INTRODUCTION TO CULTURAL ANTHROPOLOGY
ANTH 1101 — Fall 2019

CONTACT INFORMATION:
Instructor: Willi Lempert
E-mail: wilempert@bowdoin.edu
Classroom: Adams 208
Class Time: Monday and Wednesday 1:15 – 2:40
Office Hours: Wednesday 3-5 in Adams 309

Cultural anthropology is valuable because it is constantly rediscovering the normal. ~ Edward Sapir

The purpose of anthropology is to make the world safe for human differences. ~ Ruth Benedict

COURSE DESCRIPTION
In this class we will explore what it means to be human within and through culture. We will engage readings that explore core concepts in cultural anthropology including race, gender, class, social organization, kinship, magic, ritual, rites of passage, reciprocity, finance, immigration, and inequality. In addition to a variety of shorter texts, we will analyze three full-length ethnographies that are based on years of fieldwork. These ethnographies demonstrate the diversity and vital relevance of cultural anthropology today, taking us from Aboriginal communities in the Australian outback, to Wall Street investment banks, to the migrant walking trails along the US/Mexico border. In addition to the content of ethnographies, we will carefully consider (and sometimes briefly practice) the methods by which anthropologists come to understand the world.

REQUIRED TEXTS AND MATERIALS:
• Musharbash, Yasmine  
  Yuendumu Everyday: Contemporary Life in Remote Aboriginal Australia
• Ho, Karen  
  Liquidated: An Ethnography of Wall Street
• De Leon, Jason  
  The Land of Open Graves: Living and Dying on the Migrant Trail
• Other reading assignments and materials will be provided on Blackboard.

GRADING
Your grade for the course will be determined according to the following scale:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grading Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mid-term</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Paper 1</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Paper 2</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Participation/Attendance</td>
<td>10%</td>
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</table>
A (93-100); A- (90-93)
B+ (87-90), B (83-87), B- (80-83)
C+ (77-80), C (73-77), C- (70-73)
D+ (67-70), D (63-67), D- (60-63)
F (below 60)

“**A**” level work reflects excellence in all areas. An “**A**” suggests that work is not only thought provoking and structurally polished, but that assignments are completed with a high level of stylistic and critical sophistication. “**A**” level work presents the reader with fresh and independent thinking, logical organization, and excellent control over mechanics and style.

“**B**” level work is very good, exploring difficult questions in a way that is creative, critical and thought provoking. “**B**” level work is critically and organizationally sound, is stylistically competent, and contains few errors.

“**C**” level work indicates that assignments are completed adequately, meeting minimum requirements. This grade indicates that the work is functional at a college level and that all aspects of the assignment have been addressed. However, the work may be hindered by a lack of sufficient critical inquiry, organizational clarity, and control over mechanics and style.

“**D**” level work is substandard at the college-level. It is usually completed in haste and reflects little thought or attention to detail. A “**D**” indicates that major portions of the assignment are completed poorly.

“**F**” level work is incomplete or inadequate. An “**F**” will also be given if plagiarism has occurred.

**E-MAIL**

In addition to handing out assignments in class, I will send out assignments, updates, and readings by e-mail or on Blackboard. Please check your e-mail account frequently. I do not always read/respond to e-mails during the weekends, or after work hours, so it is best to contact me from M-F between 9:00 AM and 5:00 PM. I encourage you to visit my office during office hours.

**ATTENDANCE**

If you **miss more than three classes (unexcused)**, your grade will be **reduced by one grade level** for each additional day missed. If you are absent this much, you have missed a significant amount of the course material and it will be difficult for you to achieve the goals of this course. For example, if you have a B+ and miss five days, you will end up with a B- for the course. If you are absent, you are responsible for contacting a classmate for the information and assignments you missed.

If you foresee any attendance conflicts because of religious observance, please notify me during the **first two weeks of the semester** so that you and I can make suitable schedule accommodations. Religious observance will not be considered an absence so long as I know about it at the beginning of the semester. Any time you are absent, you are still responsible for any work due for that day.
MID-TERMS
We will have two mid-term exams during the semester. The content will be split between content from the readings and from class lectures. The purpose is to make sure that you are absorbing and synthesizing the core concepts from class and the readings. We will discuss the structure of these in more depth in class.

PAPERS
We are fortunate to be integrated with the Writing Project this semester and you will work closely with a writing assistant on drafts of your papers. Every final paper will be turned in along with a writer’s note cover page in which you will reflect on the writing process.

You will have two single-day extensions that you can use for either paper. To use them, simply email me this intention and I will then adjust this in my records. You do not have to let me know beforehand, but you need to email me when you use these for them to count. I highly recommend that you save at least one for the final paper.

Beyond these two single-day extensions, you will lose one full letter grade for each day the paper is late in the spirit of fairness and equity. Computer problems are not an acceptable excuse for a late paper. With the variety of resources on campus, you should have ample opportunity to complete your papers on time. Back up your work daily! In a pinch, email yourself.

PARTICIPATION
Participation includes (but is not limited to) asking thoughtful questions, engaging during discussions/class exercises, and acting in the manner of a colleague. This aspect of your grade reflects your mental attendance. In other words, those who are actively engaged in the course will succeed in this area.

