

## CASPER COLLEGE COURSE SYLLABUS

### ANTH 1200 – INTRODUCTION TO CULTURAL ANTHROPOLOGY

**Semester/Year:** Fall 2015 (ANTH 1200-02: 41810)

**Lecture Hours:** 3

**Lab Hours:** 0

**Credit Hours:** 3

**Class Time:** 5-7:50 pm

**Days:** W

**Room:** LH 186

**Instructor's Name:** Evin Rodkey, Ph.D.

**Instructor's Contact Information:**

**Office Phone:**

**Email:**

**Office:** LH 175-E

(307) 268-2696

evinrodkey@caspercollege.edu

Email is the best way to reach me. You may also call my office line at any time; please leave a voicemail if needed.

#### **Office Hours:**

10-11 am Mon-Fri; also 12-1 pm Mon

I will be available at other times, especially in the afternoon; if you would like to meet at a different time than those listed, please contact me.

#### **Course Catalog Description:**

*(3L)(3CR) [E]* Using an ethnological approach, (comparative study of culture), this course surveys the basic concepts of cultural anthropology including cross cultural investigations of kinship, marriage, language, religion, politics, economics, and culture change.

#### **Statement of Prerequisites:**

None required

#### **Goal:**

By completing this class, students should more broadly understand human culture and methods for studying it. Students should also develop a deeper appreciation for human diversity and cultural differences.

#### **Outcomes:**

This class will focus on the following three of the Casper College course outcomes:

- 1. Demonstrate effective oral and written communication**
2. Use the scientific method
- 3. Solve problems using critical thinking and creativity**
- 4. Demonstrate knowledge of diverse cultures and historical perspectives**
5. Appreciate aesthetic and creative activities

6. Use appropriate technology and information to conduct research
7. Describe the value of personal, civic, and social responsibilities
8. Use quantitative analytical skills to evaluate and process numerical data

**Course Objectives:**

--Be able to clearly and effectively express, in both conversation and writing, content reflecting the anthropological approach, including the concept of culture (connects to Outcome #1 above).

--Identify and understand the research methods associated with anthropology and social sciences broadly (connects to Outcome #3 above).

--Understand the cultural construction of race and gender, as well as global economic and political connections across cultures (connects to Outcome #3 and 4 above).

--Be able to apply major concepts and material to cases outside the classroom (connects to Outcome #3 and 4 above).

**Methodology:**

Lecture and discussion; attendance and active participation is required. Your feedback is valuable as the instructor uses course evaluations in determining course methodology.

**Evaluation Criteria:**

**NOTE: All work is due both by hard copy in class AND by uploading to turnitin on Moodle. All work may be subject to resubmission.**

**--Section Review Packets:**

At the end of Sections I and II you will be responsible for submitting a packet of materials addressing content from the respective section, which will include writing assignments. A portion of this will include materials from previous class sessions. Overall, keep in mind you will incorporate material from class and the assigned reading; therefore, if you miss class or readings throughout the section, you will do worse on these and get less out of them. Detailed instructions will be given in class and posted on Moodle.

**--Question Sets:**

In Section III, in which we will focus on two ethnographies, you will be responsible for weekly assignments addressing content from these works. These will mostly consist of providing responses to questions and short writings. There are six Question Sets assigned; however, only five count toward your grade (your lowest grade will be dropped). Question Sets will be assigned a week in advance and posted on Moodle.

**--Exam:**

In the last week, we will have an exam in class that may also consist of take home material assigned prior. You will be given precise criteria to focus on in preparation for the exam.

Section Review Packet #1	50
Section Review Packet #2	50
Question Sets	50 (5 @ 10 pts each; 6 total, lowest 1 dropped)
EXAM	50

### **IMPORTANT NOTE ON ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION:**

Both the Section Review Packets and the Question Sets entail active class participation as part of the grade. You may lose up to 10 points on your packet grade and 2 points per Question Set for lack of participation. We will have class discussions and small group discussions focused on material for these assignments.

**You must be present and actively participate in class and small group discussions to avoid a point deduction. Though there is no grade category for “attendance,” you cannot participate if you are not here and you may miss materials for the packets; therefore, attendance (and active participation) is required.**

Also note that, per college policy during the specified period, I will submit a faculty-initiated withdrawal (FIW) for students who fail to attend scheduled course sessions for two consecutive weeks.

**TOTAL:** 200 (A: 200-180 / B: 179-160 / C: 159-140 / D: 139-120 / F: 119-0)

**Casper College may collect samples of student work demonstrating achievement of the above outcomes. Any personally identifying information will be removed from student work.**

### **Required Text, Readings, and Materials:**

Three books are required, which are available at the campus bookstore. Also keep in mind online sources for purchasing and renting, as well as library systems for borrowing. Also note that all three books are placed on reserve in the campus library for temporary use. **One way or another, you must have full access to all three books.**

**Invitation to Anthropology, 4<sup>th</sup> edition.** Luke Eric Lassiter. Rowman & Littlefield, 2014.

ISBN-13: 978-0759122543

ISBN-10: 0759122547

**Labor and Legality: An Ethnography of a Mexican Immigrant Network.** Ruth Gomberg-Muñoz.

Oxford, 2011.

