

Anthropology 315 Third World Cultures  
Spring 2008 California State University, Northridge  
Dr. Siemens

Class Times Monday, Wednesday & Friday 12-12:50PM  
Sierra Hall 234

Ticket #17726

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This course meets General Education Section F: Comparative Cultural Studies F.2 International Cross-Cultural Studies

Third World nations are outside the both the Western capitalist bloc and the former Soviet socialist bloc. The Third World contains most of the surviving Traditional (non-industrial) and Indigenous Peoples. Their cultures are rather different from mainstream U.S. culture. In this class we will consider the Mbuti of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Trobrianders of Papua New Guinea, the Darfurians and the Azande of Southern Sudan. They exemplify the spectrum of political organization found in Traditional societies and a range of experiences of colonialization. We will emphasize a humanistic perspective that considers cultural values and experience in detail. By completing the project in this course you will apply humanistic understanding to a social problem in Sudanese society.

Each culture we study will provide us with an example of how meaning arises from experience, a broad unifying theme in the humanities. Meaning results from uniting disparate areas of experience such as subsistence, trade, politics and religion. The cultures we will study utilize differing levels of technology for subsistence and have differing political systems. Understanding the relations among economics, kinship, politics and religion is a complex problem requiring humanistic reasoning. Anthropologists approach this problem holistically, integrating many perspectives. Once we understand each culture in its own terms, we will broaden our perspective by examining the impact of the world system on the people, giving some insight into the interactions of Third World cultures and the world economic system and its consumerist culture.

All Upper Division General Education courses are required to be "writing intensive." This is a writing intensive course. This means that there are writing requirements for the course totaling a minimum of 2500 words. This requirement will be satisfied by the homework assignments and projects about Darfurians and Azande. You will be given explicit guidelines for the homework assignments and the projects. Exams will be multiple choice.

Your grade will be based on an assigned project and three exams. The elements of the course are weighted as follows:

Homework	(February 8, March 14)	40 points	16%
Darfur Project	(April 14)	40 points	16%
Azande Paper	(May 5)	20 points	8%
Midterm Exam 1	(February 25)	50 points	20%
Midterm Exam 2	(April 7)	50 points	20%
Final Exam	(May 14)	50 points	20%

The homework assignment will be to write answers to study questions. The homework will require you to engage the assigned readings. It will help you study for the exams and improve your academic writing skills. To do the projects you will apply the concepts you learned in class to additional sources to understand Darfur. The Azande paper will require you to connect your studies of Azande and Darfur. There will be explicit and detailed guidelines for the homework and projects.

Attendance in class is necessary for your education. In general it is better to attend part of a class than it is to be absent. However, show consideration and respect for your fellow students by your classroom comportment. Arrive at class on time and remain until you are dismissed. Don't bring food into the classroom. Turn off your cell phone before class begins. **You may neither place nor answer phone calls or text messages or instant messages or emails, etc. during class.** If any of these points are difficult for you to follow, bring the matter up with Dr. Siemens.

Your letter grade for the class will depend on your rank in the class, comparing your points with the points of your classmates. This is grading "on a curve." Usually about half of the class receives a B or better. There is no "extra credit" option. To succeed in this course you need to concentrate your efforts on the reading assignments and lectures. They will provide the means to score high on the exams, the project, the paper and the homework. No grades of "plus" and "minus" will be given.

The exams will cover lectures, assigned readings, and videos. Since lectures will contain material not in the texts, you will need to attend class to pass the exams. Additional assigned readings (to be announced in lecture) will be on on WebCT, course reserves or the internet. There may be some videos not listed on this syllabus.

Check WebCT weekly for announcements and links to handouts. Powerpoint presentation outlines may also be posted there. Print the materials and bring them to class.

Makeup exams will generally not be offered. If you are prevented from taking an exam due to circumstances beyond your control, I will make a judgment as whether you merit a makeup test or some other grading method. Cheating will result in a grade of F for the course. I require everyone to show a photo I.D. to take the exams. Attendance at the final exam is required; no accommodations will be made for students who would like to leave campus before the final exam unless it is some dire unforeseen circumstance. Check the date and time of your final exam (May 14 12:45-2:45PM) before purchasing airplane tickets.

