Anthropology 315 Third World Cultures  
Spring 2009 California State University, Northridge  
Dr. Siemens  

Class Times Tuesday & Thursday 11AM-12:15PM  
Sierra Hall 234  
Ticket #12401  

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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 of Sudan and the Azande of 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 four written assignments and three exams. The elements of the course are weighted as follows:
The two homework assignments 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 relevant materials and bring them to class. To conserve resources, do not print from a browser. Download the file and use another application to print it. Adobe Viewer (for pdf files) and Word (for doc and rtf files) allow two-sided printing. PowerPoint (for ppt files) allows printing of multiple slides on one page.

Makeup exams will generally not be offered. Discuss a missed exam with me in person as soon as possible. Provide a doctor’s note for medical problems. Provide objective documentation for other extenuating circumstances. 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. Exams are multiple choice. 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 12 11:15AM-1:15PM) before purchasing airplane tickets.

Required textbooks:
Flint, Julie and Alex de Waal
Turnbull, Colin M.
Weiner, Annette B.

WEEK 1
Tuesday, January 20
THE SCOPE OF ANTHROPOLOGY

Thursday, January 22
THE IDEA OF CULTURE
WebCT Reading (pp.1-13 excerpted from the following)
Harris, Marvin and Orna Johnson

ETHNOCENTRISM
NACIREMA
WebCT Reading
Miner, Horace

WEEK 2
Tuesday, January 27
THIRD WORLD CULTURES AND THE WORLD SYSTEM
BAKA
WebCT Reading
Silcock, Lisa
Video-Baka: People of the Rainforest (55 minutes)

Thursday, January 29
INDIGENOUS FORAGERS
WebCT Reading
Kenrick, Justin
WEEK 3  
Tuesday, February 3  
INTRODUCING THE MBUTI  
Turnbull-Forward pp.v-vi  
  Acknowledgments vii-viii  
  Introduction pp. 1-7  
  Chapter 1 General Background pp.11-23  

MBUTI ECOLOGY  
WebCT Reading  
Ichikawa, Mitsuo  

Thursday, February 5  
MBUTI SOCIETY  
WebCT Reading (pp.52-71 “The Making of Camp Lelo” a chapter excerpted from)  
Turnbull, Colin M.  
Turnbull-Chapter 2 The Forest World pp.24-58

WEEK 4  
Tuesday, February 10  
HOMEWORK DUE  
MBUTI RELATIONS WITH NON-MBUTI  
Turnbull-Chapter 3 The Village World pp.59-78

Thursday, February 12  
MBUTI AND THE CONGO CRISIS  
Turnbull-Chapter 4 The Years of War pp.81-94  
CHANGES FOR THE MBUTI IN THE NATIONAL CONTEXT  
Turnbull-Chapter 5 The Village World pp.95-114

WEEK 5  
Tuesday, February 17  
CHANGES FOR THE MBUTI IN THE NATIONAL CONTEXT  
WebCT Reading  
Kenrick, Justin  
Thursday, February 19
CHANGES IN MBUTI CULTURE
PROSPECTS FOR THE MBUTI
Turnbull-Chapter 6 The Forest World pp.115-135
Conclusions pp.136-158

WebCT Reading
Salopek, Paul
2005 Who Rules the Forest? Electronic Resource,

WEEK 6
Tuesday, February 24
MIDTERM EXAM 1

Thursday, February 26
INTRODUCING THE TROBRIANDERS
Weiner-Forward pp.vii-ix
Acknowledgements pp.xi-xiii
Introduction pp.1-15
Chapter 1, The Trobrianders Past and Present pp.17-32
TROBRIAND MOURNING
Weiner-Chapter 2, Death and the Work of Mourning pp.33-50

WEEK 7
Tuesday, March 3
Midterm Exam 1 results
TROBRIANDER COSMOLOGY & MATRILINY
Weiner-Chapter 3, Fathers and Matrilineality pp.51-64

Thursday, March 5
TROBRIANDER ENCULTURATION
Weiner-Chapter 4, Youth and Sexuality pp.65-80
RELATIONS AMONG TROBRIANDER GROUPS
Weiner-Chapter 5, Marriage and the Politics of Yams pp.81-96

WEEK 8
Tuesday, March 10
RELATIONS AMONG TROBRIANDER GROUPS
Weiner-Chapter 6, Chiefs and Hierarchy pp.97-110
Video-Trobriand Cricket (54 minutes)
Thursday, March 12
HOMEWORK DUE
INTRODUCING DARFUR
Flint & de Waal Preface Pp.ix-xii
DARFUR GROUPS
Flint & de Waal- The People of Darfur Pp.1-15
The Sudan Government Pp.16-32

WEEK 9
Tuesday, March 17
DARFUR GROUPS
Flint & de Waal- The Janjawid Pp.33-70
The Rebels Pp.71-115

Thursday, March 19
SUDANESE ETHNIC POLITICS
Video: All About Darfur (82 minutes)
WebCT Reading
Kevane, Michael

WEEK 10
Tuesday, March 24
DARFUR’S 21ST CENTURY WARS
Flint & de Waal- A War of Total Destruction Pp.116-149
Wars within Wars Pp.150-166

Thursday, March 26
INTERNATIONAL ASPECTS OF DARFUR
Flint & de Waal-International Reaction Pp.167-199
The Abuja Peace Talks Pp.200-229

WEEK 11
Tuesday, March 31 CESAR CHAVEZ HOLIDAY  NO CLASSES

Thursday, March 26
DARFUR 2007-2009
Flint & de Waal-Endless Chaos pp.230-279

Thursday, April 2
MIDTERM EXAM 2

Tuesday, April 7 and Thursday, April 9 SPRING BREAK  NO CLASSES
WEEK 12  
Tuesday, April 14  
DARFÜR PROJECT DUE  
MIDTERM EXAM 2 RESULTS  
INTRODUCING THE AZANDE  
AZANDE DISTRIBUTION  
WebCT Reading (Introduction excerpted pp.1-14)  
Evans-Pritchard, E.E.  
WebCT Reading (Introduction excerpted pp.1-11)  
Reining, Conrad  

Thursday, April 16  
SIEMENS’ FIELDWORK AMONG THE AZANDE  

WEEK 13  
Tuesday, April 21  
Thursday, April 16  
THE HISTORY OF THE AZANDE IN SUDANESE POLITICS  
DEVELOPMENT IN ZANDELAND  
WebCT Reading (Conclusion excerpted pp.218-232)  
Reining, Conrad  

Thursday, April 23  
AZANDE SUBSISTENCE & EXCHANGE  
WebCT Readings  
Reining, Conrad  
Reining, Conrad  
AZANDE POLITICS  
WebCT Reading  
Evans-Pritchard, E.E.  
AZANDE MARRIAGE  
WebCT Reading  
Evans-Pritchard, E.E.  
WEEK 14
Tuesday, April 28
AZANDE WOMEN’S KNOWLEDGE
WebCT Readings
Evans-Pritchard, E.E.
Siemens, Stephen David

Thursday, 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.

WEEK 15
Tuesday, May 5
AZANDE PAPER DUE
AZANDE NASCENCE
WebCT Reading
Siemens, Stephen David

Thursday, May 7
AZANDE WITCHCRAFT
WebCT Reading
Siemens, Stephen David (continued)

LATE BREAKING NEWS OF AZANDE, DARFUR AND SUDAN

EXAM WEEK (No Office Hour)
Tuesday, May 12  10:15AM-12:15PM  FINAL EXAM