ISBN-13: 978-0199739387

ISBN-10: 0199739382

**Birth on the Threshold: Childbirth and Modernity in South India.** Cecilia Van Hollen. University of California Press, 2003.

ISBN-13: 978-0520223592

ISBN-10: 0520223594

Additional required readings may be posted or handed out.

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### **Class Policies:**

**IMPORTANT:** See the “Supplement to the Syllabus” for further information to help you succeed in this class and beyond.

**Do not use your phone or other electronic devices during class.** It's rude and distracting to you, me, and the rest of the class. However, if you have a special situation, please let me know prior to class and exceptions can be made.

Late work is generally not accepted; however, contact the instructor in advance with any problems and in extraordinary circumstances (determined by the instructor), brief extensions may be granted.

As noted above, regarding attendance and participation, though there is no grade category for this, the coursework requires attendance and active participation; therefore, you will lose significant points for missing class. Also remember that, per college policy during the specified period, I will submit a faculty-initiated withdrawal (FIW) for students who fail to attend scheduled course sessions for two consecutive weeks.

**Last Date to Change to Audit Status or to Withdraw with a W Grade:**

Thursday, November 12, 2015

**Student Rights and Responsibilities:** Please refer to the Casper College Student Conduct and Judicial Code for information concerning your rights and responsibilities as a Casper College Student.

**Chain of Command:** If you have any problems with this class, you should first contact the instructor to attempt to solve the problem. If you are not satisfied with the solution offered by the instructor, you should then take the matter through the appropriate chain of command starting with the Department Chair/Program Director, the Dean, and lastly the Vice President for Academic Affairs.

**Academic Dishonesty:** (Cheating & Plagiarism) Casper College demands intellectual honesty. Proven plagiarism or any form of dishonesty associated with the academic process can result in the offender failing the course in which the offense was committed or expulsion from school. See the Casper College Student Code of Conduct for more information on this topic.

**Official Means of Communication:** Casper College faculty and staff will employ the student's assigned Casper College email account as a primary method of communication. Students are responsible to check their account regularly. This is also where you will find course evaluation links during course evaluation periods.

**ADA Accommodations Policy:** If you need academic accommodations because of a disability, please inform me as soon as possible. See me privately after class, or during my office hours. To request academic accommodations, students must first consult with the college's Disability Services Counselor located in the Gateway Building, Room 344, (307) 268-2557, [bheuer@caspercollege.edu](mailto:bheuer@caspercollege.edu). The Disability Services Counselor is responsible for reviewing documentation provided by students requesting accommodations, determining eligibility for accommodations, and helping students request and use appropriate accommodations.

## **COURSE CALENDAR**

**NOTE:** Dates and other information may change. If so, you will be notified in class (if possible) and by email.

**IMPORTANT:** Reading for each week must be completed **by class time** that week. Take notes on the reading as you go—this will help you! **Also note that chapters are not always in order.**

In each chapter of *Invitation to Anthropology* you will find boxes titled "Anthropology Here and Now: Check It Out!" Be sure to read these and, if interested, look further into the material discussed.

Also note each chapter features photographs (and, in some cases charts, figures, etc.). Be sure to incorporate captions and further explanations accompanying these features.

## **SECTION I: ANTHROPOLOGY AND CULTURE**

To begin the course we will discuss the basic concepts of anthropology, focusing on the major tenets of the discipline, the development of the field, and the research methods used to generate anthropological understanding. All reading in this section is from *Invitation to Anthropology*.

### **WEEK 1 – W 8/26: Introducing the Study of Anthropology**

#### **WEEK 2 – W 9/2: The Field of Anthropology and Key Concepts**

**READ:** c. 1 “Evolution and the Critique of Race: A Short Story”

**\*Short Writing Assignment due at the start of class (grade part of Packet #1, see Week 4)**

#### **WEEK 3 – W 9/9 (\*Labor Day was Mon): The Culture Concept**

**READ:** c. 2 “Anthropology and Culture” (\*35-66)

#### **WEEK 4 – W 9/16: Ethnographic Research Methods**

**READ:** c. 3 “Ethnography”

**\*Section Review Packet #1 due at the start of class**

## **SECTION II: CULTURE AND SOCIAL ORGANIZATION**

For Section II, we will apply the conceptual material from Section I to further understand cultural institutions and conventions including gender, family, religion, politics, economy, and global connections. Reading is mostly from *Invitation to Anthropology*, but also includes material posted on Moodle.