Required textbooks:

Flint, Julie and Alex de Waal

2005 Darfur: A Short History of a Long War. (First edition.) London: Zed.

Turnbull, Colin M.

2002 (1983) The Mbuti Pygmies: Change and Adaptation. Belmont, California: Wadsworth/Thompson.

Weiner, Annette B.

1988 The Trobrianders of Papua New Guinea. Belmont, California: Wadsworth/Thompson.

WEEK 1

Wednesday, January 23

THE SCOPE OF ANTHROPOLOGY

**WebCT Reading** (pp.1-13 excerpted from the following)

**Harris, Marvin and Orna Johnson**

**2003 Cultural Anthropology. Fourth edition. Allyn and Bacon: Boston.**

Friday, January 25

THE IDEA OF CULTURE

WEEK 2

Monday, January 28

THIRD WORLD CULTURES AND THE WORLD SYSTEM

ETHNOCENTRISM

NACIREMA

**Internet Reading** (link works on campus)

**Miner, Horace**

**1956 Body Ritual among the Nacirema . American Anthropologist 58:503-507.**

[http://links.jstor.org/sici?sici=0002-](http://links.jstor.org/sici?sici=0002-7294%28195606%292%3A58%3A3%3C503%3ABRATN%3E2.0.CO%3B2-Y)

[7294%28195606%292%3A58%3A3%3C503%3ABRATN%3E2.0.CO%3B2-Y](http://links.jstor.org/sici?sici=0002-7294%28195606%292%3A58%3A3%3C503%3ABRATN%3E2.0.CO%3B2-Y)

Wednesday, January 30

Video-Baka: People of the Rainforest (55 minutes)

Friday, February 1

BAKA

**WebCT Readings**

**Kenrick, Justin**

**2000 The Forest Peoples of Africa in the 21st Century: Present Predicament of Hunter-Gatherers and Former Hunter-Gatherers of the Central African Rainforests. Indigenous Affairs. April-May-June 2, 10-24.**

**Silcock, Lisa**

**2000 The Human Forest: Indigenous Peoples: Africa. Electronic Document,**

<http://www.fern.org/LivingEarth/RainforestDB/People/2.3>. accessed February 13.

Week 3

Monday, February 4

INTRODUCING THE MBUTI

MBUTI SUBSISTENCE

**Read Turnbull-Forward pp.v-vi**

**Acknowledgments vii-viii**

**Introduction pp. 1-7**

**Chapter 1 General Background pp.11-23**

Wednesday, February 6

**WebCT Reading**

**Ichikawa, Mitsuo**

**2001 The Forest World as a Circulation System: The Impacts of Mbuti Habitation and Subsistence Activities on the Forest Environment. African Studies Monographs, Supplement 26:157-168.**

Friday, February 8

HOMEWORK DUE

MBUTI SOCIETY

**WebCT Reading** (pp.52-71 a chapter excerpted from)

**Turnbull, Colin M.**

**1968 (1961) The Forest People: A Study of the Pygmies of the Congo. New York:Simon and Shuster.**

**Read Turnbull-Chapter 2 The Forest World pp.24-58**

WEEK 4

Monday, February 11

MBUTI RELATIONS WITH NON-MBUTI

**Read Turnbull-Chapter 3 The Village World pp.59-78**

Wednesday, February 13

MBUTI RELATIONS WITH NON-MBUTI

Friday, February 15

MBUTI AND THE CONGO CRISIS

**Read Turnbull-Chapter 4 The Years of War pp.81-94**

WEEK 5

Monday, February 18

CHANGES FOR THE MBUTI IN THE NATIONAL CONTEXT

**Read Turnbull-Chapter 5 The Village World pp.95-114**

Wednesday, February 20

CHANGES FOR THE MBUTI IN THE NATIONAL CONTEXT

**WebCT Reading**

**Kenrick, Justin**

**2005 Equalising Processes, Processes of Discrimination and the Forest People of Central Africa. *In Property and Equality: Volume 2: Encapsulation, Commercialisation, and Discrimination.* T. Widlock and W.G. Tadesse, eds. Pp.104-128. New York:Berghahn.**

