
ANTHROPOLOGY OF CITIES in Fall 2018 (ES3061)

Course Code	ES3061	Professor(s)	Christy Shields
Prerequisites	None	Office Number	Grenelle, 3rd floor
Class Schedule	MR: 10:35-11:55 in G-102	Office Hours	M and TH 5-6, preferably by appointment
Credits	4	Email	cshields@aup.edu
Semester	Fall 2018	Office Tel. Ext.	824

Course Description

In this class students will be introduced to central areas of anthropological inquiry (i.e. gift exchange, symbol, ritual, religion, politics) and a range of theoretical approaches (i.e. structuralism, symbolism, political-economy). Students will also be introduced to basic methodological techniques via a series of homework assignments.

The class is divided into four parts: 1) part one introduces students to the discipline's theoretical and methodological approaches; 2) part two is devoted to the study of central anthropological concepts and tools (i.e. taboo, gift, symbol, ritual); 3) part three explores universal human institutions that anthropologists study cross-culturally (i.e. religion, kinship, gender); 4) and, finally, in part four, we will consider explore anthropological perspectives on globalization and transnationalism, with a focus on immigration in particular. Finally, because Professor Shields is a food anthropologist a fair number of readings will be related to food and eating.

Course Learning Outcomes

Students become familiar with key theoretical concepts used by social scientists, particularly anthropologists, in order to explore critically the city as a particular kind of constructed and lived environment.

Students will be capable of thinking in multiple ways about social and cultural differences from a comparative perspective and be able to approach the city from a cross-cultural perspective.

Students will gain a greater understanding of France and Paris

Students will become practiced in participant observation method and develop their observation and analytical skills.

Students will fine-tune their creative and critical writing and presentation skills while producing a final ethnographic study.

Students will be able to transform field observations and experiences into coherent, informed texts

and presentations
cognitive flexibility (the awareness of multiple perspectives);
behavioral flexibility (the ability to adapt and accommodate one's behavior);
cross-cultural empathy (which involves making an effort to participate in another's experience and to understand and emotionally feel other perspectives); and,
a tolerance for ambiguity (the ability to be in an unscripted or ambiguous situation and not become overly anxious, but instead to patiently determine what is appropriate in a given context).

General Education

The general education program at AUP consists of four requirements: Speaking the World, Modeling the World, Mapping the World, and Comparing Worlds Past and Present.

This course can be used to fulfill the Mapping the World requirement and as such has the following learning outcomes:

Course Outline

CLASS OUTLINE:

NOTE: This outline may still be slightly revised during the course of the semester (in accordance with class interests, speed, etc.).

***** Part One: Introduction *****

Week 1

Mon., Sep 10 Introduction

Thurs., Sep 13 Participant Observation: Meat-Eating and the Other

Read: - -Hendry, Introduction
-Lee, Eating Christmas in the Kalahari (1962)

(Video) Watch: - Deborah Kapchan's ethnological sensation interview, 5m29 sec) : <https://vimeo.com/145319202>

Week 2

Mon., Sep 17 Classification and Worldviews: The Raw, the Cooked and the Rotten

Read: -Hendry, Ch 1, Seeing the World

-Levi-Strauss, The Culinary Triangle (1965)

-Clark, The Raw and the Rotten: Punk Cuisine (2004)

Sept 16: Last day to drop/add courses

Thurs., Sep 20 Anthropology, Race and Public Debate

Read: -Hurstun, How it Feels to be Colored Me (1928)

-Benedict and Weltfish, The Races of Mankind (1946)

<https://archive.org/stream/TheRacesOfMankind/pamphlet#page/n9>

Week 3

Mon., Sep 24 Reconsidering Culture

Read: -Geertz, Thick Description (1973)

Thurs., Sep 27 Anthropology and Death: Culture, Emotion and Subject Position

Read: -Rosaldo, Grief and a Headhunter's Rage (1989)

-Scheper-Hughes, Death Without Weeping: Has Poverty Ravaged Mother Love in the

Shantytowns of Brazil? (1989)

Week 4

Mon., Oct 1 Ethics, in and outside anthropology

Read: -"Principles of Professional Responsibility (AAA Ethics Statement, 2012)", on the AAA Ethics Blog

<http://ethics.americananthro.org/category/statement/>

-Conquergood, Performing as a Moral Act: Ethical Dimensions of the Ethnography of Performance (1985)

-Abu-Lughod, Do Muslim Women Really Need Saving? Anthropological Reflections on Cultural Relativism and Its Others (2002)

