

This is a sample syllabus only.

(Do not purchase the textbook until you confirm with the instructor.)

INTRODUCTION TO ANTHROPOLOGY

(ANT 100-981) Spring 2005

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COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Anthropology is the study of human nature, society, and history. The course introduces students to the four fields of anthropology, with a special focus on cultural anthropology. The course consists of lectures, films, and discussions about what different forms of human organization, lifestyles and practices throughout the world.

REQUIRED TEXT BOOKS:

1. Miller, Barbara D. Cultural Anthropology. Allyn and Bacon, 2003.

| **Barbara D. Miller**, *The George Washington University*
[View](#)
[Larger Image](#)
ISBN: 0-205-40138-4
Publisher: Allyn & Bacon
Copyright: 2004

This is the main textbook for this course. You may purchase it at the College Bookstore or at Manhattan Books. It may be also available online.

2. Spradley and McCurdy. Conformity and Conflict. Readings in Cultural Anthropology

| **James Spradley**
[View](#)
[Larger Image](#)
David W. McCurdy, *Macalester College*
ISBN: 0-205-35479-3
Publisher: Allyn & Bacon
Copyright: 2003

This is the reader for this course. Most of the case studies will be taken from this book. Sold at the same stores and when packaged with the Miller textbook, this comes at a 50% discount.

Allyn & Bacon, Longman, NY 2002.

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RECOMMENDED BOOKS:

You will have to write an assignment based on various chapters of one of these books:

Bourgois, Phillipe. In Search of Respect. Selling Crack in El Barrio. Cambridge University Press.

Dettwyler, Katherine.1994. Dancing Skeletons. Life and Death in West Africa. Waveland Press.

Farmer, Paul. 1996. Aids and Accusation. Haiti and the Geography of Blame. University of California Press.

Wilkinson, Daniel.2004. Silence in the Mountain. Stories of Terror, Betrayal and Survival in Guatemala. Duke University Press.

COURSE POLICY:

This is an online, writing intensive course. There is a separate document containing the course policy and grading system for this course. It is located under **Course Information**. Please make sure you read it and understand the conditions for succeeding in this course.

COURSE OUTLINE

This outline includes various sites that you should check out before participating in the discussion board and before writing your assignments.

Week One: Welcome - Getting Started

Week Two: Introduction. What is Anthropology?

Miller, Chapter 1

Assignment: choose one of the recommended books to write your book report. E-mail me your choice next class.

Week Three: Biological Anthropology and Archaeology

Miller, Chapter 1.

- <http://www.talkorigins.org/faqs/homs/> (fossil hominids site)
- <http://www.personal.psu.edu/faculty/g/h/ghb1/southwest/anasazi.html>
(archaeological sites of the northwest)
- <http://www.archaeologyinfo.com/species.htm> (archaeology/hominid origins)
- <http://www.mnh.si.edu/anthro/humanorigins/>
(Smithsonian/human origins program)

• <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/evolution/humans/humankind/a.html>
(PBS – human origins)

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TEST #1 (must submit your book choice for the report based on recommended book list)

Week Four: Applied Anthropology. Forensic Anthropology

- <http://www.unipv.it/webbio/dfantrop.htm-Growth%20charts>
(Dr. Formenti, from University of Pavia shows various links on this subfield; check the one on forensic anthropology)
- <http://logos.uoregon.edu/explore/>
- <http://www.oakland.edu/~dow/napavid.htm>
(This site offers a description of the video “Anthropologists At Work” and provides examples on how anthropology can be used. The video is at the library and I will refer to it in this section and on Week 15).

Week Five: Social Thought and the Origins of Anthropology.

- <http://www.anthro.mankato.msus.edu/cultural/biography/index.shtml>
(The Anthropology Biography Web offers a good overview of the discipline, outline the major contributions to anthropology by Alfred Kroeber, Ruth Benedict, Noam Chomsky, E.E. Evans-Pritchard, Jane Goodall, Eric Wolf, etc.).
- Lee, Richard. “Eating Christmas in the Kalahari.” In: Spradley & McCurdy 1997: 26-33

Week Six: Cultural Anthropology. The Concept of Culture

Miller, Chapter 1: 14-26.

Spradley & McCurdy, “Culture and the Contemporary World.” pp 3-11

Bohannon, Laura “Shakespeare in the Bush.” pp35-43

TEST #2

Week Seven: The Practice of Anthropology: Doing Fieldwork and Writing Ethnography. Ethics in Anthropology.

- Gmelch, G. “Lessons from the Field” pp 46-57
- Sterk, C. “Fieldwork on Prostitution in the Era of Aids.” Pp 33-45
- Case study: To Medicate or Not to Medicate (will be posted as a course document)
- <http://www.aaanet.org/committees/ethics/ethic.htm>
- <http://www1.truman.edu/academics/ss/faculty/tamakoshil>
(this is a good site to learn about what requires to do fieldwork. Try it!)
- <http://maxweber.hunter.cuny.edu/anthro/field.html>
(Take this visual tour with faculty and students from Hunter!)
- <http://www.aaanet.org/committees/ethics/ethic.htm>

Week Eight: Language and Culture

Miller Chapter 14:333-356

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- Tannen, Deborah. "Conversation Style." In: Spradley & McCurdy, pp95-103.
- Nowack, Martin A. "Homo Gramaticus." In: Spradley & McCurdy, pp 63-69.
- Schildkrout, Enid. "Body Art As Visual Language." In: Spradley & McCurdy, pp70-77.
- Boxer, Sara. "The Military Name Game." In: Spradley & McCurdy, pp.91-94.

