

SOUTHERN CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY
ANT 101:08—Introduction to Cultural Anthropology
Fall 2003—Tuesdays/Thursdays: 9:35-10:50 AM, Morrill Hall Room 14

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Office Hours:
T: 12:00-1:00
W: 10:00-1:00
Th: 12:00-1:00
(or by appointment)

COURSE NUMBER: ANT 101 **CREDIT HOURS:** 3 **PREREQUISITES:** none
COURSE TITLE: Introduction to Cultural Anthropology

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Anthropology—more than stones, bones, Egypt and Margaret Mead!

Anthropology is the study of ourselves: human beings. More specifically, anthropology is the academic discipline that focuses on understanding the cultural and physical aspects of humanity—past and present. The term “culture” includes behaviors, ideas, morals, and attitudes that are shared by a society. Humans are unique among animals in the degree to which they rely upon culture to shape their surroundings.

Cultural Anthropology (ANT 101) is an introductory course which examines the fundamentals of human cultural diversity. Questions to be examined include: When did culture begin? In what ways do societies differ in specific cultural practices such as political structure, kinship, marriage, belief systems, gender roles and economy? Is race a biological or social concept? Which components of culture are shared by all human societies? We will see how humans use culture to change their environment and how cultures change through time. Other topics in this course include anthropological methods and theories and applying anthropological information to remedy current social problems. By learning how to study and understand other cultures, it is hoped that you will gain a better understanding of your own culture and others in it.

As modern nations become increasingly multi-cultural, anthropologists are being hired by governments, multi-national corporations, agricultural development projects and medical clinics, to name just a few examples. USAID, USDA, international charities, state departments of transportation, the World Bank, and even the US military are a few of the agencies that regularly hire anthropologists. Because cultural sensitivity, creativity, and broad backgrounds are advantageous and even necessary for many jobs, the study of anthropology provides excellent preparation for a variety of careers.

COURSE'S CONTRIBUTION:

This course is a foundation stone for the study of Anthropology. It is required of all Anthropology majors. In addition, it is one of the options to fulfill the Social Science B requirement in the university's general education program. It should be taken by anyone interested in a broad understanding of humankind and world cultures.

REQUIRED TEXTS

Kottak, C.P. (2001) *Anthropology: The Exploration of Human Diversity*, 9th ed. (with CD-ROM)
Turnbull, C. (1961) *The Forest People*.
Shostak, M. (1981) *Nisa: The Life and Words of a !Kung Woman*.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Assignments and Exams: There will be three exams: two **midterms**, the first worth **15%** of your grade and the second worth **20%** of your grade, and a **final** exam worth **30%** of your grade. These exams will consist of one or more of the following: multiple choice, true/false, matching, short answer and/or essay questions. You will not be allowed to use notes, books, etc. during either exam. Bring two #2 pencils, a pencil sharpener, and an eraser to each exam.

There will be **NO MAKEUP EXAMS**, unless you have a valid medical excuse with a letter from a doctor with a phone number and office address. If a makeup exam is warranted, it will consist solely of essay questions.

There will also be an **interview/ethnography assignment (20%** of your grade). This will involve either ethnographic observation of a particular event, activity, or ritual here on campus or an extensive interview of someone from a different culture. You will analyze your observations or interview based on the principles introduced in class, briefly present your findings to the rest of the class, and write a 4-5 page summary of your