ANTH 152
Culture and Humanity

Guido Carlo Pigliasco
Moore Hall 468
guido@hawaii.edu
Office Hrs: WF 11:30-12:30

Course Description

The goal of this course is to offer a comparative approach to the concept of culture and an analysis of how culture structures the worlds in which we live. This course provides a general overview of cultural anthropology for both majors and non-majors, giving them a fundamental grasp of the distinctive interrogatives about culture and social institutions from an anthropological point of view. Cultural anthropology is the study of multicultural perspectives and cultural diversity of human societies.\(^1\) It examines human societies from their beginnings to the postindustrial age, and considers the development of various forms of social organization and their significance for family and kinship, economics, politics, and religion.

Our textbook, *Cultural Anthropology: A Perspective on the Human Condition*, by Emily Schultz and Robert Lavenda, introduces students to key concepts and data of cultural anthropology suggesting basic ethnographic methodologies also used in other social sciences. Its objective is to expose students to the richness and variety of human life in the past and contemporary worlds. While the textbook covers the traditional anthropological material, additional material has been selected to give more insight into contemporary life styles.

Ethnographic films provide an alternative way of perceiving culture-perception constructed through the lens. Culture is manifested through visible symbols embedded in gestures, ceremonies, ritual performances, and artifacts situated in various environments. The use of these visual aspects conveys and shapes anthropological experience, knowledge, methods and perspectives.

\(^1\) ANTH 152 has replaced ANTH 200 as the prerequisite course for all anthropology majors starting Fall 2007.
Required Texts

Lavenda, Robert H., and Emily A. Schultz

Weiner, Annette B.
1988  *The Trobrianders of Papua New Guinea*: Thomson/Wadsworth.²

DeVita, Philip R.

Course Requirements and Evaluation

Class attendance and active student participation (20%)
(including in-class short exercises and writing assignments)
1 Mini-ethnography assignment (15%)
3 Quizzes (15% each) (45%)
1 Final exam (20%)
100%

**Class attendance & participation:** regular class attendance is a course requirement. In addition to the videos, important material that is not covered in the textbook and readings will be presented in lecture, and there may also be changes in the course syllabus which will be announced in lecture. Students will be responsible for all changes to the course requirements that may be announced in class. Class participation includes questions and answers, the quality of your active engagement through contributions, group discussions, and overall preparation. This course relies heavily on lectures and in-class discussions and exercises. If you miss a class, it is your responsibility to get notes from other students about what you missed.

**In-class exercises:** by the end of the second week of the semester, you will be grouped with five other students in the course. On Thursdays, these groups will be called upon to work together to discuss readings or films, to generate questions or comments for other class participants, or to produce collectively a short paper or critique. These activities are designed to sharpen your grasp of the material through your engagement with it, but their effectiveness in this regard depends on your active participation and preparation (which includes having read the day’s assignments). Each group will have a **facilitator** rotating each week to keep things on task and focused. On Thursdays, each group will compare and exchange notes from the readings or films and each facilitator will summarize the group’s conclusions. These notes should reflect the group’s thoughts.

² From time to time, lectures will be accompanied by images from Annette B. Weiner’s and David Wason’s *The Trobriand Islanders of Papua New Guinea*. 1991, London: Granada Television International, Films Incorporated.
about statements in the book or reactions to class discussions, lectures, and films. All these exercises are mandatory.

**Mini-ethnography assignment:** the assignment will analyze cultural phenomena taken from the readings and/or the films presented in class and may involve observing and recording ethnic cultural events in Hawai‘i. Archival research (Hamilton and Sinclair Libraries) is recommended. These papers usually run 5-7 pages long (double spaced; 1” margins; 12pt. font) and including a detailed bibliography. Pages should be stapled and handed in on the assigned date at the end of the class. The assignment is due on Apr. 17 in class. Assignments handed in late lose one point per weekday. Time-date stamp your assignment (stamp machine on counter of main anthropology office, Saunders Hall 346) if leaving it in my mailbox.

**Quizzes:** three quizzes will be given at the end of 4th, 8th and 14th weeks, including multiple-choice and short essay questions.

**Final exam:** the final exam must be taken on the day listed in the course schedule. If you will be not available that day, you should not take this course. The exam will be comprehensive covering ALL the reading materials, lectures and ALL the film excerpts viewed and discussed in class. It will include multiple-choice questions and short essay questions.

**Extra credits:** Extra credits are not normally available in this course.
COURSE SCHEDULE

Week 1: Introduction
Jan. 15, 17

Readings: Schultz/Lavenda (Ch. 1, 16); DeVita (Ch. 1).
Film: Anthropology: Real People, Real Careers (45 min.)

