

ANTH 112J
Introduction to Socio-Cultural Anthropology
Social Justice Colloquium
Winter 2015

Instructor: Clare Fawcett

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Office Hours: See Moodle site

Course Content: Sociocultural anthropology involves the comparative study of societies throughout the world. Students will learn how societies differ from each other, as well as observing similarities among them. The course surveys traditional ways of understanding cultures while incorporating current insights and research. Topics include diverse political and economic systems, kinship patterns, religion, forms of ethnic and gender identity, health and medicine, development and migration. Department foci relating to First Nations, development and general anthropology are introduced.

Evaluation:

Seminar and Essay Assignment/Service Learning Assignment:	40%
Class Forum:	20%
Final Examination:	40%
 Total:	 100%

Texts and required readings:

Textbook: Miller, Barbara (2010) **Cultural Anthropology in a Globalizing World, Third Edition.** Pearson.

Other readings are available through the StFX library's on-line holdings. Podcasts and videos are on-line and can be reached using links on the Anth 112 Moodle site. I will explain how to use these electronic resources during class.

Written Assignments:

All assignments must be handed in on the dates listed on the Moodle site. I will deduct 5% out of 100% for each day your assignment is late.

Assignments MUST be in Word. I will not accept assignments in Text Edit, Adobe, Pages or any other program.

Keep an extra copy of your assignments. If they disappear or I cannot download them, you will be responsible for supplying another copy. If you cannot supply another copy, you will receive a zero.

Please read the plagiarism/cheating/academic dishonesty policy in the University Calendar (Academic Regulations, Section 3.9). You may talk to me if you have questions about this policy.

Class Equity Policy

Everyone learns more effectively in a respectful, safe and equitable learning environment free from discrimination or harassment. I invite you to work with me to create a classroom space—both real and virtual—that fosters and promotes values of human dignity, equity, non-discrimination and respect for diversity. These values and practices are in accord with the *StFX Discrimination and Harassment Policy* which can be found at <http://www.mystfx.ca/campus/stu-serv/equity/>.

Please feel free to discuss with me any questions or concerns you have about equity in our classroom or in the StFX community. If I cannot answer your questions or help you address your concerns, I encourage you to talk to the Chair/Coordinator of the Department/Program or the Human Rights and Equity Advisor, Marie Brunelle at mbrunell@stfx.ca.

Course Schedule

Anthropological Concepts and Methods (January 6--T, 7--W and 9--F) Participant observation, fieldwork and ethnography. Anthropological ethics. Critical cultural relativism and reflexivity. Basic anthropological concepts: Nature/nurture, Agency/structure, Materialist/interpretive anthropology

Materials:

- Miller, Chapters 1 and 2
- Scheper-Hughes, Nancy (1985) "Culture, scarcity and maternal thinking: Maternal detachment and infant survival in a Brazilian shantytown." **Ethos** 13(4): 291-317.

Sign-up for Seminar groups by Friday, January 9—Seminar days are noted in yellow below

Reading and writing an anthropological essay. Class Forums. Taking part in a seminar (January 13--T, 15--W and 16--F).

Materials:

- Scheper-Hughes, Nancy (1985) "Culture, scarcity and maternal thinking: Maternal detachment and infant survival in a Brazilian shantytown." **Ethos** 13(4): 291-317

Special Meeting for students completing their Service Learning Assignment in Anth112J: Friday, January 16.

Livelihoods and Production (January 20--T, 21--W and 23-F)

Materials:

- Miller Chapter 3, Pps 47-57
- Millar, Kathleen (2008) "Making trash into treasure: Struggles for autonomy on a Brazilian garbage dump. **Anthropology of Work Review** 29 (2): 25-34. (Available through StFX)
- Doctorow, Cory (2008) It's Just Garbage. **Forbes** December 8, 2008: http://www.forbes.com/2008/12/06/computers-recycling-trash-lead-corpresp08-cx_cd_1208doctorow.html Accessed January 22, 2014
- Doctorow, Cory (1997) Dumpster Diving: There's Big Bucks in Tech Trash. **Wired** Issue 5.09. September 1997: http://www.wired.com/wired/archive/5.09/es_dumpster.html?pg=1&topic= Accessed January 22, 2014.

Consumption and Exchange (January 27--T, 28--W and 30--F)

Materials:

- Miller Chapter 3, 57-69
- Andaya, Elise (2009) The gift of health: Socialist medical practice and shifting material and moral economies in post-Soviet Cuba.” **Medical Anthropology Quarterly** 23(4): 357-374

Reproduction and Human Development (February 3--T, 4--W and 6--F)

Materials:

- Miller, Chapter 4
- Brison, Karen J. (2009) “Shifting conceptions of self and society in Fijian kindergartens” **Ethos** 37(3): 314-333.

Disease, Illness and Healing (February 10--T, 11--W and 13--F)

Materials:

- Miller, Chapter 5
- Adelson, Naomi (2008) Discourses of stress, social inequities, and the everyday worlds of First Nations women in a remote northern community. **Ethos** 36(3): 316-333.

Kinship and Domestic Life (February 17--T, 18--W and 20--F)

Materials:

- Miller, Chapter 6
- Collard, Chantal and Shireen Keshmeri (2011) “Embryo adoption: Emergent forms of siblingship among Snowflakes® families”. **American Ethnologist** 38(2): 307-322.

Social Groups and Social Stratification (March 3--T, 4--W and 6--F)

Materials:

- Miller, Chapter 7
- Bourgois, Phillipe (1998) “Just another night in a shooting gallery.” **Theory, Culture and Society** 15(2): 37-66.

Political and Legal Systems (March 10--T, 11--W and 13--F)

Materials:

- Miller, Chapter 8
- Blackburn, Carole (2009) “Differentiating indigenous citizenship: Seeking multiplicity in rights, identity and sovereignty in Canada.” **American Ethnologist** 36(1): 66-78.

Communication (March 17--T, 18--W and 20--F)

Materials:

- Miller, Chapter 9
- Heller, Monica (1996) Legitimate Language in a Multilingual School. **Linguistics and Education** 8: 139-157.

Anthropology of Development (March 24--T, 25--W and 27--F)

Materials:

- Miller, Chapters 12 and 13
- Bornstein, Erica (2001) "Child sponsorship, evangelism, and belonging in the work of World Vision Zimbabwe." **American Ethnologist** 28(3): 595-622.

Service Learning Reports (March 31--T, April 1--W and 7--F)

Course Review: April 8