

ANTHROPOLOGY 201.02 (12599)

Cultural Anthropology

FALL 2025

TR 9:25-10:40, ECTR 113

Dr. Hector Qirko
Office Hours: MW 10 am-12:00 pm,
TR 1:45-2:45 pm, and by appointment.

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Catalog Course description

A comparative review of the principles used in social organization among various peoples of the world. In particular, non-Western societies and their transformations through contact with the West will be examined.

Course objectives and student learning outcomes (SLOs): Upon successful completion of the course, you should be able to:

- demonstrate knowledge of cultural anthropology theory and methods;
- understand the role of culture in human cultural similarities and differences;
- apply an anthropological perspective to the understanding of modern life and current issues; and
- more objectively and critically evaluate anthropological (and other) data and arguments.

Multicultural Understanding and Global Citizenship (MUGC) SLOs - ANTH 101 meets your graduation requirement to take a three-hour MUGC course with an international focus. As such, upon its successful completion, you should also be able to:

- describe how concepts of identity have evolved over time and intersect with each other in different societal structures.
- identify and analyze the material consequences of social hierarchies in relation to historical and global contexts.

As MUGC-related materials will recur throughout the course, these SLOs will be assessed in portions of the three course exams.

General Education SLOs - ANTH 201 is also one of the courses approved to satisfy three of the six credits of social science that you are required to complete for the General Education (Gen-Ed) curriculum. The Gen-Ed Social Science Learning Outcome is “critical thinking,” and upon successful completion of the course, you should also be able to:

- conduct or provide analyses or interpretations to substantiate claims – more specifically, you should be able to:
 - identify or frame a claim or assumption requiring evidence or support;
 - use appropriate evidence to support an analysis or claim; and
 - reach a clear and well-supported conclusion.

Therefore, in addition to our recurring work on these skills, this outcome will be assessed in the second graded exercise (on kinship), which will comprise 10% of your final course grade.

Course structure

Class periods will consist of lectures, films, and discussion of topics and readings.

Graded work

Three exams, each 20% of course grade.

Four methods exercises

1. Defamiliarization	5%
2. Kinship*	10%
3. Interviews	10%
4. Cross-cultural comparison	10%
Class participation	5%
Extra-credit quizzes	+5%

Grade scale

A 92-100%; A- 90-91; B+ 88-89; B 82-87; B- 80-81; C+ 78-79; C 72-77; C- 70-71; D+ 68-69; D 62-67; D- 60-61; F 59 or below.

Books

Shandy, Dianna, Spradley, James, and McCurdy, David W. (2024). *Conformity and Conflict: Readings in Cultural Anthropology*, 16th edition. Prentice Hall.

Shostak, Marjorie (2000). *Nisa: The Life and Words of a !Kung Woman*. Harvard University Press.

Chagnon, Napoleon (2013). *The Yanomamo*, 6th edition. Harcourt Brace.

NOTE: This course is part of the College's course material delivery program, [Cougar Complete](#). The College of Charleston Bookstore provides each student with a rental package for physical books and any digital materials that have been integrated into OAKS. You were automatically enrolled in this program when you registered for classes, unless you chose to opt out. However, you cannot opt in or out of classes individually, but must decide for all your classes each semester.

You should have received an email from the bookstore confirming your materials and asking you to select how you would like to receive them. If you haven't done so already, please make sure you select your fulfillment preference through that email or the Cougar Complete link so the bookstore can prepare your materials.

Additional readings

All additional required readings and materials will be available either electronically at the course Oaks site or via internet links listed below. Please contact me with any access issues as soon as possible. Announcements regarding reading updates, revisions, and other relevant topics will be made in class and via email.

