This course is designed to introduce students fully to the field of cultural anthropology. It assumes a foundation in the study of society and culture, which can be fulfilled with Beloit College’s prerequisite course, ANTH 100: Society and Culture. The prerequisite can also be fulfilled with a comparable course at another college or university or, in some cases, with the consent of the instructor. Building upon the introductory foundations students have gained, this course will focus on doing cultural anthropology—from learning to read (with great care) the seminal works in the discipline’s history to developing skill in listening, note-taking, writing fieldnotes, and crafting full ethnographic reports. Throughout the course, we will stress the importance of reading in the development of ethnographic skills. Writing fine
ethnographic prose is far more than a mere matter of “gathering data” and “writing it up.” Skill in reading contributes to skills in field research, and both contribute to ethnographic writing. Students will read some of the masterworks of ethnographic literature, even as they pursue their own research projects. Their work will build toward a final review essay that combines careful reading and textual analysis with their own ethnographic prose.

**Evaluation**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
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<tr>
<td>Notebooks/Jottings</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fieldnotes</td>
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<td>Mid-semester Analysis</td>
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<td>Presentation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ethnographic Essay</td>
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*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.*

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**Anthropology 200**

**Theory and Technique in Cultural Anthropology**

**Autumn 2009**

**Week I** (August 25, 27)

*The John McPhee Reader:* vii-xxiii
  - Introduction by William L. Howarth

Two NPR Interviews with John McPhee (listen to both—2006 and 1978)


*Emerson, Writing Ethnographic Fieldnotes:* 1-16
  - Fieldnotes in Ethnographic Research

*Gardner, On Becoming a Novelist,* xi-xxv; 1-97; 119-145
  - Foreword by Raymond Carver
  - Preface
  - The Writer’s Nature
  - The Writer’s Training and Education
  - Faith

*Mauss, The Concept of the Person* (handout)
  - The Subject—The “Person” (*personne*)
  - The “Role” (*personnage*), and the Place of the “Person” (*personne*)
  - The Latin “Persona”
  - The “Persona”
  - The “Person” (*personne*): A Moral Fact
  - The Christian “Person” (*personne*)
  - The “Person” (*personne*): A Psychological Being
  - Conclusion

*Weekly Fieldnotes and Research Log Due on Friday, August 28th at 5:00 p.m.*
**Week II (September 1, 3)**

*The John McPhee Reader:* 35-80

- Oranges
- The Pine Barrens

*Emerson, Writing Ethnographic Fieldnotes:* 17-38

- In the Field: Participating, Observing, and Jotting Notes

*Mauss, The Gift*

- Foreword by *Mary Douglas*
- Introduction
- The Exchange of Gifts and the Obligation to Reciprocate (Polynesia)
- The Extension of This System—*Liberality, Honour, Money*
- Survivals of These Principles in Ancient Systems of Law and Ancient Economies
- Conclusion

*Weekly Fieldnotes and Research Log Due on Friday, September 4th at 5:00 p.m.*

**Week III (September 8, 10)**

*The John McPhee Reader:* 129-188

- Levels of the Game
- The Crofter and the Laird

*Emerson, Writing Ethnographic Fieldnotes:* 39-107

- Writing Up Fieldnotes I: From Field to Desk
- Writing Up Fieldnotes II: Creating Scenes on the Page

*Mauss, Seasonal Variation Among the Eskimo (Handout)*

- Translator’s Foreword
- Introduction
- General Morphology
- Seasonal Morphology
- The Effects of Eskimo Seasonal Variations
- Conclusion

*Weekly Fieldnotes and Research Log Due on Friday, September 11th at 5:00 p.m.*

**Week IV (September 15, 17)**

*The John McPhee Reader:* 267-308

- Pieces of the Frame

*Emerson, Writing Ethnographic Fieldnotes:* 108-168

- Pursuing Members’ Meanings
- Processing Fieldnotes: Coding and Memoing

*Geertz, Works and Lives:* 1-24

- Being There: Anthropology and the Scene of Writing

*Durkheim and Mauss, Primitive Classification (Handout)*

- The Problem
- The Australian Type of Classification
- Other Australian Systems
- Zuni, Sioux
- China
- Conclusions

*Weekly Fieldnotes and Research Log Due on Friday, September 18th at 5:00 p.m.*

**Week V (September 22, 24)**

*Geertz, Works and Lives:* 25-48

- The World in a Text: How to Read *Tristes Tropiques*

*Geertz, The Interpretation of Cultures,* 345-359

- The Cerebral Savage: On the Work of Claude Lévi-Strauss
Lévi-Strauss, *Tristes Tropiques*, 15-105; 178-197; 281-317; 367-415

An End to Journeying
- Setting Out (15)
- On Board Ship
- The West Indies
- The Quest for Power

Travel Notes
- Looking Back
- The Making of an Anthropologist
- Sunset

The New World
- The Doldrums
- Guanabara
- Crossing the Tropic
- Sao Paulo

Caduveo
- A Native Community and its Lifestyle (178)

Nambikwara
- Family Life (281)
- A Writing Lesson
- Men, Women and Chiefs

Tupi Kawahib
- Seringal (367)

The Return
- The Apotheosis of Augustus
- A Little Glass of Rum
- Taxila
- The Kyong

*Weekly Fieldnotes and Research Log Due on Friday, September 25th at 5:00 p.m.*

**Week VI** (September 29, October 1)

- I-Witnessing: Malinowski’s Children

Malinowski, *Argonauts of the Western Pacific*: 1-104
- Foreword
- Introduction: The Subject, Method, and Scope of this Enquiry
- The Country and Inhabitants of the Kula District
- The Natives of the Trobriand Islands
- The Essentials of the Kula
- Canoes and Sailing
- The Ceremonial Building of a Waga
- Launching of a Canoe and Ceremonial Visiting: Tribal Economics in the Trobriands

