This course will introduce students to a wide range of approaches to social and cultural analysis, and give a broad overview of the field of cultural anthropology. The course is designed to introduce students to the methods, theories, and concepts of cultural anthropology, as well as several examples of sustained ethnographic prose. Drawing on ethnographic materials from all parts of the world we will investigate how people define themselves and others, make sense of their world(s), and organize their lives. We will look at past and contemporary ways that anthropologists have thought about culture, and use anthropological perspectives to examine the ways in which the “culture concept” is used by a variety of people and groups. Throughout the course, we will investigate the manner in which the study of other peoples (whether in the form of academic anthropology today or as part of the intellectual arsenal of people’s the world over—from the North American Northwest Coast to Papua New Guinea, and from Herodotus and Sima Qian to Marshall Sahlins and Pierre Bourdieu) shapes the identity of the observer, and will look carefully at the ways in which various cultural groups relate to one another in times of peace and in conflict.

**Evaluation**

Weekly Ethnographic Abstracts/Logs 20%
Mid-semester Analysis 25%
Review Essay 25%
Final Exam 30%

Class attendance and participation is expected. More than two absences will significantly affect your grade. Late assignments will be penalized. See my Late Assignment Policy.
**Anthropology 100**  
**Society and Culture**  
**Spring 2008**

*To be read prior to the beginning of the term:*
Bowen, *Return to Laughter*

**Week I** (January 15, 17)
Kottak, *Cultural Anthropology*: 3-62  
What is Anthropology?  
Applying Anthropology  
Culture  
Spradley, *Conformity and Conflict*: 1-57  
1. James P. Spradley, Ethnography and Culture.  
3. Laura Bohannan, Shakespeare in the Bush.  
4. Claire E. Sterk, Fieldwork on Prostitution in the Era of AIDS.  
5. George Gmelch, Lessons from the Field.  
“Dakota Studies” handouts 1-8.  
*Ethnographic Abstract Due on Friday, January 18th by 5:00 p.m. (paper copies only)*

**Week II** (January 22, 24)
Turnbull, *The Forest People*  
Foreword  
The World of the Forest  
The Good Death of Belekimito  
The Making of Camp Lelo  
The Song of the Forest  
The Crime of Cephu, The Bad Hunter  
The Giver of the Law  
The Play World of the BaMbuti  
*Molimo*: The Dance of Death  
The World of the Village  
*Elima*: The Dance of Life  
The Marriage of Kenge  
Village Initiation and Magic  
Forest Horizons  
The World Beyond  
The Dream World  
*New York Review of Books* (See *New York Review assignment sheet*)  
*Ethnographic Abstract Due on Friday, January 25th 5:00 p.m. (paper copies only)*

**Week III** (January 29, 31)
Kottak, *Cultural Anthropology*: 63-122  
The Evolutionary Origins of Human Culture  
Ethnicity and Race  
Spradley, *Conformity and Conflict*: 102-141  
12. Richard K. Reed, Forest Development The Indian Way.  
*New York Review of Books* (See *New York Review assignment sheet*)  
*Ethnographic Abstract Due on Friday, February 1st by 5:00 p.m. (paper copies only)*
**Week IV** (February 5, 7)

Harris, *Cannibals and Kings*

- Introduction
- Culture and Nature
- Murders in Eden
- The Origin of Agriculture
- The Origin of War
- Proteins and the Fierce People
- The Origin of Male Supremacy and of the Oedipus Complex
- The Origin of Pristine States
- The Pre-Columbian States of Mesoamerica
- The Cannibal Kingdom
- The Lamb of Mercy
- Forbidden Flesh
- The Origin of the Sacred Cow
- The Hydraulic Trap
- The Origin of Capitalism
- The Industrial Bubble
- Epilogue and Moral Soliloquy

*New York Review of Books (See New York Review assignment sheet)*

**Ethnographic Abstract Due on Friday, February 8th by 5:00 p.m. (paper copies only)**

**Week V** (February 12, 14)

Kottak, *Cultural Anthropology*: 123-150

- Language and Communication

Spradley, *Conformity and Conflict*: 58-101

7. James P. Spradley And Brenda J. Mann, *How To Ask For a Drink*.

*New York Review of Books (See New York Review assignment sheet)*

**Ethnographic Abstract Due on Friday, February 15th by 5:00 p.m. (paper copies only)**

**Week VI** (February 19, 21)

Rabinow, *Reflections on Fieldwork in Morocco*

- Introduction
- Remnants of a Dying Colonialism
- Packaged Goods
- Ali: An Insider’s Outsider
- Entering
- Respectable Information
- Transgression
- Self-Consciousness
- Friendship
- Conclusion
- Afterword