***** Part Two: Some Basic Concepts and Tools*****

Thurs., Oct 4 Gifts, Exchange and Reciprocity

Read: -Hendry, Ch. 3, "Gifts, Exchange and Reciprocity"

-Meigs, "Food as a Cultural Construction"

Week 5

Mon., Oct 8 Ritual: Rites of Passage and Identity

Read: -Hendry, Ch. 4, "The Ritual Round"

-Reed-Danahay, "Champagne and Chocolate"

Thurs., Oct 11 Symbol: Fat is Beautiful

Read: -Hendry, Ch 5, "Society: A Set of Symbols"

-Sobo, "The Sweetness of Fat"

-Popenoe, "Ideal"

Week 6:

Mon., Oct 15 : Identification

Read: -Eriksen, Identification (from *What is Anthropology?*)

-Shields-Argeles, Imagining the Self and the Other:
Food and Identity in France and the United States

Thurs., Oct 18 Review

Week 7

Mon., Oct 22: **In-Class Midterm**

Oct 24th: Mid-semester

*****Part Three: Human Institutions: From Cosmology to Subsistence *****

Thurs., Oct 25 Cosmology

Read: Hendry, Ch. 7 and 8

In-class film: *Between Two Worlds: The Hmong Shaman in America* (1984, Dwight Conquergood)

Week 8

Mon., Oct 29 No class (Make up session to be scheduled together with students)

Thurs., Nov 1 No class – Fall break

Week 9

Mon., Nov 5 Kinship (and Emotion)

Read: -Hendry, Ch 11 (Family, Kinship and Marriage)

-Baldassar, “Missing Kin and Longing to be Together: Emotions and the Construction of Co-presence”

Thurs, Nov 8 Politics and Power

Read: -Hendry, Ch 9 and Ch 10

-Allison, “Japanese Mothers and Obentos: The Lunch Box as Ideological State Apparatus”

Week 10:

Mon., Nov 12 : Economics: Market and Culture

Read: -Ho, Disciplining Investment Bankers, Disciplining the Economy: Wall Street’s Institutional Culture of Crisis and the Downsizing of “Corporate America”

Listen: David Graeber’s lecture at the “Collège de France” on March 22, 2018 entitled “Revolt of the Caring Classes” (Note: there is an “original version” in

English and French, and then an English and French version, both with subtitles):
<https://www.college-de-france.fr/site/evenements-culturels/22-mars-2018-David-Graeber.htm>

*****Part 4: Anthropology and Globalization: Crossing Borders*****

Thurs. Nov 15 Transnationalism and Globalization

Read: -Hendry, Ch 13 and 14

Week 11

Mon., Nov 19: Tourism as Intercultural Encounter

Tourism
Read : -Conran, 'They really love me!' Intimacy in Volunteer

Watch: - Cannibal Tours (youtube)

Thurs., Nov 22 An Embodied Anthropology of Migration and Suffering

Read: - Holmes, *Fresh Fruit, Broken Bodies: Migrant Farmworkers in the United States*, Ch 1

Week 12

Mon., Nov 26 Read: Holmes, Ch 2-3

Thurs., Nov 29 Read: Holmes, Ch 4-6

Week 13

M Dec 3 Read: -Holmes, Ch 7

Th Dec 6 *Ethnographic Film and Immigration*

 In-class film, Taxiway (Alicia Harrison, 2013)

Week 14

M. Dec 10 *Conclusions*

Reading: Hendry, Ch 14: *Anthropology and Anthropologists: What is the point of all this anthropology?*

Textbooks

This course doesn't have any textbook.

Attendance Policy

Students studying at The American University of Paris are expected to attend ALL scheduled classes, and in case of absence, should contact their professors to explain the situation. It is the student's responsibility to be aware of any specific attendance policy that a faculty member might have set in the course syllabus. The French Department, for example, has its own attendance policy, and students are responsible for compliance. Academic Affairs will excuse an absence for students' participation in study trips related to their courses.

Attendance at all exams is mandatory.

IN ALL CASES OF MISSED COURSE MEETINGS, THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR COMMUNICATION WITH THE PROFESSOR, AND FOR ARRANGING TO MAKE UP MISSED WORK, RESTS SOLELY WITH THE STUDENT.