PART I: The Tools of Cultural Anthropology

Week 2: Culture and Meaning
Jan 22, 24

Readings: Schultz/Lavenda (Ch. 2); DeVita (Ch. 12)
FACILITATORS: discussion
Film: Latah: A Culture-Specific Elaboration of the Startle Reflex (39 min.)

Week 3: Fieldwork and Methods
Jan. 29, 31

Readings: Schultz/Lavenda (Ch. 3); Weiner (Introduction); DeVita (Ch. 29)
FACILITATORS: discussion
Film: Neighborhood Tokyo (29 min.)

Week 4: Anthropology in History
Feb. 5, 7

Readings: Schultz/Lavenda (Ch. 4); Weiner (Ch. 1); DeVita (Ch. 26)
Film: First Contact (55 min.)

QUIZ I Feb. 7

PART II: The Resources of Culture

Week 5: Language and Communication
Feb. 12, 14

Readings: Schultz/Lavenda (Ch. 5); DeVita (Ch. 20)
FACILITATORS: discussion
Film: American Tongues (57 min.)
Week 6: Perception and Emotion  
Feb 19, 21

Readings: Schultz/Lavenda (Ch. 6); DeVita (Ch. 17)  
FACILITATORS: discussion  
Film: Les Maîtres Fous (29 min.)

Week 7: Art and Myth  
Feb. 26, 28

Readings: Schultz/Lavenda (Ch. 7); Weiner (Ch. 9); DeVita (Ch. 22)  
FACILITATORS: discussion  
Film: Malaggan Labadama (58 min.)

Week 8: Religion and Secularism  
Mar. 4, 6

Readings: Schultz/Lavenda (Ch. 8); Weiner (Ch. 2); DeVita (Ch. 18)  
Film: Witchcraft Among the Azande (52 min.)  
QUIZ II  Mar. 6

PART III: The Organization of Material Life

Week 9: Social Organization and Power  
Mar. 11, 13

Readings: Schultz/Lavenda (Ch. 9); Weiner (Ch. 6); DeVita (Ch. 6)  
FACILITATORS: discussion  
Film: The Nuer (75 min.)

Week 10: Patterns of Subsistence  
Mar. 18, 20

Readings: Schultz/Lavenda (Ch. 10); Weiner (Ch. 5); DeVita (Ch. 14)  
FACILITATORS: discussion  
Film: Dani Sweet Potatoes (19 min.)

Week 11: SPRING RECESS  
Mar. 25, 27
PART IV: Systems of Relationships

Week 12: Kinship and Gender
Apr. 1, 3

Readings: Schultz/Lavenda (Ch. 11); Weiner (Ch. 3); DeVita (Ch. 10)
FACILITATORS: discussion
Film: Dadi’s Family (60 min.)

Week 13: Marriage and Sexuality
Apr. 8, 10

Readings: Schultz/Lavenda (Ch. 12); Weiner (Ch. 4); DeVita (Ch. 21)
FACILITATORS: discussion
Film: N!ai, the Story of a !Kung Woman (60 min.)

Week 14: Beyond Kinship
Apr. 15, 17

Readings: Schultz/Lavenda (Ch. 13); Weiner (Ch. 7, 8); DeVita (Ch. 13)
Film: The Cows of Dolo Ken Paye: Resolving Conflict Among the Kpelle (31 min.)

RESEARCH ASSIGNMENT DUE Apr. 17
QUIZ III Apr. 17

PART V: From Global to Local

Week 15: Dimensions of Inequality in the Contemporary World
Apr. 22, 24

Readings: Schultz/Lavenda (Ch. 14); Weiner (Ch. 10); DeVita (Ch. 28)
FACILITATORS: discussion
Film: Rabbit-Proof Fence (93 min.)

Week 16: Postmodernity and Globalization
Apr. 29, May 1

Readings: Schultz/Lavenda (Ch. 15); DeVita (Ch. 23)
FACILITATORS: discussion
Film: No Logo: Brands, Globalization, Resistance (42 min.)

FINAL EXAM TBA
Required Films: ³

AAA  


Camerini, Michael, and Rina Gill  

Connolly, Bob, et al.  

Gibbs, James Lowell, Marvin Silverman, and Henry Breitrose  

Harris, Hilary, and Robert Gardner  

Heider, Karl G.  

Klein, Naomi, et al.  

Kolker, Andrew, Louis Alvarez, and Center for New American Media.  

Marshall, John  

Noyce, Phillip, et al.  

Owen, Chris  

³ All films are available at Sinclair-Wong AV Center.
Rouch, Jean, and Pierre Braunberger

Simons, Ronald C.

Singer, Andre, and Steve Morrison

Weiner, Annette B., and David Wason