10528 - ANT\* K105 - T1: Introduction to Cultural Anthropology

Wednesday 6pm – 8:45pm Class Room # D104 Spring 2018

**Instructor: Gideon Ampeire** 

Email. gampeire@trcc.commnet.edu,

Office: D-205E, Hours: Wednesday 5-5:45pm

### **Course Description:**

The course explores various customs, traditions, and forms of social organizations from a global perspective. This course examines how anthropological methods and theory are applied to the study of human culture. Topics include beliefs and religious system, linguistics, economic systems, arts, kinship systems, marriage and family, technology, gender, race, and ethnicity.

# Goals and objectives of the course:

- 1. Learn about the world's cultures and how they are changing
- 2. Understand what cultural anthropologists do in terms of their research and careers
- 3. Understand "our" role in the world and "our" responsibilities as citizens of a global world

#### **Course book at Folletts Bookstore at Three Rivers:**

- 1. Welsch, R. L., & Vivanco, L. A. (2016). Asking questions about cultural anthropology: A concise introduction. Oxford University Press ISBN: 9780199926909
- 2. Holloway, K. (2006). Monique and the mango rains: The extraordinary story of friendship in a midwife's house in Mali. Waveland Press, Incorporated. ISBN: 9781577664352

# **Requirements and Distribution of Grades:**

There will be three multiple choice test each comprising 20% of the final grade. There is no cumulative exam at the end of term.

#### **Book Review 15%:**

You are required write about three - five double-spaced page book review of Monique and the mango rains. (**Due 25**)

# Fieldtrip Assignment Report/Ethnographic Project 15%:

#### **Class Attendance and Class Participation: 10%:**

I will take attendance for each class session. You are also expected to complete all required readings before class.

#### **Grading Scale:**

$$\begin{array}{lll} A = 94\% & C+=77\% & F = 59\% \\ A-= 90\% & C = 75\% \\ B+= 87\% & C-= 70\% \\ B= 85\% & D+= 67\% \\ B-= 80\% & D= 65\% \\ D-= 60\% \end{array}$$

# **Academic honesty policy at Three Rivers:**

Academic integrity is essential to a useful education. Failure to act with academic integrity severely limits a person's ability to succeed in the classroom and beyond. Furthermore, academic dishonesty erodes the legitimacy of every degree awarded by the College. In this class and in the course of your academic career, present only your own best work; clearly document the sources of the material you use from others; and act all times with honor.

#### **Writing Center Contacts:**

Three Rivers Community College Writing Center 574 New London Turnpike Norwich, Connecticut 06360

Phone: (860) 892-5713 or (860) 892-5769 E-mail: TRWritingCenter@trcc.commnet.edu

# **Learning Disability Resources:**

#### **Contact:**

Elizabeth Willcox (Students with Physical, Medical or Sensory Disabilities)

Phone: (860) 215-9289

E-mail: ewillcox@threerivers.edu

Matt Liscum (Students with Learning Disabilities, Autism, Attention Defecit Disorder and

Psychiatric Disabilities) Phone: (860) 215-9265

E-mail: mliscum@threerivers.edu

Students with a documented disability are provided supportive service and accommodations to assist them with their academic objectives. Services are strictly confidential. Disability services may include individualized accommodations, advising, advocacy, counseling, technical assistant and referral information

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**Instructor: Gideon Ampeire** 

Email. gampeire@trcc.commnet.edu,

Office: D-205E, Hours: Thursday 12:30-1:30pm

#### **Course Outline:**

#### 1/24. Chapter 1: Anthropology: Asking Questions About Humanity

Introducing Anthropology's four fields, Introducing Cultural Anthropology, Distinctive Features of Cultural Anthropology

#### 1/31. Chapter 2: Culture: Giving Meaning to Human Lives

What is Culture? If Culture Is Emergent and Dynamic, Why Does It Feel So Stable? How Is Culture Expressed through Social Institutions? Can Anyone Own Culture?

# 2/7. Chapter 3: Linguistic Anthropology: Relating Language and Culture

Where Does Language Come From? How Does Language Actually Work? Do People Speaking Different Languages Experience Reality Differently? How Does Language Relate to Social Power and Inequality?

# 2/14. Chapter 4: Ethnography: Studying Culture

What Is So Distinctive About Anthropological Fieldwork? Aside from Participant Observation and Interviews, Do Anthropologists Use Other Methods? What Special Ethnic Dilemmas Do Ethnographers Face?

#### Test#1

#### 2/21. Chapter 5: Globalization and Culture: Understanding Global Interconnections

Is the World Really Getting Smaller? Are There Winners and Losers in Global Integration? If the World Is Not Becoming Homogenized, What Is It Becoming? What Strategies Can Anthropologists Use to Study Global Interconnections?

#### 2/28. Chapter 6: Sustainability: Environment and Foodways

Do All People Conceive of Nature in the Same Way? How Do People Secure an Adequate, Meaningful, and Environmentally Sustainable Food Supply? How Is Non-Western Knowledge of Nature and Agriculture Similar to and Different from Science? How Are Industrial Agriculture and Economic Globalization Linked to Increasing Environmental and Health Problems?

#### 3/7. Chapter 7: Economics: Working, Sharing, and Buying

Is Money Really the Measure of All Things? How Does Culture Shape the Value and Meaning of Money Itself? Why Is Gift Exchange Such an Important Part of All Societies? Why Does Having Some Things Make You Cool?

# 3/12-18 Spring Break

#### 3/21. Chapter 8: Power: Politics and Social Control

Does Every Society Have a Government? What Is Political Power? How Is Social Inequality Constructed and Upheld? How is Social Order and Social Conflict controlled?

Test#2

3/28. Chapter 9: Gender, Sex, and Sexuality: The Lives of Women and Men In What Ways Are Males and Females Different? In What Ways Are Men and Women Unequal? What Does It Mean to Be Neither Male Nor Female?

# **4/4.** Chapter 10: Kinship, Marriage, and the Family: Love, Sex, and Power What Are Families, and How Are They Structured in Different Societies? How Do Families Control Power and Wealth? Why Do People Get Married? How Are Technological Changes Reshaping How People Think about Family?

# 4/11. Chapter 11: Religion: Ritual and Belief

How Should We Understand Religion and Religious Beliefs? What Forms Does Religion Take? How Do Rituals Work? How Is Religion Linked to Political and Social Action?

# **4/18.** Chapter 12: The Body: Biocultural Perspectives on Health and Illness How should we make sense of biological and cultural factors that jointly shape our bodily experiences? What Do We Mean by Health and Illness? How and Why Do Doctors and Other Health Practitioners Gain Social Authority? How Does Healing Happen? Anthropology & Global Health

# 4/25. Chapter 13: The Arts: Objects, Images, and Commodities

How Should We Look at Art Objects Anthropologically? Why and How Do the Meanings of Things Change Over Time? How Do Certain Objects Come to Represent Peoples' Goals and Aspirations? How Do Images Shape the Worlds in Which People Live

5/2. Make up day/Review session

5/9. Final Exam/Test#3