*New York Review of Books (See New York Review assignment sheet)*

**Ethnographic Abstract Due on Friday, February 22nd 5:00 p.m. (paper copies only)**

**Week VII** (February 26)

Kottak, *Cultural Anthropology*: 151-176

- Making a Living

Spradley, *Conformity and Conflict*: 142-177


New York Review of Books (See New York Review assignment sheet)

Ethnographic Abstract Due on Friday, February 29th at 5:00 p.m. (paper copies only)

Week VIII—Spring Break

Week IX (March 11, 13)—Mid-Semester Analysis Week
Evans-Pritchard, The Nuer, 1-50
  Introductory
  Interest in Cattle
Evans-Pritchard, “The Sacrificial Role of Cattle Among the Nuer”
  Mid-Semester Analysis Due Monday, March 17th at 5:00 p.m.
  (No Ethnographic Abstract Due This Week)

Week X (March 18, 20)
Kottak, Cultural Anthropology: 177-204
  Political Systems
Spradley, Conformity and Conflict: 260-293
  25. Barbara Joans, Notes From An Expert Witness
  26. Marvin Harris, Life Without Chiefs.
New York Review of Books (See New York Review assignment sheet)
  Ethnographic Abstract Due on Friday, March 21st by 5:00 p.m. (paper copies only)

Week XI (March 25, 27)
Kottak, Cultural Anthropology: 205-226
  Families, Kinship, and Descent
Spradley, Conformity and Conflict: 178-217
  17. David W. McCurdy, Family and Kinship in Village India.
  19. Margery Wolf, Uterine Families and the Women’s Community.
New York Review of Books (See New York Review assignment sheet)
  Ethnographic Abstract Due on Friday, March 28th by 5:00 p.m. (paper copies only)

Week XII (April 1, 3)
Evans Pritchard, Witchcraft, Oracles, and Magic Among the Azande
  Witchcraft is an Organic and Hereditary Phenomenon
  The Notion of Witchcraft is Explains Unfortunate Events
  Sufferers from Misfortune Seek for Witches Among Their Enemies
  Are Witches Conscious Agents?
  Witch-Doctors
  Training of a Novice in the Arts of a Witch-Doctor
  The Place of Witch-Doctors in Zande Society
  The Poison Oracle in Daily Life
  Problems Arising From the Consultation of the Poison Oracle
  Other Zande Oracles
  An Association for the Practice of Magic
  Witchcraft, Oracles, and Magic in the Situation of Death
New York Review of Books (See New York Review assignment sheet)
  Ethnographic Abstract Due on Friday, April 4th by 5:00 p.m. (paper copies only)
Week XIII (April 8, 10)
Nathan, My Freshman Year
   Welcome to "AnyU"
   Life in the Dorms
   Community and Diversity
   As Others See Us
   Academically Speaking…
   The Art of College Management
   Lessons from My Year as a Freshman
   Afterword: Ethics and Ethnography

New York Review of Books (See New York Review assignment sheet)

Week XIV (April 15, 17)
Selections from the New York Review of Books
   Anthony Grafton. “Rediscovering a Lost Continent”
   Robert Darnton. “Extraordinary Commonplaces”
   Jonathan Spence. “China’s Great Terror”
   Clifford Geertz. “Under the Mosquito Net”
   Clifford Geertz. “Culture War”
   Clifford Geertz. “The Visit”
   Clifford Geertz. “Very Bad News”
   Clifford Geertz. “Among the Infidels”

Review Essays Due by 5:00 p.m. on Monday, April 21st

Week XV (April 22, 24)
Kottak, Cultural Anthropology: 227-278
   Marriage
   Gender
Spradley, Conformity and Conflict: 218-259
   22. Meredith F. Small, A Woman’s Curse?
   23. Jeffrey M. Fish, Mixed Blood.

Week XVI (April 29)
Kottak, Cultural Anthropology: 279-324
   Religion
   The Arts
Spradley, Conformity and Conflict: 294-339
   27. Stanley A. Freed and Ruth S. Freed, Taraka’s Ghost.

Final Exam:
   Saturday, May 3rd
   9:00 a.m. - Noon