

**Syllabus
Sonoma State University
Anthropology 340
Introduction to Cultural Anthropology
Section 1, Fall 2011**

Instructor:	Bruce Owen
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Office Hours:	Tuesday and Thursday 2:30-3:30, Thursday 11:30-12:30
Class Days/Time:	Tuesday and Thursday 1:00-2:15
Classroom:	Stevenson 2065
GE/SSU Studies Category:	Upper Division E (The Integrated Person)

Course Description

Course description from the course catalog:

This course explores differences in human cultures primarily as highlighted through cultural interactions. Focus is on learning to perceive how cultural differences influence the dynamics of human interactions and relationships at the level of the individual, the community, the nation and the world. This will contribute to an understanding of the processes and patterns shaping our lives allowing students to develop the skills and perspectives necessary to live in the global community.

Course description specifically for this section:

Globalization is bringing ever more different people together, all around the world, for better or for worse. In this course, we will look at some of the processes of globalization, and the roles that different cultures play in causing and responding to them. We will focus especially on how culture affects, and is affected by, the interactions of individuals and groups in the context of globalization. You will learn some of the many concepts and approaches that anthropologists have developed to help recognize and understand recurring aspects of these interactions, not only by reading and hearing about them, but also by working with them in discussions of specific cases. Together with two classmates, you will become the course's "case team" of experts on a region or situation of your choice, making three small presentations covering the historical background, the cultural, political, and economic interactions, and the future prospects in your case, which we will compare and discuss in class. This course will also provide repeated practice and feedback on research techniques and presentation skills.

Course Goals and Student Learning Objectives

Official description of GE Area E

Integrated person courses are designed to study both processes affecting the individual, such as psychological, social, or physiological changes throughout the human life cycle, and the interactions between the individual and society. Focus is on the integration of disciplinary knowledge and personal experience with an appreciation of the duties and rights of a citizen with a rich public and personal life.

Official Learning Outcomes (LO) for GE Area E courses

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- LO1 Develop knowledge of themselves as psychological, social and physiological beings as they experience life.
- LO2 Understand the dynamic interactions and reciprocal relationships between individuals and social systems.
- LO3 Use pertinent disciplinary knowledge to understand how their own actions affect the world.
- LO4 Learn the importance of active engagement in their communities for the betterment of personal and public life.

Learning Outcomes for this section

Every course covers specific material in order to fulfill the broad objectives above. This anthropological look at globalization aims to help you:

- § Learn, apply, and integrate into your own thinking some concepts and theoretical frameworks that anthropologists have developed to understand interactions between groups and individuals of different cultures.
- § Understand and appreciate the dynamics and implications of many specific cases of cultural contrast and contact around the world, on scales from the individual and personal, to those of families, groups, regions, and countries.
- § Consider the current and future prospects of these cases, and the potential outcomes of specific political, cultural, economic, and other policies and actions.
- § Advance your skills at researching broad, complex social issues, thinking critically about them, and presenting and discussing syntheses and conclusions concisely, clearly, and convincingly.

Required Texts/Readings

Textbook

No textbook per se, but the three books below are required, as are numerous online readings.

Other Readings

Chavez, Leo R.

1998 *Shadowed Lives, Undocumented Immigrants in American Society*, Second edition. Case Studies in Cultural Anthropology, Wadsworth, Thomson Learning / Cengage Learning. ISBN 0-15-508089-X

Steckley, John L.

2008 *White Lies About the Inuit*. Broadview Press, Peterborough, Ontario. ISBN 1-55111-875-0

Fadiman, Anne

1997 *The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down*. Farrar, Straus and Giroux, New York. ISBN 0-374-52564-1

Where to buy the books

New and used copies are available at the campus bookstore, through online booksellers and textbook rental companies, and at North Light Books & Cafe, 550 East Cotati Ave., Rohnert Park, next to Oliver's Market in the shopping complex on East Cotati Ave. (707 792-4300). North Light is a locally-owned small business with lower prices on new and used books and better service than the campus bookstore. It is also a good place to eat, drink, and hang out in the real (ish) world off campus.

