

Video choices for the Anthropology 203 Video Ethnography assignment

Pick two or three, totaling at least 75 minutes

All are available from the SSU library's Multimedia collection

Enter the title in the online catalog to get the call number, then ask for it at the Multimedia desk

A Legacy of lifestyles 1 videocassette (VHS) (ca. 60 min.) Shows how contemporary African lifestyles are influenced by indigenous, Islamic, and Western factors. Compares simple African societies with those that are more complex and centralized, and examines the importance of family life.

The art of dying 1 videocassette (63 min.) Reveals modern-day Tibet from the Tibetan perspective. Explores the approach to death as revealed in the ancient Tibetan scriptures and practiced in local customs throughout the centuries.

The art of living 1 videocassette (60 min.) Travel to the Wodaabe tribe of Niger and the Dogon people of Mali to witness the ways they celebrate life and death with acts of beauty and grace.

A wife among wives 1 videocassette (68 min.) An ethnographic documentary on the Turkana of northern Kenya. This is an inquiry into the Turkana view of marriage.

Alaska--the Yup'ik Eskimos 1 videocassette (VHS) (28 min.) Documentary explores the modern life and ancient traditions of the Yup'ik Eskimos in Alaska in the regions surrounding the villages of Chirik, Toksook Bay, Eek and Bethel. Describes and depicts the relationship of the Yup'ik people and their environment in terms of seasonal activities. Shows how they attempt to maintain a balance between the subsistence way of life of the elders and the modern world of the Yup'ik teenagers who attend "punk" dances and work out science problems using computers.

Altar of fire 1 videocassette (45 min.) Documents the last performance of the Agnicayana or Atriātra, a Vedic sacrificial ritual, enacted by the Nambudiri Brahmins in Panjal, a village in Kerala, southwestern India in April 1975. Explains the origin of the Vedic sacred literature, discusses how the oral tradition is perpetuated, shows construction of sacrificial altars and sheds, and introduces the principle participants in the ritual.

Australia's twilight of the dreamtime 1 videocassette (VHS) (60 min.) Documentary about the environment and customs of a Northern Australian aborigine tribe living in Kakadu National Park.

Between two worlds 1 videocassette (29 min) This documentary examines the difficulties experienced by first generation Asian American youth who struggle with "living in two worlds"--the Asian family culture and the American culture. Chinese, Japanese, and Korean American young adults and members of their families expound upon the generational and cultural gaps existing in Asian American families and stereotypical perceptions of Asians in American society.

Blossoms of fire = Ramo de fuego 1 videocassette (74 min.) Five Zapotec women, whose stories are interlaced with scenes of work and the resplendent festivities the region, show how economic independence, community, friendship, cultural pride and respect for 'women's work' give them self-esteem and a sense of purpose in life.

Carved from the heart 1 videocassette When Stan Marsden, a Tsimpsian wood carver, loses his son to a cocaine overdose, he decides to create a totem pole and invites the community of Craig, Alaska to help. The project grows and helps a community heal, bringing people of diverse backgrounds together.

Coming to light: Edward S. Curtis and the North American Indian 1 videocassette (56 min.) Explores the life and work of Edward S. Curtis (1868-1952), a pioneer photographer who documented traditional Indian life in the first half of the 20th century. The film tells the dramatic story of Curtis's life, his monumental work, and his changing views of the people he set out to document. American Indians who are using his photographs for cultural preservation respond to the pictures, tell stories about the people in the photographs, and discuss the meaning of the images. A related video, **In the land of the war canoes: a drama of Kwakiutl Indian life on the Northwest Coast**, is a re-release of Curtis' original film. You may choose this one as your other video for an in-depth view of this subject, or choose an unrelated video for more variety.

Devil's playground 1 videodisc (77 min.) Looks at the Pennsylvania Dutch tradition of rumspringa which is a period in a teenager's life during which they are set free to explore the world outside the Amish life. This is so that they can make an informed decision before they make a commitment to join the church at adulthood. Follows four teenagers in their time of discovery.