Exams (on 9/18, 10/23, 12/4)

There will be three in-class, short identification exams designed to ensure course engagement and understanding of materials covered in the lectures, readings, films, and class discussion. In addition to fundamental terms, concepts and illustrations, you will be expected to identify specific research and researchers as highlighted in lectures. Exams are not cumulative, and study guides will be provided prior to each. Exams missed due to excused and documented absences can be

made-up, dates and location TBA. You **must** contact me prior to that date if you plan on taking the test. Make-up exams will be in short essay form.

Methods exercises (due 9/11, 10/2, 11/6, 11/25)

You will complete 4 brief (3-4 page) reports on exercises that focus on basic methodological skills in cultural anthropology. These will provide you with opportunities to practice (1) analyzing cultural phenomena (2); tracing kinship relationships (3); interviewing key informants (4); and engaging in cross-cultural analysis. The exercises are due on assigned course dates, and may be handed in earlier, but will not be accepted late without a legitimate and documented excuse (more details and guidelines later in class and our OAKS site).

Engagement quizzes (TBA)

In order to encourage consistent attendance, timely reading/viewing of course materials, and class discussion, there will be ten extra credit short quizzes given at the beginning of selected class periods. Answering each correctly will earn you ½ of one course point (in total, a maximum of 5 points added on to course grade). Questions will be drawn either from readings and links assigned for the day of the quiz or from the previous class meeting's materials or discussion.

Class participation

Class engagement and participation are essential for success in this course, as much of the material on exams will stem directly from lectures and class discussion. While daily attendance will not be taken, you are responsible for all information disseminated and discussed in the class. If you must miss a class, obtain notes from classmates and feel free to email or meet with me to go over them prior to the relevant exam. I will not provide lecture notes, although I will upload power point content, study guides, and other relevant material to our course OAKS site.

For absences that require documentation (exam and assignment due dates, as well as extended absences related to health, personal or emergency situations), please note that you are responsible for documenting and reporting reasons for absences by email or in person. Also remember that the [Student Health Office](#) is always available as needed.

Special needs

If you have (or think you might have) a documented disability that may impact on your work in this class and for which you may require accommodations, contact an administrator at the [Center of Disability Services](#) (email: snap@cofc.edu; phone: 843-953-1431; location: Lightsey Center 104). Accommodations will require a Professor Notification letter (PNL) from you and will be approved early in the semester and not during or after exam periods or assignment due dates. Please feel free to discuss related issues with me at any time during office hours or by appointment. Additionally, whether or not you have a documented disability, let me know about anything that can make navigating and learning course materials easier for you.

Student support resources

There is a new site that provides resources to help with many issues that can come up as related to technology, career planning, health and wellness, and much more. It's accessible by clicking the "More" tab at our OAKS course home page. Also always feel free to discuss any issues with me if you want additional input.

Honor code

Violations of the honor code will be taken seriously. If you need reminding, you can find the complete code and all related processes in the [Student Handbook](#). Obviously, lying, cheating, attempted cheating, and plagiarism are violations of our Honor Code that, when suspected, are

investigated. Any acts of suspected academic dishonesty will be reported to the Office of the Dean of Students and addressed through the conduct process.

Generative artificial intelligence (AI) tools may be used for brainstorming, outlining, and generating ideas about a topic. However, they may not be used as a cited source or as a substitute for your own writing in your submitted work. Because plagiarism is sometimes an unintentional infraction, I recommend that you refer to this Elsevier [fact sheet](#) to make sure you know what errors to avoid. And because the use of AI tools is further complicating this issue, use the content of this [video](#) by Brian Doak as a guide for what I expect from you regarding these tools in this course. Don't hesitate to contact me with any doubts or questions you may have.

Inclement Weather or other substantial interruptions

If in-person classes are suspended, I will let you know as soon as possible my plan to keep the class going. Whatever that entails, you will need a computer equipped with internet access.