Other equipment / material requirements

Frequent access to a computer with internet access to check the class web page, access online readings and other materials, submit work by email, and receive email from me.

Class Protocol

Class web page

You are responsible for checking the class web page regularly. It shows the lecture topic and reading assignments for every class meeting, so you will need to check it to see what to read before coming to class and taking the reading quiz at the start of most class sessions.

The website also has my lecture notes and slides, test dates, assignment due dates, study guides, practice problems, announcements, and other information. The web page will change during the semester, so do not depend on a printout of it. The web page takes precedence over information in this syllabus. The web page is NOT in WebCT nor Moodle. You can click to the class web page from the SSU "Class web pages" list, or go to:

<http://bruceowen.com/global/a340-11f-1.htm>

Class User ID and password

Due to copyright issues, you need a class user ID and password to access some material on the class web page. These are *not* the same ID and password that you use for other SSU functions. I will provide them in class. If you forget them, ask or email me.

Lecture notes and PowerPoint slides

Lecture notes and PowerPoint slides for most class sessions will be posted on the class web page. The notes will usually be posted before the class session, so you can print them out and add your own notes during class if you wish. The PowerPoint slides will usually be posted after the class session.

Readings

The readings for each class session are listed on the class web page. Please read the selections *before* the class session. You are responsible for the material in the readings, whether or not it is specifically discussed in class.

Attendance

I do not record attendance or formally count it in grading. However, a portion of your course grade is based on participation in class discussions of the readings, lecture material, and case team presentations, and another portion is based on the evaluations of class presentations that you will submit at the end of many class sessions. You will need to be in class to get good scores in these areas.

Submitting assignments

The assignments for this course consist of three parts of a case study, prepared by you and the other members of your small case team, and presented for discussion in class. Each part includes a Powerpoint presentation and a printed handout. You will submit these as attachments to an email to me before that class session begins, or as files on a thumb drive, optical disk, or other medium at the class session.

Drafts

There is no formal arrangement for drafts in this class. However, I will be happy to discuss any aspects of your case team presentations or materials before you present them, if you want suggestions. Feel free to drop by my office hours or contact me by email, and to attach outlines, handouts, Powerpoint presentations, or other material that you want feedback on. Please allow enough time in advance for me to get your message, review the materials and respond, and for yourself and your teammates to make any changes before presenting to the class and submitting the assignment. I may not be able to respond in time to last-minute queries.

Email

I usually reply to emails within 24 hours. If you do not hear from me within 48 hours, assume that I did not get your message and try again.

Open invitation

If you want help, or would just like to talk about anthropology, archaeology, assignments, preparing for tests, or anything else, please drop by during my office hours, arrange to see me at some other time, or contact me by email. I am here to help you master the material.

Dropping and Adding

Students are responsible for understanding the policies and procedures about add/drops, academic renewal, etc. Information on adding and dropping classes is available at

<http://www.sonoma.edu/registration/addclasses.html> . Students should be aware of the current deadlines and penalties for adding and dropping classes.

Course Requirements

- 2% Submitting a recognizable digital photograph of yourself by email or having your photo taken in class to help me learn who you are
- 15% Case study, part 1: Historical context (Powerpoint, handout with bibliography, class presentation). Prepared, presented, and discussed in class by your case team; submitted for grading and posting on the class website
- 15% Case study, part 2: Current situation (Powerpoint, handout with bibliography, class presentation). Prepared, presented, and discussed in class by your case team; submitted for grading and posting on the class website
- 15% Case study, part 3: Actions and outlook (Powerpoint, handout with bibliography, class presentation). Prepared, presented, and discussed in class by your case team; submitted for grading and posting on the class website
- 5% Evaluations of the presentations and materials by other case teams
- 10% Participation in class discussions of readings, lecture material, and case studies
- 18% In-class midterm. Short-answer and essay questions, and a map on which you mark countries, ethnic groups, and other geographic features covered in class. Covers readings, lecture material, and case studies prepared by case teams
- 20% Final exam. Similar to the midterm, emphasizing material from the second part of the course, but also using concepts and information from the first part.

