 Our Future and Final Wrap-up
   Text: Chapter 15

Exam Three: Chapters 11, 12, 13, 14 and 15, exam given final exam week, date and time to be announced.