Week Nine: Making a Living

Miller, Chapter 3.

- Lee, Richard "The Hunters." In: Spradley & McCurdy pp 109-123.
- Diamond, Jared "Domestication and the Evolution of Disease." In: Spradley & McCurdy pp144-157.
- Bourgois, Phillipe. "Workaday World __ Crack Economy" pp 181-190.

TEST # 3

Week Ten: Kinship and Marriage

Miller, Chapter 8.

- Scheper-Hughes, Nancy. "Mother's Love: Death Without Weeping." In: Spradley & McCurdy, 217-226.
- David McCurdy. "Family and Kinship in Village India" pp 227-234.
- Lu Yuan and Sam Mitchell. "Matrilineal Kinship: Walking Marriage in China" pp 235-240.
- Optional: Diamond, Jared. "How We Pick Our Mates and Sex Partners"[on reserve at library]
- <http://www.umanitoba.ca/faculties/arts/anthropology/kintitle.html>

Assignment on the Kinship diagram due next class

Week Eleven: Gender

Miller Chapter 6: p 138-

- Fernea, E. and R. "Symbolizing Roles: Behind the Veil" In: Spradley & McCurdy, 253-260.
- Friedl, Ernestine. "Society and Sex Roles." In: Spradley & McCurdy, 261-269.

Week Twelve: Belief Systems in Various Societies

Miller, Chapter 13.

- Stanley A. Freed and Ruth S. Freed. "Taraka's Ghost." In: Spradley & McCurdy pp341-347.
- Leavitt, S. "Cargo Beliefs and Religious Experience" In: In: Spradley & McCurdy, pp. 371-381.
- Gmelch, G. "Baseball Magic." In: Spradley & McCurdy, pp.348-357.

TEST #4

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Week Thirteen: The Arts: Expressing Cultural Identities

Miller, Chapter 15

- Enid Schildkrout “Body Art as Visual Language.” In: Spradley & McCurdy, pp. 70-77 (already discussed in the week on language).

Book Report Due

Week Fourteen: Cultural Change

Miller, Chapter 16

- Turner, Terence. “The Kayapo Resistance” In: Spradley & McCurdy, pp 387-404.
- Patten, Sonia. “Medical Anthropology: Improving Nutrition in Malawi.” In: Spradley & McCurdy, pp 405-414.

Week Fifteen: The Uses of Anthropology. Conclusions

Miller, Chapter 17

- sMc Curdy, “Using Anthropology” pp415-427.

Week Sixteen: **FINAL EXAM**

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Course Schedule Spring 2005

| WEEK | DATE | TOPIC | READINGS | TO DO |
|------|---------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|--|
| 1 | F 1/28 | Getting Started | F 1/28 Miller 1 | Learn about online course |
| 2 | W 2/2 | Introduction: What is Anthropology? | F 2/4 Miller 1 | Assignment/ discussion board |
| 3 | W 2/9 | Bioanthropology & Archaeology | F 2/11 No classes. Miller 1; check links | discussion board; choose book report ; TEST #1 |
| 4 | W 2/16 | Forensic Anthropology | F 2/18 Links | Assignment |
| 5 | W 2/23 | Origins | F 2/25 Lee, R. | Discussion board |
| 6 | W 3/2 | Culture | Spradley 3-11; Bohannan | TEST #2 |
| 7 | W 3/9 | Fieldwork/ Ethics | McCurdy; Sterk; rec. books | Discussion; assignment |
| 8 | W 3/16 | Language | Miller 14; Tannen 95-103 | Discussion; assignment |
| 9 | W 3/23 | Making a living | Miller 3; Lee 109-123; Diamond 144-157; Bourgois | Th 3/24 TEST #3 |
| 10 | W 3/30 Monday schedule | Kinship & Marriage | Miller 8; Scheper-Hughes; Wolf; Yuan & Mitchell | Discussion; |
| 11 | W 4/6 | Gender | Miller 6; Fernea; Friedl | F 4/8 Discussion; assignment |

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| 12 | W 4/13 | Belief Systems | Miller 13; Freed; Gmelch | F 4/15 TEST #4 |
| 13 | W 4/20 | The Arts | Miller 15 | F 4/24 Spring Recess |
| 14 | W 5/4 | Cultural Change | Miller 16; Turner | F 5/6 Book Report Due |
| 15 | W 5/11 | Uses of Anthropology | Miller 17; Mc Curdy 415 | F 5/13 Discussion |
| 16 | W 5/18 | Conclusions | | F 5/20 Final Exam |