Grading Policy

How I grade and return assignments

I will comment and grade assignments on an evaluation form (rubric) tailored to the assignment. This form will be included in the assignment instructions, to help you understand what I am looking for when you work on it. I will email the document part (not the Powerpoint part) of the assignment back to you, with the completed form added to the end of the file.

How I assign letter grades for the course

This course is graded on a curve. That means that you and your colleagues set the grading level, rather than me imposing an arbitrary standard. For each assignment and test, I assign a number of points, based on an assignment grading rubric included in the assignment instructions, or a number of points per question in the case of tests. I then plot a histogram (“curve”) of these scores, and break the scores into roughly equal segments for letter grades such that the cutoff between a C+ and a B- is around or slightly below the median (middle) score. This ensures that around half of the scores are graded as B- or higher. I may shift the grade scale up or down somewhat if I feel that the class has done unusually well or poorly as a group. For the course grade, I total all the assignment and test scores and do the same procedure.

Extra credit

There are no provisions for extra credit in this class.

Late assignment policy

Assignment materials are due no later than the class period in which they are presented. I will accept assignment materials up to one week after that a 10% grading penalty, since they will have the benefit of both more time and potentially constructive comments made during the class discussion. I will not grade any assignment, on time or late, until I have received it as a computer file.

University Policies

Academic integrity

Students should know that the University's [Cheating and Plagiarism policy](http://www.sonoma.edu/UAffairs/policies/cheating_plagiarism.htm) is available at http://www.sonoma.edu/UAffairs/policies/cheating_plagiarism.htm. Your own commitment to learning, as evidenced by your enrollment at Sonoma State University and the University's policy, require you to be honest in all your academic course work.

Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Cheating or plagiarism (presenting the work of another as your own, or the use of another person's ideas without giving proper credit) will result in sanctions up to a failing grade and sanctions by the University. For this class, all assignments are to be completed by the individual student unless otherwise specified. Submitting work by another student is cheating. Submitting falsified work, such as listing sources in a bibliography that you did not actually consult and use (a favorite trick of lazy Wikipedia fans), is cheating. Misrepresenting anything about an assignment or test is cheating; honestly explaining is always the best policy.

Plagiarism is using someone else's words, information, or ideas without giving that person credit. This includes copying from your peers, websites, or other public sources, even brief phrases, on papers, tests, or any other work. Simply editing or changing parts of copied text does not make it your original work; the result is still plagiarized. Plagiarism is immoral and dishonest. It is easy to avoid: just use your own words and indicate the sources of all your information. I have failed numerous students for plagiarism. University policy requires me to report plagiarism, and the University may impose sanctions up to expulsion, especially for repeated reports. A more complete explanation, including advice on how to use material without plagiarizing, is posted on the class website. The assignment information posted on the class website will include guidelines on how to format citations, if appropriate.

Campus Policy on Disability Access for Students

If you are a student with a disability and you think you may require accommodations, please register with the campus office of Disability Services for Students (DSS), located in Salazar Hall - Room 1049, Phone: (707) 664-2677, TTY/TDD: (707) 664-2958. DSS will provide you with written confirmation of your verified disability and authorize recommended accommodations. This authorization must be presented to the instructor before any accommodations can be made. The policy can be found at <http://www.sonoma.edu/uaffairs/policies/disabilitypolicy.htm>

Emergency Evacuation

If you are a student with a disability and you think you may require assistance evacuating a building in the event of a disaster, please inform me about the type of assistance you may require. We will need to discuss your specific needs and the type of precautions that should be made in advance of such an event (i.e. assigning a buddy to guide you down the stairway). You are encouraged to take advantage of these preventative measures as soon as possible and contact the Disability Services for Students office if other classroom accommodations are needed.

SSU Writing Center

The SSU Writing Center is located in Schulz 1103. The Writing Center helps SSU students, faculty, and staff members (as well as members of the wider community) become better writers and produce better written documents. The Writing Center website is located at <http://www.sonoma.edu/programs/writingcenter/default.html>.

Course schedule

The lecture and reading schedule is on the class web page, at <http://bruceowen.com/introcultural/a340-11f-1.htm>

It is not included here because dates and readings will probably be adjusted during the semester. You are responsible for checking the class website frequently for the current reading assignments and other course announcements.