Friday, February 22

CHANGES IN MBUTI CULTURE

PROSPECTS FOR THE MBUTI

**Read Turnbull-Chapter 6 The Forest World pp.115-135**

**Conclusions pp.136-158**

**Internet Reading**

**Salopek, Paul**

**2005 Who Rules the Forest? Electronic Resource,**

**<http://www7.nationalgeographic.com/ngm/0509/feature5/index.html>, accessed 1-15-08.**

WEEK 6

Monday, February 25

**MIDTERM EXAM 1**

Wednesday, February 27

INTRODUCING THE TROBRIANDERS

**Read Weiner-Forward pp.vii-ix**

**Acknowledgements pp.xi-xiii**

**Introduction pp.1-15**

**Chapter 1, The Trobrianders Past and Present pp.17-32**

Friday, February 29

TROBRIAND MOURNING

**Read Weiner-Chapter 2, Death and the Work of Mourning pp.33-50**

WEEK 7

Monday, March 3

Midterm Exam 1 results

TROBRIANDER COSMOLOGY & MATRILINITY

**Read Weiner-Chapter 3, Fathers and Matrilineality pp.51-64**

Wednesday, March 5

TROBRIANDER ENCULTURATION

**Read Weiner-Chapter 4, Youth and Sexuality pp.65-80**

Friday, March 7  
RELATIONS AMONG TROBRIANDER GROUPS  
**Read Weiner-Chapter 5, Marriage and the Politics of Yams pp.81-96**

WEEK 8

Monday, March 10  
RELATIONS AMONG TROBRIANDER GROUPS  
**Chapter 6, Chiefs and Hierarchy pp.97-110**

Wednesday, March 12  
Video-Trobriand Cricket (54 minutes)

Friday, March 14  
HOMEWORK DUE  
INTRODUCING DARFUR

**Internet Reading**  
**Collins, Robert O.**

**2004 Disaster in Darfur. *Géopolitique africaine*. Issue 15-16 Summer/Fall.  
Electronic Resource,  
<http://www.african-geopolitics.org/show.aspx?ArticleId=3779>,  
accessed March 11, 2007.**

**Read Flint & de Waal Preface Pp.xii-xiv**

March 17-21 SPRING BREAK NO CLASSES

WEEK 9

Monday, March 24  
DARFUR GROUPS  
**Read Flint & de Waal- The People of Darfur Pp.1-16**  
**The Sudan Government Pp.17-32**

Wednesday, March 26  
DARFUR ETHNIC VIOLENCE  
**Read Flint & de Waal- The Janjawiid Pp.33-65**

Friday, March 28  
DARFUR IN RELATION TO SUDAN AND THE WORLD  
**Read Flint & de Waal-The Rebels Pp.66-96**  
**The War Pp.97-117**  
**Endgame Pp.118-134**

WEEK 10

Monday, March 31

SUDANESE ETHNIC POLITICS

Video: All About Sudan (82 minutes)

**Internet Reading**

[Kevane, Michael](#)

[2006 Review of "All About Darfur" Sudan Studies Association Newsletter 24 \(3\):16-19.](#)

(<http://www.africa.upenn.edu/ssanewsletter/vol24no3-06.pdf>)

Wednesday, April 2

SUDANESE ETHNIC POLITICS

Video: All About Sudan (82 minutes)

Friday, April 4

SUDANESE ETHNIC POLITICS

WEEK 11

Monday, April 7

**MIDTERM EXAM 2**

Wednesday, April 9

INTRODUCING THE AZANDE

AZANDE DISTRIBUTION

**WebCT Reading** (Introduction excerpted pp.1-14)

**Evans-Pritchard, E.E.**

**1967 The Zande Trickster. Oxford: Clarendon Press.**

**WebCT Reading** (Introduction excerpted pp.1-11)

**Reining, Conrad**

**1966 The Zande Scheme: An Anthropological Case Study of Economic Development in Africa. Evanston, Illinois: Northwestern University Press.**