Dhaminis of Jumla : spirit possession in Western Nepal 1 videocassette (ca. 38 min.) Explores the ritual practice and social importance of spirit possession in the villages of Jumla, in western Nepal. The film focuses on two women, known as "dhaminis", and examines the ways in which spirit possession makes them the centerpieces of religious life in their communities.

Displaced in the new South 1 videocassette (57 min.) In the 1980's, over 200,000 Latino and Asian immigrants came to Atlanta and north Georgia. Describes their difficulties and also their successes in establishing themselves in a different culture.

Eduardo the healer 1 videocassette (54 min.) Describes the work of Eduardo, a folk healer in Las Delicias, Peru. Slow-paced, but real. Particularly good if you can follow the Spanish, which is often abbreviated in the subtitles.

Eskimos of Pond Inlet 1 videocassette (52 min.) The Inuits of Pond Inlet, a new village built by the Canadian government on Baffin Island are laborers, and their children attend government school. The Inuits, formerly known as Eskimos, talk about their lives, their land and the changes forced upon them by the encroaching culture of white society.

The Feast 1 videocassette (29 min.) Examines the first stages of alliance formation between two mutually hostile Yanomano Indian villages in southern Venezuela and

northern Brazil. Describes in detail the preparation for a feast involving the inhabitants of the villages and presents scenes of chanting, dancing and trading at the feast.

First contact 1 videocassette (55 min.) Recounts the discovery of a flourishing native population in the interior highlands of New Guinea in 1930 in what had been thought to be an uninhabited area. Inhabitants of the region and surviving members of the Leahy brothers' gold prospecting party recount their astonishment at this unforeseen meeting. Includes film and still photographs taken by a member of the expedition and contemporary footage of the island's terrain. A classic, but with a definite agenda.

Flowers for Guadalupe: the presence of the Virgin of Guadalupe in Mexican women's lives 1 videocassette (57 min.) This film explores the importance of the Virgin of Guadalupe as a liberating symbol for Mexican women today.

Healers of Ghana 1 videocassette (58 min.) Explores the traditional medical practices of the Bono people of central Ghana and how their healers are accommodating the conflict between the arrival of Western medicine and their religious beliefs. Traditionally, Bono tribal priests undergo a painful spiritual possession, during which deities reveal to them the causes of illnesses, which plants to use to treat them, who is perpetrating witchcraft, and which villagers might be endangering society through improper behavior.

Homeland: One reservation, four families, three years 1 videocassette (57 min.) Four Lakota families living on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota, open their hearts and homes to present a portrait of reservation life. The film focuses on their attempts to secure decent housing on the reservation with the assistance of Walking Shield, a non-profit agency that works to provide housing for indigenous Americans.

The Hmong: hilltribe people of Laos 1 videocassette (58 min.) Portrait of the daily life, culture and spiritual beliefs of the Hmong hilltribe people living in the Loei (Ban Vinai) refugee camp in Thailand after fleeing persecution in Laos.

Hosay Trinidad 1 videocassette (45 min.) An ethnographic film about the observance of Shiite Muharram rites on the island of Trinidad.

In and out of Africa 1 videocassette (59 min.) Story about Gabai Baaré, a merchant who brings wood carvings from West Africa to sell in the United States.

In search of cool ground. Part 1, The Mursi trilogy, 1974-85 1 videocassette (ca. 52 min. each) Film documentary about the changes in the life of the Mursi tribe of Ethiopia now that drought and famine are driving them into contact with the outside world.