#### **WEEK 5 – W 9/23: Sex and Gender**

**READ:** c. 5 “Sex, Power, and Inequality: On Gender”

#### **WEEK 6 – W 9/30: Family Organization and Kinship**

**READ:** c. 6: “Work, Success, and Kids: On Marriage, Family, and Kinship”

#### **WEEK 7 – W 10/7: Religion**

**READ:** c. “Knowledge, Belief, and Disbelief: On Religion”

#### **WEEK 8 – W 10/14: Political Organization**

**READ:** c. 4 “History, Change, and Adaptation: On the Roots of Our World System”

#### **WEEK 9 – W 10/21 (\*M and T was Fall Break): Economy and Globalization**

**READ:** “Concepts of Globalization” (**NOTE:** PDF posted on Moodle, **NOT** in book)

**\*Section Review Packet #1 due at the start of class**

## **SECTION III: CASE STUDIES IN ANTHROPOLOGY**

In the final section of the course, we will focus on two ethnographies, *Labor and Legality: An Ethnography of a Mexican Immigrant Network* (2011) by Ruth Gomberg-Muñoz and *Birth on the Threshold: Childbirth and Modernity in South India* (2003) by Cecilia Van Hollen. This will allow us to deeply explore such important human issues as immigration, exploring issues of global economy, labor, and racialization, as well as childbirth in a cross-cultural context, exploring issues related to medical anthropology and gender. Examining these issues through an anthropological lens, we will attend to the historical, cultural, and global contextual

background. The conceptual material from Section I and the content on cultural institutions and conventions from Section II will converge here as we focus on ethnographic studies that bring together this material in particular cases. We will also have readings posted on Moodle and the Afterword of *Invitation to Anthropology*.

**WEEK 10 – W 10/28: Immigration**

**READ:** *Labor and Legality*:

- Contents
- Preface
- Introduction, c. 1 "Meet the Lions"
- c. 2 "Why Is There Undocumented Migration?"
- Appendix: "Interview Outline (Core Participants)"

**\*Question Set #1 due**

**WEEK 11 – W 11/4 (\*Fri is Advising Day): Immigration (contd)**

**READ:** *Labor and Legality*:

- c. 3 "Jumping and Adjusting To Life Under the Radar" (\*41-62)
- c. 4 "Múy Unidos: Friends, Networks, and Households" (\*63-78)
- c. 5 "Echándole Ganas: Working Hard" (\*80-100)

**\*Question Set #2 due**

**WEEK 12 – W 11/11: Immigration (contd)**

**READ:** *Labor and Legality*:

- c. 6 "Los Número Uno: Identity, Dignity, and Esteem" (\*102-122)
- c. 7 "Illegal and Criminals: Racism, Nativism, and the Criminalization of Low-Wage Labor" (\*124-140)
- Epilogue (\*137-140)

**\*Question Set #3 due**

**WEEK 13 AND THANKSGIVING WEEK: Child Birth and Gender in a Global Context**

**W 11/18 – NO CLASS [Instructor at American Anthropological Association (AAA) Annual Meeting]**

**\*NOTE:** We do not have class; however, you DO have required reading. Also, Question Set #4 is due by uploading to Moodle. Further instructions will be provided.

**READ:** *Birth on the Threshold*:

- Contents
- Acknowledgements
- "Prologue: Birth on the Threshold" (\*1-4)
- "Introduction: Childbirth and Modernity in Tamil Nadu" (\*5-35)
- Appendix I: "Sample Interview Questionnaires"

\*(M 11/16) – **Question Set #4 due**

**W 11/25 – NO CLASS (Thanksgiving Break)**

**\*NOTE:** Again, we do not have class this week, but you DO have required reading. Also, Question Set #5 is due by uploading to Moodle. Further instructions will be provided.

**READ:** *Birth on the Threshold*:

- c. 1 "The Professionalization of Obstetrics in Colonial India: The 'Problem' of Childbirth in Colonial Discourse" (\*36-56)
- c. 2 "Maternal and Child Health Services in the Postcolonial Era" (\*57-75)

**WEEK 14 – W 12/2: Child Birth and Gender in a Global Context (contd)**

**READ:** *Birth on the Threshold*:

- c. 3 "Bangles of Neem, Bangles of Gold: Pregnant Women as Auspicious Burdens"
- c. 6 "'Baby Friendly Hospitals and Bad Mothers: Maneuvering Development during the Postpartum Period"

(NOTE: We are skipping c. 3 and 4 due to time restraints; we will be incorporating some of the material in class. You of course may read them if you wish.)

- Conclusion: "Reproductive Rights, 'Choices,' and Resistance" (\*206-214)
- Epilogue (\*215-220)

**\*Question Set #6 due**

**WEEK 15 – W 12/9: Applying Anthropology Beyond the Classroom**

**READ:**

- "Body Ritual Among the Nacirema" (NOTE: PDF posted on Moodle, **NOT** in book)
- "Afterword" from *Invitation to Anthropology*

**\*EXAM**