



## Human Cultural Diversity

Tuesdays and Thursdays 9:30-10:45 am, Tehama 106, instructor Mr. Eaton.  
Office 317 Butte Hall, email [daeaton@csuchico.edu](mailto:daeaton@csuchico.edu), tel 898-4185.

This course offers an introduction to social and cultural anthropology. We will consider the origins and history of thought in these fields, and emphasize the power and relevance of anthropological methods in the understanding of contemporary social problems.

### *Required texts*

- \* coursepack readers
- \* Strunk and White, *The Elements of Style*

### *Recommended*

- \* Bell, *Clean, Well-Lighted Sentences*

### *Course schedule*

*week 1 Aug 25 & 27 Anthropology and the problem of culture*

... Primate origins, classification, and distribution (charts and maps)

De Waal and Lanting, *Bonobo: The Forgotten Ape* (selections)

Herodotus, More Scythian tribes

Cooper, Chinese table manners

Nathan, As others see us, from *My Freshman Year*

*week 2 Sept 1 & 3 Ethnographic methods*

Malinowski, Introduction to *Argonauts of the Western Pacific*

Hurston, Folk tales, from *Mules and Men*

Eaton, A Brazzaville friendship

*see also: Strunk and White, 'Introduction' and 'Elementary rules of usage'*

*week 3 Sept 8 & 10 Origins and conditions of human sociality*

**\* No class Tu Sept 8 / State budget closure day \***

Leakey, The language of art

Cavalli-Sforza and Cavalli-Sforza, Agriculture's dawn

Mithen, *After the Ice: A Human History 20,000-5,000 BC* (selections)

*map quiz: Southwest Asian & Mediterranean nation-states*

*week 4 Sept 15 & 17 Exchange, production, and social organization*

Armstrong, from *Islam: A Short History*

Wolf, *The world in 1400*

Ibn Khaldun, *The Muqadimmah*

Thesiger, *On the character of the Bedouins*

Schneider, *World markets: anthropological perspectives*

*see also: Strunk and White, 'Words and expressions commonly misused'*

*week 5 Sept 22 & 24 Population, demography, and human ecologies*

McKibben, *A special moment in history*

Manning, *The oil we eat*

Kunich, *Ark of the Broken Covenant* (selections)

Peterson, *Eating Apes* (selections)

*see also: Strunk and White, 'Elementary principles of composition'*

*\* first paper on human ecologies, markets, and biodiversity due Fri Sept 25 \**

*week 6 Sept 29 & Oct 1 Affliction and healing*

Brown, *Renewable energy sources: the German story*

Friedman, *Flush with energy in Denmark*

Eaton, *Ambivalent inquiry: coping with AIDS in the Republic of Congo*

Walker et al., *Waiting to Happen: HIV/AIDS in South Africa* (selections)

*map quiz: African nation-states*

*week 7 Oct 6 & 8 Subject, person, and identity*

Mead, *Growing Up in New Guinea* (selections)

Lutkehaus, *Margaret Mead and the 'rustling-in-the-wind school' of anthropology*

Kondo, 'Japanese selves', in *Crafting Selves*

*\* midterm exam Oct 8 \**

*week 8 Oct 13 & 15 Family, gender, and sexuality*

*\* No class Th Oct 15 / State budget closure day \**

Stacey, *The ephemeral modern family*

Lam, *China's one-child policy*

Eaton, *Improvising fulfillment in north Congo*

*week 9 Oct 20 & 22 Ethnicity, culture, ...*

Du Bois, *The Souls of Black Folk* (selections)

Hall, *Old and new identities, old and new ethnicities*

Rosaldo, *Border crossings*

Tien, *Look back in anger*

*week 10 Oct 27 & 29 ... class, and race*

Scott, *Life at the top in America isn't just better...*

Sanjek, *The enduring inequalities of race*

Sacks, *How Jews became white folks*

Nickens, *The Human Genome Project and minority health*

*see also: Strunk and White, 'An approach to style'*

*\* second paper on difference and inequality due Fri Oct 30 \**

*week 11 Nov 3 & 5 The nation-state*  
..., Riots continue in France (NY Times)  
Liang et al., *Land Without Ghosts* (selections)  
Eaton, Diagnosing the crisis in Congo