In the land of the war canoes: a drama of Kwakiutl Indian life on the Northwest Coast / story written and picture made in 1914 by Edward S. Curtis ; Original title: In the land of the headhunters 1 videodisc (43 min.) Presents an epic saga of Kwakiutl Indian life on the northwest coast of America as filmed in the summer of 1914 at Kwakiutl villages on Vancouver Island, Canada, by Edward S. Curtis who spent three years with the Kwakiutl to meticulously recreate their way of life before the white man came. In addition to magnificent painted war canoes, the film features native costumes, dancing

and rituals -- including a powerful scene of vision quest. Edited and restored with the addition of an authentic sound track of music and chants recorded by the Kwakiutls in 1972. Special features: The making-of documentary, "The Image maker and the Indians." Please watch this, as well. (Note: SSU also has a different edition of this video that lacks this extra feature; don't use that one.) A related video, **Coming to light: Edward S. Curtis and the North American Indian**, gives historical background and modern Kwakiutl responses to Curtis' work. You may choose this one as your other video for an in-depth view of this subject, or choose an unrelated video for more variety.

India 1 videocassette (50 min.) An overview of topics such as the caste system, pilgrimages, arranged marriages, local trades, Sikhism, Kashmir, and the plight of small farmers.

Invisible Indians: Mixtec farmworkers in California 1 videocassette (ca. 35 min.) This presentation examines the distinct culture of Mixtec Indians from Oaxaca, Mexico, who started to migrate to California in the early 1970's to work in the produce fields. This program focuses on the special skills and values that these people bring to California agriculture jobs and their continuing connection to their communities in Mexico. Also examined are their living conditions in California.

Kawelka: Ongka's big moka 1 videocassette (52 min.) In Papua New Guinea, status is earned by giving things away rather than acquiring them. Explores the Moka, a ceremony in which people, sometimes the whole tribe, give gifts to members of other tribes, the larger the gift, the greater the victory over the recipient. Follows Ongka as he prepares for the giving of his Moka. A classic.

Keep her under control : law's patriarchy in India 1 videocassette (52 min.) Produced and filmed in northeastern Rajasthan, India, this video documents a dispute resolution in a multi-caste village of Hindus, Muslims, and Sikhs. The film discusses the Meos, a Muslim farming caste, and shows the paradox between a male ideology that demands the control of women and one woman's resistance to that agenda.

Kinship and descent 2 videocassettes (watch both; together they count as a single video for this assignment) (ca. 30 min. ea.) Examines inheritance and subsistence patterns, children's names, married names, and important family names in business and government as cultural examples of kinship and descent in the United States; contrasted with matrilineal descent patterns among the Trobriand Islanders, and economic and religious elements in the Mendi clans.

Little boy 1 videocassette (54 min.) Depicts the harsh realities of Indian and Chicano life in New Mexico.

Live and remember = Wo kiksuye 1 videocassette (29 min.) A documentary about the Lakota Sioux nation's oral tradition, song and dance, medicine, spirit world, and perceptions of bicultural lifestyles discussed by Lakota elders, medicine men and traditional dancers. Includes commentary on the role of women in Indian society,

alliances with animal nations, the Peace Pipe ceremony, and changing relationships within the reservations and non-Indian world.

Masai women 1 videocassette (52 min.) An ethnographic view of Masai culture and society, focusing on the preparation of young Masai girls for marriage and life in their society. Probes, through a candid interview with an older woman, the feelings of the Masai women about polygamy and their inability to own property.

Mayan voices, American lives 1 videocassette (56 min.) Demonstrates the impact of recent Guatemalan settlement in Indiantown, Florida through interviews and newspaper headlines, breaking through refugee/migrant worker stereotypes.

Monday's girls 1 videocassette (49 min.) A grandmother named Monday Moses in Ogoloma, Nigeria is responsible for taking the young girls of the village through the rites of passage into womanhood so that they will be ready for marriage.

