Anthropology 9: Culture and Society
(draft syllabus subject to change)

This course offers a general introduction to sociocultural anthropology. It investigates the different ways by which humanity has organized its social institutions and cultural systems; it explores what produces that diversity and how societies change. By examining the similarities and differences among societies and cultures around the world, this course helps us to better understand ourselves and others. By introducing what anthropologists study and how they study the various subjects, this course will also briefly review the theories and methods in the field of sociocultural anthropology.

Required Textbooks:


Important Note: The two textbooks are sold at the UCLA bookstore as a package, which means that when students buy the main textbook Cultural Anthropology they will receive the ethnography The Dobe Ju/'hoansi free of charge. Please come to see the instructor if you have purchased the text Cultural Anthropology from UCLA bookstore without receiving the other book as part of the package (you need to have your receipt)

Course Requirements:

(1) assignment #1 (5 points), due on Jan. 27;
(2) midterm exam (30 points), scheduled on Feb. 8;
(3) assignment #2 (10 points), due on Mar. 8;
(4) final exam (40 points), scheduled on Mar. 24;
(5) participation in discussion sections (15 points), to be recorded on each section.

Policy Note:

No make up exams will be given without prior consent from the instructor.
Anyone who wants to contest a grade must do so in writing, with five days after the exam/exercise is returned to students.
Attendance to both class meetings and discussion sections are mandatory. Students earn 1.5 point by attending and participating in each discussion section.

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Week 1. Introduction and Organization (Jan. 6)

Week 2. Ways of Making a Living (Jan. 11 & 13)
Film: “A World without Fathers and Husbands”

Week 3. Ways of Cooperation: Marriage, Family, and Kinship (Jan. 18 & 20)

Week 4. Ways of Becoming and Being a Person (Jan. 25 & 27)
Film: “Death of a Shaman”

Week 5. Ways of Exchange and Consumption (Feb. 1 & 3)

Week 6. Ways of Stratification and Hierarchy (Feb. 8 & 10)

Midterm Exam scheduled on Feb. 8

Week 7. Ways of Social Control and Order: Power and Politics (Feb. 15 & 17)
Film: “The Yanomamo”

Week 8. Ways of Making Sense of Life: Religion and Ritual (Feb. 22 & 24)

**Week 9. Ways of Cultural Change and Cultural Survival (Mar. 1 & 3)**

Film: “N!ai: The Story of a !Kung Woman”

**Week 10. Ways of Studying Culture: The Field of Anthropology (Mar. 8 & 10)**

Haviland et al. 2005. Chapter 1 and 2, pp. 4-51.

**Week 11. Anthropology Today: Challenges and Opportunities (Mar. 15)**


*Final Exam* scheduled on *March 24* (Thursday), 8:00-11:00 AM.