CLASSROOM BEHAVIOR
In general, I encourage challenging and critical interactions both with me and with your peers, with common courtesy and respect for others. Professional courtesy and sensitivity are especially important with respect to individuals and topics dealing with differences of race, culture, religion, politics, sexual orientation, gender, gender variance, and nationalities. I will honor and support your preference of name and gender pronoun. Please advise me of this preference early in the semester so that I may make appropriate changes to my records.

CELL PHONE AND LAPTOP POLICY
Cell phones are very distracting and their use is not permitted in this course. Violation of this policy will result in a lower grade for the course. Therefore, be prepared to handwrite your notes. Any use of social media or other inappropriate computer usage will result in the loss of participation points.

YOUR CONCERNS
Please consult with me should you have any question or concern about any aspect of our class together. I want you to have the most beneficial experience possible this semester. Please be assured that I always respect students for the courtesy of communicating with me directly.

**This document is subject to change. You will be notified of any updates**
COURSE SCHEDULE

Week 1  Introductions  
09/04  Overview Syllabus  
       Miner, Body Ritual Among the Nacirema

Week 2  Culture and Rock Music  
09/09  Williams, Culture in “Keywords”  
       Monaghan and Just, Bee Larvae and Onion Soup: Culture  
09/11  Jacobsen, Why Navajos Love Their Country Music  
       *Rumble: The Indians Who Rocked the World* (watch film on Kanopy before class)  
** Willie Thrasher (class visitor) **

Week 3  Denaturalizing Difference  
09/16  Moses, Racial Realities  
       Moses, Why Do We Keep Using the Word “Caucasian”?  
       Astor, Why Many Native Americans Are Angry With Elizabeth Warren  
       Understanding Race (explore website)  
09/18  Bohannan, Shakespeare in the Bush  
       Sahlin, The Original Affluent Society

Week 4  Ethnography and the Everyday  
09/23  Musharbash, Yuendumu Everyday (1-45)  
09/25  Musharbash, Yuendumu Everyday (46-76)

Week 5  Place and Language  
09/30  Musharbash, Yuendumu Everyday (77-138)  
10/02  Musharbash, Yuendumu Everyday (139-157)  
       Deutscher, Does Your Language Shape How You Think?

Week 6  Kinship  
10/07  Delaney, Relatives and Relations  
10/09  ** In-class Mid-term **

Week 7  Magic  
10/14  NO CLASS - FALL BREAK  
10/16  Singh, Why Shamans Stand Apart  
       Gmelch, Baseball Magic
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<tr>
<th>Week 8</th>
<th><strong>The Process of Belief and Belonging</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td>10/21</td>
<td>Turner, Betwixt and Between: The Liminal Period in Rites de Passage</td>
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<td>Kavanagh, How and Why Hazing Evolved</td>
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<td>10/23</td>
<td><em>Going Clear: Scientology and the Prison of Belief</em> (watch in-class)</td>
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<td><strong>Paper 1 Draft for Writing Assistant Due In Class</strong> **</td>
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<th>Week 9</th>
<th><strong>Reciprocity and Exchange</strong></th>
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<td>10/28</td>
<td>Brownell and Bisnier, Do the Olympics Make Economic Sense?</td>
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<td>Ceraldi, Can Cryptocurrency Revolutionize the Rituals of Money?</td>
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<td>10/30</td>
<td>Bourdieu, Forms of Capital</td>
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<td>11/03</td>
<td><strong>Paper 1 Due Sunday by 5pm</strong> **</td>
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<th>Week 10</th>
<th><strong>Reproducing Class</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td>11/04</td>
<td>Ho, Liquidated - Intro and Chapter 1 (1-72)</td>
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<td>11/06</td>
<td>Ho, Liquidated - Chapter 2 (73-121)</td>
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<th>Week 11</th>
<th><strong>Capital and Value</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td>11/11</td>
<td>Ho, Liquidated - Chapters 5 and 6 (213-294)</td>
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<td>11/13</td>
<td>Ho, Liquidated - Chapter 7 (295-324)</td>
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<tr>
<td>11/15</td>
<td><strong>Paper 2 Draft for Writing Assistant Due Friday by 2PM in My Mailbox</strong> **</td>
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<th>Week 12</th>
<th><strong>Outer Space</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Oman-Reagan, Unmanning Space Language</td>
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<td>Mandelbaum, Decolonizing Mars: Are We Thinking About Space Exploration All Wrong?</td>
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<tr>
<td>11/20</td>
<td>NO CLASS</td>
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<tr>
<th>Week 13</th>
<th><strong>Reimagining Gender</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td>11/25</td>
<td>Abu-Lughod, Do Muslim Women Really Need Saving?</td>
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<td><em>Is Robot Empathy a Trapl</em> (listen to this half-hour podcast)</td>
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<td>11/26</td>
<td><strong>Paper 2 Due Tuesday by 5pm</strong> **</td>
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<td>11/27</td>
<td>THANKSGIVING BREAK</td>
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<th>Week 14</th>
<th><strong>Immigration and Borders</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td>12/02</td>
<td>De Leon, The Land of Open Graves (1-86)</td>
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<tr>
<td>12/04</td>
<td>De Leon, The Land of Open Graves (87-144)</td>
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<td>Week 15</td>
<td><strong>Inequality and Structural Violence</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>12/09</td>
<td>De Leon, The Land of Open Graves (145-237)</td>
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<tr>
<td>12/11</td>
<td>De Leon, The Land of Open Graves (238-288)</td>
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** Final Exam During Our Scheduled Time Period on Monday, Dec 16 **