Additional resources

Any problems with any aspect of the course, don't hesitate to meet with me. Also, there are many good online articles on critical skills that can help you navigate this course and others. For example:

[Critical/objective thinking](#)

[Active reading](#)

[Critical reading](#)

[Effective writing](#)

And don't forget the Writing Lab in the [Center for Student Learning](#) (Addlestone Library, first floor). Trained writing consultants can help with writing for all courses; they offer one-to-one consultations that address everything from brainstorming and developing ideas to crafting strong sentences and documenting sources. For more information, call 843.953.5635.

As members of the College of Charleston community, we affirm, embrace and hold ourselves accountable to the core values of integrity, academic excellence, liberal arts education, respect for the individual student, diversity, equity and inclusion, student centeredness, innovation and public mission.

Course Calendar

NOTE: subject to revision. Book readings are listed as C&C: Conformity and Conflict, K: !Kung ethnography, and Y: Yanomamo ethnography, followed by chapter numbers. Readings on OAKS are listed by author last name and year and chapter as needed. Links are numbered by day assigned, with the links themselves provided below this outline. You are expected to read assigned materials and be prepared to discuss them **prior** to class meeting.

8/19 introduction to course

8/21 anthropology & cultural anthropology [LINK 1, C&C 5]

8/26	culture basics	[Lavenda & Schultz 00:chpt 2]
8/28	theoretical schools	[C&C 2, 4]
9/2	methods: ethnography	[Guest 20:chpt 3, Miner 56]
9/4	methods: cross-cultural comparisons & intro to ethnographies	[C&C 1, K intro, Y 1]
9/9	kinship basics	[Lavenda & Schultz 20:chpt 7]
9/11	kinship methods	[C&C 17, 18, 20 Exercise 1 due]
9/16	kinship case studies	[K 6, 7, Y 4]
9/18	Exam I	
9/23	subsistence basics	[Lavenda & Schultz 20:chpt 9, Lee 94, Nelson 93]
9/25	resource production	[K 3, Y 2]
9/30	resource distribution	[LINK 2, C&C 13]
10/2	sex and gender basics	[Welsch & Vivanco 19:chpt 10] [Exercise 2 due]
10/7	sex and gender case studies	[C&C 15, K 4, 11]
10/9	social control basics	[Guest 20:chpt 12, C&C 26]
10/14	Fall Break	
10/16	social control case studies	[Y 5, 6]
10/21	identity: race & ethnicity	[LINKS 3, 4]
10/23	Exam II	
10/28	identity markers and authentication	[C&C 22, 23]
10/30	spiritual systems basics	Lavenda & Schultz 20:chpt 4, C&C 30]
11/4	spiritual systems case studies	[K 13, Y 3, C&C 31]
11/6	folklore and art	[Nanda & Warms 15:chpt 12] [Exercise 3 due]
11/11	culture change basics	[Batchelor 06, LINK 5]

11/13	culture change: diffusion	[Alderman 12, Bestor 00]
11/18	culture change: acculturation	[K 10, Berry 08]
11/20	culture change case studies	[C&C 34, Ehrenreich 04, Y 8]
11/25	applying cultural anthropology	[C&C 37, 38] [Exercise 4 due]
12/4	Exam III (10:30 am -12:30 pm)	

* Final exam day/time may not be changed unless you have too many exams scheduled on the same day (as defined by the College).

INTERNET LINKS

(As listed by number in outline above)

1. Cultural anthropology

<https://www.britannica.com/science/cultural-anthropology/Historical-development-of-cultural-anthropology>

2. Distribution and exchange

<https://anthroholi.com/principles-governing-production-distribution-and-exchange-in-various-communities?srsId=AfmBOoqrpa1t1zDPanutCXhWd8Y8EPB7cmjyYloIdFTLwDxJgTJ9FuEL>

3. Race is not genetic

<https://understandingrace.org/race-is-not-genetic/>

4. Ethnicity and race (video, 13.53 min)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NDm2BZv1gJA&ab_channel=SheilaNightingale

5. Processes of change

https://anthropology-tutorials-nggs7.kinsta.page/change/change_2.htm