*week 12 Nov 10 & 12 Language and expressive culture*  
Eaton, Understanding AIDS in public lives  
Maffi, Introduction to *On Biocultural Diversity*  
Hinton, *Flutes of Fire: Essays on California Indian Languages* (selections)

*week 13 Nov 17 & 19 Spiritual experience*  
Davis, Flesh of the gods, from *One River*  
Eliade, Introduction to *Shamanism: Archaic Techniques of Ecstasy*  
Beeman, Fundamentalism and religious revival  
Brody, *The Other Side of Eden* (selections)

\* Thanksgiving holiday Nov 23-27 \*

*week 14 Dec 1 & 3 Modernizing lifeways...*  
González, *Zapotec Science* (selections)  
Evans-Pritchard, *The Nuer* (selections)  
Holtzman, *Nuer Journeys, Nuer Lives* (selections)  
Morse, Darfur as a resource war

*week 15 Dec 8 & 10 ... and post-industrial ironies*  
Pollan, from *The Omnivore's Dilemma*  
Lovins, More profit with less carbon  
Harvey, *The Condition of Postmodernity* (selection)

*final examination Tuesday Dec 15*

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*Course requirements:* class preparation, attendance, and active participation; online discussion postings; in-class quizzes; assigned brief papers; midterm; final examination.

Students are required to post regularly (weekly) in WebCT VISTA online discussion groups in response to questions about selected readings. The cumulative quality of these postings will be one record of your engagement in the class and will be considered carefully as a major component of your final grade. Also required are two analytic papers of about 1250 words each about the assigned readings, to be submitted to me electronically. Late papers will be marked down 10% each 24 hours, and will not be accepted after 72 hours. There will be a midterm and a final examination. There will also be occasional field exercises, and short quizzes at points throughout the term to help keep you current on the course readings and to make sure you are understanding the materials.

*Please note:* Assignments may be added or revised as the course progresses. Details will be announced in class and posted online. Students are responsible for checking their email and WebCT accounts regularly to stay current with class announcements. Food, drink, and chewing gum are not permitted in the classroom. Students are expected to know and adhere to CSU policies on plagiarism and respect of library materials. Suspected cases of academic dishonesty will be referred to the Student Judicial Affairs office.

*Please note:* Repeated unexcused absences from class will result in a lower final grade or failure in the course. I will accept no excuses, no matter how good or understandable, other than a copy of a signed letter from an authorized university office or medical care provider specifying the date(s) excused. No late work can be accepted, and no 'incomplete' final grades will be issued. *To contact me* about a course matter, *please email me* at daeaton@csuchico.edu (I prefer email to phone calls; if necessary, you can call me at my office phone at 898-4185). If you miss class it is your responsibility to get lecture notes *from other students* in the class.

*Anthropology 113 is a General Education course* which meets the requirements for area D-1 (Individual and Society). GE courses in this area require students to 'demonstrate learning in the nature and behavior of individuals and their effects on and adaptations to other individuals, groups, institutions, and environments.' To accomplish these goals, this course:

- \* introduces students to approaches and insights of social and cultural anthropology;
- \* develops students' abilities to document, interpret, and analyze human diversity; and
- \* cultivates students' skills in reading and writing anthropologically-informed analyses of a representative range of current topics in the discipline.

*In our anthropology curriculum at CSU Chico, our overall goals are to*

- \* Understand from an anthropological perspective the phenomenon of culture as it differentiates human life from other life forms. Understand the roles of human biology and cultural processes in human behavior and evolution.
- \* Become able to critically address ethical and moral issues of diversity, power, inequality, and survival from an anthropological perspective.
- \* Know substantive data and theoretical perspectives in the subdisciplines of anthropology. Know the history of anthropological theory and be conversant in major issues in each area.
- \* Be familiar with the forms of anthropological literature and basic data sources. Know how to access, interpret, evaluate, and apply such information, using a range of sources and information technologies.
- \* Grasp the methodologies of the subdisciplines of anthropology. Be able to apply appropriate methods when conducting anthropological research.
- \* Be able to present and communicate the results of anthropological research.

*(as revised Jan 08)*