Whether an absence is excused or not is ALWAYS up to the discretion of the professor or the

department. Unexcused absences can result in a low or failing participation grade. In the case of excessive absences, it is up to the professor or the department to decide if the student will receive an “F” for the course. An instructor may recommend that a student withdraw, if absences have made it impossible to continue in the course at a satisfactory level.

Students must be mindful of this policy when making their travel arrangements, and especially during the Drop/Add and Exam Periods.

Grading Policy

EVALUATION:

Grading Scale:

100 = A+	74 – 76 = C
94 – 99 = A	70 – 73 = C-
90 – 93 = A-	67 – 69 = D+
87 – 89 = B+	64 – 68 = D
84 – 88 = B	60 – 63 = D-
80 – 83 = B-	59 and below = F
77 – 79 = C+	

Grading Summary:

Your final grade is based on:

15% - Attendance and participation

25% - Black crow quizzes

30% - Midterm Exam

30% - Comprehensive Final Exam

Grading Details:

Attendance and Participation (15%):

Active participation and regular attendance is required for this class. This grade will therefore be based on your attendance record as well as the professor's subjective appreciation of your class participation. This subjective appreciation is based on the following: you are expected to be respectful to your classmates and to the professor during class. This means paying attention to what is said (by professors and other students), responding thoughtfully in discussions and taking notes. In other words, I ask that you actively engage in class interaction and dialogue. This means that students should refrain from text messaging (or using cell phones in any way), surfing the internet, chatting with peers, arriving to class late or leaving early.

In terms of attendance, I begin deducting from your grade if you miss more than three classes. If you know you are going to miss a class, please let me know ahead of time. If you do miss a class, doing the readings, obtaining notes and catching up on assignments is entirely the student's responsibility. See "Attendance Policy" below for additional information.

Black crow quizzes (25%):

Each class will start with a short 10-minute quiz on the class readings assigned for that day. After students turn in the quiz the professor will row the dice. The quiz will be graded when the dice falls on the black crow or the crow's basket; the quiz will not be graded if it falls on one of the color sides (see crow dice).

In any case, all quizzes contribute to the final grade. For those quizzes not graded, they will nonetheless count as a point if they are completed (and obtain a check), if a quiz is obviously incorrect because the student did not do the reading or incomplete (because the student was absent), the student does not earn a point.

The professor may also assign a homework assignment (a take home quiz if you like) from time to time in the semester. If she does so, it will be graded and that grade will be added into the Black Crow Quiz average.

Midterm and Final Exams (30% + 30%):

These will cover readings, films, museum visits, powerpoint presentations and discussions. The final exam covers the entire semester. Exams will consist of three sections: key terms, short answer questions and an essay. Black crow quizzes and review sessions will help students prepare for this exam.

Late Assignments:

All assignments must be handed in on time. Any exceptions must be discussed with me PRIOR to the assignment's due date. I reserve the right to reduce the grade on a late assignment by 1/3 per day late (So, from an A- to a B+ in 24 hours). Please see me if you have any problems that impede your ability to do the work: it will be easier for me to take this into consideration if you speak to me first. I DO NOT ACCEPT ANY ASSIGNMENTS VIA EMAIL.

Other

Note Concerning Email Etiquette:

A few basic emailing rules apply to this class:

- Please know that I generally do not respond to emails during the weekend or on weekdays after 5pm. (In other words, writing to me at 10pm on a Sunday evening to ask a question about an assignment due in-class on the next day is not acceptable and does NOT excuse you from completing that assignment on time).
- Please look to the syllabus BEFORE you send me an email. (In other words, do NOT send me an email to ask what the readings are for the next class, this information is available on the syllabus and I reserve the right to NOT respond to the email).
- We see each other twice a week. So for routine questions, please try to ask me before or after class. (For example, you want to make an appointment to see me? Great. Let's schedule a meeting together after class).
- Also there are confidential questions that I will not answer over email (e.g. What is my current grade in your class?) If you have such questions, please schedule an appointment.
- If you do send an email, please make sure it is respectful (and that is a rule that should really hold for all your classes). I reserve the right to not answer emails that are disrespectful in any way. For a respectful email:

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- Always start with a greeting (ex. Dear Professor Shields; Hello; Good Afternoon);
 - Do not write in CAPITALS (as this indicates shouting) and beware of repetitive use of “!” and “?”;
 - Keep emails short, professional and to the point. If you have a question or comment which I cannot answer in 3 to 5 sentences, I will advise you to come see me after class or during office hours;

End your email with an appropriate salutation (e.g. Thank you; Best; Sincerely)