Geertz, *Local Knowledge*: 55-72 (Reserve)
- From the Native’s Point of View: On the Nature of Anthropological Understanding

Malinowski, *A Diary in the Strict Sense of the Term*, 1-100 (Reserve)
- Part One: 1914-1915

*Weekly Fieldnotes and Research Log Due on Friday, October 2nd at 5:00 p.m.*
**Week VII** (October 6, 8)

- Preface(s)
- Substance
- Method
- Significance

Evans-Pritchard, *Appendix I to Witchcraft, Oracles…* (Handout)
- Some Reminiscences and Reflections on Fieldwork

Emerson, *Writing Ethnographic Fieldnotes*: 169-216
- Writing an Ethnography
- Conclusion

Weekly Fieldnotes and Research Log Due on Friday, October 9th at 5:00 p.m.

**Week VIII — Autumn Break**

**Week IX** (October 20, 22)

Geertz, *The Interpretation of Cultures*, 3-30; 87-125; 360-454
- Thick Description: Toward an Interpretive Theory of Culture
- Religion as a Cultural System
- Person, Time, and Conduct in Bali
- Deep Play: Notes on the Balinese Cockfight

Mid-Semester Analyses Due by Friday, October 23rd at 5:00 p.m.

**Week X** (October 27, 29)

Briggs, *Never in Anger*
- Introduction
- Inuttiaq
- Family Life: Expressions of Closeness
- Inuttiaq’s Children
- Two Kin Groups: Expressions of Separateness and Hostility
- Nilak’s Family
- Kapluna Daughter

Weekly Fieldnotes and Research Log Due on Friday, October 30th at 5:00 p.m.

**Week XI** (November 3, 5)

Riesman, *Freedom in Fulani Social Life*, ix-xxi; 1-257
- Foreword
- Acknowledgments
- Note on Transcription

One: The Tawaangal of the Jelgobe
- Climate and Technology
- The Social Organization of Jelgoji
- Fulani Social Structure
- Life in the *Wuro*: Categories of People and Tasks
- Authority Relations in the *Wuro*
- Religion
- *Pulaaku* and *Semteende*: Fulani-ness and Shame

Two: Life as Lived
- Jelgobe Attitudes toward Life
- Keeping Society Going
- How to Resist Others
- *Wuro* and *Ladde*: The Village and the Bush

Weekly Fieldnotes and Research Log Due on Friday, November 6th at 5:00 p.m.
**Week XII** (November 10, 12)
Goffman, *Interaction Ritual*
- Introduction
- On Face-Work
- The Nature of Deference and Demeanor
- Embarrassment and Social Organization
- Alienation from Interaction
- Mental Symptoms and Public Order
- Where the Action Is

Goffman, *The Presentation of the Self in Everyday Life*
- Introduction
- Performances
- Teams
- Regions and Region Behavior
- Discrepant Roles
- Communication Out of Character
- The Arts of Impression Management
- Conclusion

*Weekly Theory Note and Research Log Due on Friday, November 13th at 5:00 p.m.*

**Week XIII** (November 17, 19)
Berger, *The Social Construction of Reality*
- Introduction: The Problem of the Sociology of Knowledge
- The Foundations of Knowledge in Everyday Life
- Society as Objective Reality
- Society as Subjective Reality
- The Sociology of Knowledge and Sociological Theory

Searle, *The Construction of Social Reality*
- The Building Blocks of Social Reality
- Creating Institutional Facts
- Language and Social Reality
  - The General Theory of Institutional Facts
  - Part I: Iteration, Interaction, and Logical Structure
  - The General Theory of Institutional Facts
  - Part II: Creation, Maintenance, and the Hierarchy
- Background Abilities and the Explanation of Social Phenomena
  - Does the Real World Exist?
  - Part I: Attacks on Realism
  - Does the Real World Exist?
  - Part II: Could There Be a Proof of External Realism?
- Truth and Correspondence
- Conclusion

*Weekly Theory Note and Research Log Due on Friday, November 20th at 5:00 p.m.*
**Week XIV** (November 24)

Douglas, *Natural Symbols*
- Away from Ritual
- To Inner Experience
- The Bog Irish
- Grid and Group
- The Two Bodies
- Test Cases
- The Problem of Evil
- Impersonal Rules
- Control of Symbols
- Out of the Cave

Douglas, *Purity and Danger*
- Introduction
- Ritual Uncleanness
- Secular Defilement
- The Abominations of Leviticus
- Magic and Miracle
- Primitive Worlds
- Powers and Dangers
- External Boundaries
- Internal Lines
- The System at War with Itself
- The System Shattered and Renewed

*Weekly Theory Note and Research Log Due on Monday, November 30th at 5:00 p.m.*

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**Week XV** (December 1, 3)

Bauman, *Verbal Art as Performance*
- Introduction
- The Nature of Performance
- The Keying of Performance
- The Patterning of Performance
- The Emergent Quality of Performance
- Conclusion

Turner, *The Ritual Process*
- Planes of Classification in a Ritual of Life and Death
- Paradoxes of Twinship in Ndembu Ritual
- Liminality and Communitas
- Communitas: Model and Process
- Humility and Hierarchy: The Liminality of Status Elevation and Reversal

*Weekly Theory Note and Research Log Due on Friday, December 4th at 5:00 p.m.*

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**Week XVI** (December 8)

Presentations

*Final Papers Due on Tuesday, December 15th at 5:00 p.m. (in my office)*