

Anthropology 1

Introduction to Socio-cultural Anthropology

Michael Eissinger
Doctoral Candidate/Teaching Fellow
UC Merced – Summer 2015

Classroom and Office Building (COB) 110
Monday – Wednesday – Friday
10:00am – 12:20pm

Introduction

What is Anthropology?

- *Anthropos* (Greek): Human
- *-logy* (Greek): Science, theory, study of

Study of humankind past and present and all around the world.

American Cultural Anthropology

- Anthropology includes 4 sub-fields:
 - Biological or Physical anthropology.
 - Archaeology
 - Linguistic anthropology
 - Cultural Anthropology
 - Ethnography
 - The Research
 - The Published Results

Socio-cultural Anthropology

- Social Anthropology's
 - British
 - emphasis on social structure and institutions
- Cultural Anthropology's
 - American
 - Practices
 - Expression
 - shared meaning-making.

Ethnographic Method

- Participant Observation
 - Develop rapport and gain acceptance
- Intensive fieldwork (long stays/over time)
 - Learn language
 - Learn customs, behavior, norms, cultural rules
 - Gather information
 - Observation
 - Participation
 - Interviews
 - life histories, etc.
 - Collect concrete data over a wide range of facts
 - Take field notes
 - Record, chronicle or document the fieldwork experience

The Field

- Not just among non-Western societies
 - Anthropologists *can* also study their own society
- New social and cultural worlds
 - Scientists
 - Business
 - global migration
 - media and popular culture
 - effects of nation-state government policies and practices
 - etc.
- Multi-sited fieldwork

About the Course

About the Course

- Contact Information
 - Office: SSM 274
 - Email: meissinger@ucmerced.edu
 - Phone: 559-240-8117 (text or leave a message)
 - Website: www.meissinger.com
- Office Hours: by appointment

Required Texts

- *Social and Cultural Anthropology: A Very Short Introduction*, Peter Just (2000)
 - Essays related to topics for discussion
- *Reflections on Fieldwork in Morocco*, Paul Rabinow (1977 or 2007 editions)
 - Not an ethnography
 - About DOING ethnography
- *Pink Globalization: Hello Kitty's Trek Across the Pacific*, Christine R. Yano (2013)
 - Very recent examination of a global community
- Additional ethnography
 - Your choice
- Readings posted to UCMCROPS

Schedule

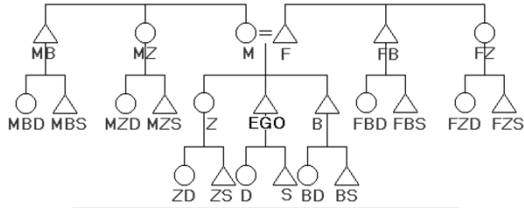
Due Date	Assignment	Points
Friday 7/3	NO CLASS	
Friday 7/10	Rabinow Book Review Due	50
Friday 7/17	Midterm (bring blank blue book)	100
Monday 7/20	Kinship Assignment Due	50
Friday 7/24	2nd Book Review Due	50
Friday 8/7	Pink Globalization Essay Due	100
Friday 8/14	Final Exam (bring blank blue book)	100

Your syllabus includes a full reading list – you are responsible for all of the reading, as listed in that schedule.

Book Review Assignment

- Review reference material on how to structure a book review.
 - http://www.indiana.edu/~wts/pamphlets/book_reviews.shtml
- Rabinow's *Reflections of Fieldwork in Morocco*
- a classic ethnography
 - list at the end of syllabus.
- Examples
 - *Current Anthropology*
 - *American Ethnologist*
 - *Anthropological Quarterly*
- Do not just summarize. Include analysis and your point of view. Incorporate concepts and information learned in class.
- Length: 2-3 pages maximum (double-spaced; 12 point font)

Kinship Assignment



KEY: M=Mother, Z=Sister, D=Daughter
 F=Father, B=Brother, S=Son
 USAGE: MZS Stands for Mother's Sister's Son.

AQCI Essay: *Pink Globalization*

- Structure
 - Argument
 - Explicit or implicit argument.
 - Select, quote, and analyze passages central to the author's argument.
 - Question
 - Question what you think is not satisfactorily answered by the text.
 - A question of interpretation or inquiry, not simply one of fact.
 - Connection
 - Connect the argument to other readings. Quote other texts and explain how the argument relates to the other text's argument.
 - Experiential connection. Connect the argument of this text to a direct experience from the world around you.
 - Implications
 - What does this argument imply for understanding some aspects of a culture, society, group, or nation you are interested in or know something about.
- Should not exceed 4 double-spaced typed pages (12 point font).
 - Proofread and spell-check

Exams

- Midterm (1/17)
- Final (8/14)
- Format:
 - Blue (or Green) Book
 - Definitions/IDs
 - Essays
- Study Guide
 - 1 week prior to exam
- Bring a blank blue (or green) book to class.
 - You will exchange it for one provided my me.

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