August 11, 2004. Due to the subject matter of this course, this syllabus is always open to revision based on student input and world events. The most recently updated syllabus will always be available at K-State Online under “Course Info.”

ANTH 204 – Reference Number 23050 – 3 Credit Hours
Monday and Wednesday 8:30 to 9:20 am in Umberger 105
Weekly discussion section is required (Ref #s 23060-23250)

Instructor: Michael Wesch
208 Waters Hall
532-6866
mwesch@ksu.edu
Office Hours: M W 10:15-11:45
or by appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Cultural Anthropology explores different cultures in all of their manifestations - from how people make a living (food production, housing, etc.) to what people live for (love, religion, art, entertainment, play, etc.). In an increasingly interconnected world, cultural differences lie at the root of many of our most pressing challenges, throughout the world and in our own personal lives. These challenges often seem to be insurmountable problems, but understanding cultural differences can help transform these challenges into tremendous opportunities. As all of us are forced to face more and more challenges posed by cultural differences in our everyday lives, there has never been a time that cultural anthropology has been more important than it is right now.

Successful students will:
- learn the basic tools, concepts, and methods of cultural anthropology and be able to apply these to their own lives regardless of what career path they may choose.
- improve their abilities to “think outside the box” by recognizing their own cultural biases and questioning the assumptions, beliefs, concepts, and ideas they had previously taken for granted.
- learn to ask challenging and productive questions in situations where there may not be any one right answer.

REQUIRED TEXTS

- The Gebusi: Lives Transformed in a Rainforest World. Bruce Knauft
- Additional readings will be posted on K-State Online
- You also must purchase a pack of 100 index cards and bring these to class for each lecture.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

READINGS - Read the assigned readings before coming to each class. The readings form an important part of the storyline of the course. This class moves through over 40,000 years of human existence and jumps all over this world which is 25,000 miles around in any one of the infinite directions you might wish to travel and we only have 17 weeks. So hold on and keep up with the readings.

PARTICIPATION - You will be graded on your participation in the discussion sections and on K-State Online. 100 points. (10% of final grade.)

QUIZZES - There will be a quiz given at almost every single lecture and discussion section throughout the semester. These will be a measure of how well you are keeping up with the readings and your class attendance. 200 points. (20% of final grade.)

FOUR EXAMS - The first three exams cover particular sections. The final is comprehensive. Each exam is worth 125 points (12.5% of your final grade for a total of 50%).

EXTRA CREDIT – Write a 500 word (one page, single spaced) essay on one of the extra materials listed at K-State Online or on other material (such as a book or article) pertinent to the class and approved by the instructor. Divide the essay into three paragraphs. In the first paragraph, summarize the main argument(s) of the material. In the second paragraph, discuss how the material relates to the course, citing at least one page number from the main text. In the last paragraph, evaluate the material, supporting your arguments. These essays will be graded by your TA on a scale from 1 to 10, representing the extra points added to your grade. You can raise your grade by as much as 10 points (1%) for each essay. You may do as many as 5 extra credit essays for a possible 50 points of extra credit. If you are on the cusp, this can potentially raise your grade by 1 level (e.g. from a C to a B).

GRADING SCALE

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<th>Points Range</th>
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<tr>
<td>900 – 1000 points</td>
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In addition, those who fail to uphold the KSU Honor Code will be reported to the Honor System Director and receive an XF for the course. The F will remain on the student’s record permanently. The X can only be removed upon completion of the Academic Integrity Course.

KSU Honor Pledge: "On my honor, as a student, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid on this academic work."

COURSE SCHEDULE

August 18 – Introduction

==> Begin Assignment One – Geo-Journal. As the semester proceeds, mark each cultural group we study on the map provided, noting the subject, page number, lecture date, and other information associated with the group. Geo-Journals will be collected at random unannounced times throughout the semester to check your progress. (50 points)

August 23 – What is Anthropology?
Haviland, Chapter 1 (pages xxiv – 29)

August 25 – What is culture?
Haviland Chapter 2a (pages 30-40), Knauft Introduction

Begin Assignment Two: What is your culture? Part One: List at least 15 core cultural values and beliefs from your own culture. Find 2-3 examples of cultural values that contradict one another. Part Two: Write a paragraph (150 - 200 words) about the difficulties in describing your culture. Do you really have a culture? If not, do you really not have one? (50 points) **Due September 1st in class.**

August 30 – Fieldwork
Haviland Chapter 2b (pages 40-51), Knauft Chapter 1

September 1 – Culture, Race, and Evolution
Haviland Chapter 3 (pages 51-85), **Assignment Two is Due**
September 6 – NO CLASS

September 8 – Language and Communication
Haviland Chapter 4a (pages 86-109)

Discussion Section Name Quiz: Must be able to recognize and name all the other students in your discussion section. (20 points)

September 13 – Ethnolinguistics, Language, and Gender
Haviland Chapter 4b (pages 109-117, also 135-139 on gender), K-State Online reading

September 15 – Personality, Self, and Identity
Haviland Chapter 5

September 20 – EXAM ONE
Covers Haviland Chapters 1-5, Knauf Intro and Chapter 1, and lectures.

September 22 – How People Make a Living: Patterns of Subsistence
Chapter 6 (pages 146-175), Knauf Chapter 2

September 27 – Different Economic Systems around the World
Haviland Chapter 7a (pages 176-196)

September 29 – Market Exchange and World Business
Haviland Chapter 7b (pages 197-203), Knauf Chapter 9

==> Begin Assignment Three: Types of Love. List all the types of love you experience or know about in your own life. Draw comparisons with other cultural ideas of love discussed in class or found in your own research. End with one paragraph reflecting on “love” in general. Due October 6th in class.

October 4 – Love, Sex, etc.
Haviland Chapter 8a (pages 204-217), Knauf, Chapter 5

October 6 – Marriage
Haviland Chapter 8b (pages 217-232), Knauf Chapter 10

October 11 – READING HOLIDAY – No Class.

October 13 – Family and Household
Haviland Chapter 9

October 18 – Kinship and Descent
Haviland Chapter 10, Knauf Chapter 4

October 20 – Review

October 25 – Second Exam
October 27 – Social Organization
Haviland Chapter 11

November 1 – Politics and Power
Haviland Chapter 12a (pages 306-323)

November 3 – Witchcraft and Statecraft
Haviland Chapter 12b (pages 324-337), Knauft Chapter 3

November 8 – Culture and the Supernatural
Haviland Chapter 13, Knauft Chapter 6

November 10 – Religion, Politics, Violence, and Terrorism
Reading to be posted on K-State Online, Knauft Chapter 8

November 15 – Art, Music, Stories, and Movies
Haviland Chapter 14

November 17 – Review

November 22 – Third Exam

November 24 – THANKSGIVING

November 29 – Culture Change
Haviland Chapter 15a (pages 392-402), Knauft Chapter 7

December 1 – Violence, Oppression, and Cultural Change
Haviland Chapter 15b (pages 402-423)

==> Begin Assignment Four: Finding your lunch. Where did your lunch come from? Who made it? What social and economic conditions contributed to what you ate and where it was produced? Where has it traveled before it became a part of you? Make a list of everything you ate and note where it came from, who produced it, and comment on the social, economic, and cultural conditions of its production. Finally, reflect on the following question, If you are what you eat, what does this say about you? Due Wednesday December 8th in class.

December 6 – Globalization
Haviland Chapter 16a (pages 424-442)

December 8 – Structural Power
Haviland Chapter 16b (pages 442-455)
Knauft Chapter 11 to the end of the book

December 15 (Wednesday) – 11:50 am – FINAL EXAM