Friday, April 11

THE HISTORY OF AZANDE IN SUDANESE POLITICS

DEVELOPMENT IN ZANDELAND

**WebCT Reading** (Conclusion excerpted pp.218-232)

**Reining, Conrad**

**1966 The Zande Scheme: An Anthropological Case Study of Economic Development in Africa. Evanston, Illinois: Northwestern University Press.**

WEEK 12

Monday, April 14

DARFUR PROJECT DUE

MIDTERM EXAM 2 RESULTS

THE HISTORY OF THE AZANDE IN SUDANESE POLITICS

Wednesday, April 16  
SIEMENS' FIELDWORK AMONG THE AZANDE

Friday, April 18  
SIEMENS' FIELDWORK AMONG THE AZANDE

WEEK 13

Monday, April 21  
AZANDE SUBSISTENCE

**WebCT Reading**

**Reining, Conrad**

**1970 Zande Subsistence and Food Production. *In* African Food Production Systems. P. F. M. McLoughlin, ed. pp. Pp.125-163. Baltimore: John Hopkins.**

Wednesday, April 23

AZANDE SOCIETY

**Internet Readings** (Jstor links work on campus)

**Evans-Pritchard, E.E.**

**1963 The Zande State. *Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute of Great Britain and Ireland* 93:134-154.**

<http://links.jstor.org/sici?sici=0307-3114%28196301%2F06%2993%3A1%3C134%3ATZS%3E2.0.CO%3B2-F>

**Evans-Pritchard, E.E.**

**1970 Zande Bridewealth. *Africa* 40(2):115-124.**

<http://links.jstor.org/sici?sici=0001-9720%28197004%2940%3A2%3C115%3AZB%3E2.0.CO%3B2-X>

Friday, April 25

AZANDE SOCIETY

**Internet Reading** (Jstor link works on campus)

**Reining, Conrad**

**1959 The Role of Money in the Zande Economy. *American Anthropologist* 61:39-43.**

<http://links.jstor.org/sici?sici=0002-7294%28195902%292%3A61%3A1%3C39%3ATROMIT%3E2.0.CO%3B2-Q>

WEEK 14

Monday, April 28

AZANDE WOMEN'S KNOWLEDGE

**WebCT Readings**

**Evans-Pritchard, E.E.**

**1976 (originally 1973) Appendix IV: Some Reminiscences and Reflections on Fieldwork. *In Witchcraft, Oracles and Magic among the Azande.* E. E. Evans-Pritchard, ed. pp. 240-254. Oxford: Clarendon.**

**Siemens, Stephen David**

**1993 Access to Women's Knowledge: The Azande Experience. *In The Other Fifty Percent: Multicultural Perspectives on Gender Relations.* M. Womack and J. Marti, eds. pp. 91-98. Prospect Heights, Illinois: Waveland Press.**

Wednesday, April 30

AZANDE MOURNING

**WebCT Reading**

**Siemens, Stephen David**

**n.d. Azande Mourning Rituals as Responses to Crises and as "Life-Crisis Rituals." For a volume to be edited by Eric Canin and Martin Cohen which is yet untitled.**

Friday, May 2

AZANDE MOURNING

WEEK 15

Monday, May 5

AZANDE PAPER DUE

AZANDE NASCENCE

**WebCT Reading**

**Siemens, Stephen David**

**1987 Azande Rituals of Birth and Death. Annual Meetings of the American Anthropological Association, Chicago, November 22.**

Wednesday, May 7

AZANDE WITCHCRAFT

Video- Witchcraft among the Azande (55 minutes)

Friday, May 9

CULTURAL CHANGE OF AZANDE WITCHCRAFT TO MAGIC

LATE BREAKING NEWS OF AZANDE, DARFUR AND SUDAN

**WebCT Reading**

**Siemens, Stephen David (continued)**

**2004 Magic Instead of Witchcraft among the Azande: Changes in Causes of Death. Annual Meetings of the An.Anth.Association, Washington, D.C., December 15.**

EXAM WEEK (No Office Hour)

Wednesday, May 14 12:45-2:45PM FINAL EXAM