

UNIVERSITY OF DENVER -- COLORADO WOMEN'S COLLEGE
SOCS 1010: Foundations in Anthropology

Spring Quarter 2016

Mondays 6 – 9:50 pm

Class dates: March 21, March 28, April 4, April 11, April 18, April 25, May 2, May 9, May 16, May 23.

INSTRUCTOR: Hilary Simons Morland, Ph.D.

Email: hilarymorland@me.com

I will respond to email messages within 24 hours. I will be available by appointment before or after each class.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Anthropology is the study of humans, past and present. In this class, students will be introduced to the discipline of anthropology and the methods and concepts that anthropologists use to study, understand, and appreciate human biological and cultural diversity. Through lecture, film, readings, discussions, exercises, writing, and independent research, students will explore what it means to be human, and learn how to “think like an anthropologist.”

The emphasis in class will be on thinking, discussing, writing, and doing. We will use films, a textbook and an ethnography to learn about concepts in anthropology. Students will complete two major projects. In the first, students will write a paper on a female pioneer in anthropology. In the second, students will become “anthropologists in action” and use the participant observation method to conduct a small scale field research project in the Denver area. The results of both projects will be presented in class.

We live in a global economy and a global culture. Our lives often intersect with people from cultural backgrounds very different than our own. We can use the study of anthropology to develop an awareness of and respect for these cultural differences and their impact on our interpersonal interactions. In this course, you will reflect on your assumptions about your own and other cultures, and explore perspectives and insights necessary for navigating through today’s highly diverse world.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

- Acquire basic familiarity with selected key terms, major concepts, and some of the pioneers in cultural and physical anthropology.
- Develop a basic understanding of the importance of cross-cultural understanding.
- Use anthropological methods and analysis to design, conduct, and execute a small scale field work project.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

The Women’s College fully endorses the University of Denver’s Honor Code and the procedures put forth by the Office of Citizenship and Community Standards. Academic dishonesty—including plagiarism, cheating, and falsification of data and research—is in violation of the code and will result in a failing grade for the assignment or for the course.

As student members of a community committed to academic integrity and honesty, it is your responsibility to become familiar with the DU Honor Code and its procedures (www.du.edu/honorcode).

INCLUSIVE EXCELLENCE STATEMENT

CWC is committed to fostering a diverse learning community that is inclusive and respectful. We encourage and appreciate expressions of different ideas, opinions, and beliefs, so that conversations and interactions that could be potentially divisive instead turn into opportunities for intellectual and personal growth. Respecting what others say, their right to say it, and listening to each other are the ways that we all can further thoughtful and enlightening dialogue.

COURSE TEXTS

1. Kottak, Conrad Phillip. *Cultural Anthropology; Appreciating Cultural Diversity. 15th edition.* McGraw Hill, 2013.
2. Shostak, Marjorie. *Nisa: The Life and Words of a !Kung Woman.* Harvard University Press. 2000.

You can purchase used copies of both of these books on Amazon for under \$10 each.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. **Class participation (10%)**
2. **Homework Assignments (20%)**
3. **Report on Pioneer Woman Anthropologist (30%)**
4. **Field Work Project (40%)**

Percentage	Grade
95-100	A
90-94	A-
87-89	B+
84-86	B
80-83	B-
77-79	C+
74-76	C
70-73	C-
67-69	D+

64-66	D
60-63	D-
0-59	F

ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION

Attendance is mandatory at all class meetings. Students are expected to do the reading and participate actively in class discussions. Student who must miss a class due to illness or personal emergency should contact the Instructor. (Grading: 2 points per week or 20 points total). **A grade of incomplete will not be granted under any circumstances.** <http://www.du.edu/registrar/records/incompletepolicy.html>

TECHNOLOGY USE IN THE CLASSROOM

In order to create and maintain an optimal learning environment in the classroom, students should use technology appropriately as directed by the instructor for the purposes of the course. Work done on laptops, cell phones, and other devices that is not relevant to the class can hinder the process of communication and shared discussion of ideas that require full engagement by all participants.

ADA ACCOMMODATIONS

Students who require accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act must contact the instructor to discuss their needs. Failure to notify the instructor immediately may hinder the college's ability to accommodate accordingly. Students with learning disabilities should also contact the University Disability Services Program at <http://www.du.edu/studentlife/disability/> <http://www.du.edu/disability>. University Disability Services houses the Learning Effectiveness Program (LEP) and the Disability Services Program (DSP).

OBSERVATION OF RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS

Students wishing to observe a religious holiday not celebrated on the academic calendar may do so provided advance written notice is given the instructor during the first two weeks of the quarter. With advance written notice, the absence will be considered an excused absence. For additional information, contact DU's Center for Religious Services (<http://www.du.edu/crs/>)

MAJOR ASSIGNMENTS

Research Paper: Pioneering Women Anthropologists

You will write a research paper on a pioneering female anthropologist, selected from a list provided by the professor. The paper will cover the individual's early life, work, research results, challenges and obstacles, and influence on the field. Details will be provided in Canvas. This paper will be 4-5 pages, due on April 25th. Please submit papers through Canvas. Late papers will be accepted but receive partial credit. (Total 30 points).

Research Project: Field Work Project

This will be your chance to “become an anthropologist”, and practice participant observation in a “sub-culture” that is not your own. Students will identify a topic of interest, develop a research question and methodology, and choose a group of people to “study.” Students will collect data and then analyze and write up the data in a final research report. Results of the experience will be presented to the class. Class time will be devoted to developing each step of the project. Details will be provided in Canvas. The paper will be 5-6 pages, due on May 23rd. Please submit papers through Canvas. Late papers will be accepted but receive partial credit. (Total 40 points).

COURSE SCHEDULE (SUBJECT TO CHANGE)

Week One (March 21):

No class

Watch: Films posted in canvas

Due: Writing Assignment #1 posted in Canvas (due on or before April 4)

Week Two (March 28):

No class

Watch: Films posted in canvas

Due: Writing Assignment #2 posted in Canvas (due on or before April 4)

Week Three (April 4):

Topic: **What is Anthropology?**

Required reading:

Kottak, Chapter 1

Shostak, Intro and Chapters 1-2

Due: Reflections on Nisa #1

Week Four (April 11):

Topic: **What is Culture?**

Required reading:

Kottak, Chapter 2

Shostak, Chapters 3-4

Due: Reflections on Nisa #2

Week Five (April 18):

Topic: **How do Anthropologists study their subjects? Field work methods**

Required reading:

Kottak, Chapter 3

Shostak, Chapters 5-6

Due: Reflections on Nisa #3

Week Six (April 25):

Topic: **How did we become human? Human evolution**

Required reading:

To be announced

Kottak, Chapter 6

Shostak, Chapters 7-8

DUE: Pioneering Woman Anthropologist Paper

Week seven (May 2):

Topic: **What does it mean to be human? Jane Goodall and chimpanzee behavior**

Required reading:

Kottak, Chapter 5

TBA

To be announced

Due: TBA

Week Eight (May 9):

Topic: **Families, Kinship, and Descent**

Required reading:

Kottak, Chapter 10

Shostak, Chapters 9-10

Due: Family Genealogy

Week Nine (May 16):

Topic: **Primate social systems: human marriage and primate social structure**

Required reading:

Kottak, Chapter 11

Shostak, Chapters 11-12

Due: TBA

Week Ten (May 23):

Topic: **Ethical Dilemmas: Colonialism, Globalization, and Ethnotourism**

Required reading:

Kottak, Chapters 14 and 15

Shostak, Chapter 13

DUE: Field Work Project Paper