Muslims in America 1 videodisc (57 min.) Examines the surprisingly rapid growth of Islam in the heart of America's Bible Belt, a predominantly fundamentalist Christian locale. Yet for Muslims living in Appalachia, the daily challenge lies not so much in acceptance by their neighbors as with practicing their religion in a country whose overall culture is so often at odds with their own beliefs. Interviews with refugees living in the region and with experts in American Islam reveal the resiliency of a faith that can thrive in exile. The history of Islam, Islamic contributions to the arts and sciences, and common ground between Muslims and Christians are also highlighted.

N!ai: the story of a !Kung woman 1 videocassette (60 min.) A compilation of footage of the !Kung people of Namibia from 1951 through 1978. Focuses on the changes in the life of these people as seen through the reflections of one woman, N!ai.

Oaxacalifornia 1 videocassette (58 min.) Profiles each member of a middle class Mexican American family living in Fresno, California. Examines their life style, attitudes, cultural traditions, and employment, and follows them as they return for a visit to their ancestral home, Oaxaca, Mexico to join in a religious festival and renew their cultural roots.

People of the wind 1 videocassette (108 min.) A documentary in which the Babadi, a nomadic tribe belonging to the Bakhtiaries of Iran, annually migrate across the Zagros Mountains from winter to summer pasture with their herds of sheep. The people are led by Jafar Qoli, the Kalanter (chief) of the Babadi groups who assumes responsibility for the trek. "An astonishing epic of the most grueling migration in the world."

Sacrifice of Serpents 1 videocassette (108 min.) This documentary shows a lesser known Nepalese festival, that of the goddess Indrayani (Luti Ajimā in Newari culture), in the northern part of Kathmandu. The climax of the festival, the sacrifice of living serpents into sacrificial fire, is unknown in other countries of the subcontinent.

Saheri's choice 1 videocassette (27 min.) A candid glimpse into contemporary Indian society, this program examines the custom of arranged marriages in India. It follows the

story of one girl and her family as they confront the reality of an impending marriage that was arranged when the girl was barely six years old.

Sexuality in Mesoamerica: machismo and marianismo 1 videocassette (33 min.) A study of the concept of sexuality in Mexico and Central America. Focus is on the cultural archetypes of machismo and marianismo, orientations which have defined social conduct and sexual orientation throughout Latin America.

Sherpa high country 1 videocassette (19 min.) This film studies the habitat and culture of the Sherpa people of Nepal. It shows religious rituals, dances, bazaars and other Sherpa customs.

Shunka's story 1 videocassette (VHS) (20 min) A Tzotzil Maya woman of Zinacantán, Chiapas, conveys her thoughts and feelings about her life. The narration consists of the voice-over comments (in English) of the woman herself (Shunka), thus keeping to a minimum the intrusion of the filmmaker's cultural biases.

Small happiness: women of a Chinese village 1 videocassette (VHS) (58 min.) An exploration of sexual politics and the reality of life in contemporary rural China. Filmed under unprecedented circumstances, Chinese women of Long Bow speak frankly about footbindings, the new birth control policy, work, love and marriage.

Tepatitlan VHS The annual fair and its multiple activities reveal the character of this Jalisco community.

The Feast 1 videocassette (29 min.) Examines the first stages of alliance formation between two mutually hostile Yanomano Indian villages in southern Venezuela and northern Brazil. Describes in detail the preparation for a feast involving the inhabitants of the villages and presents scenes of chanting, dancing and trading at the feast.

The Heart of the dragon (Series): Episode 2, Caring 1 videocassette (57 min.) Explores the role of family, street, and neighborhood in the care of young and old, using a railway policeman's family in Harbin as a case study. Investigates institutions that care for those with whom the community cannot cope, and discusses the deep-rooted concepts of honor, moral conduct, and respect that govern Chinese life. (For this assignment, please select only one from this series.)

The Heart of the dragon (Series): Episode 5, Correcting 1 videocassette (57 min.) Explains the basis of the Chinese legal system as a desire to restore social harmony, rather than to punish the criminal or to protect society. Shows how the system works, and explores the social pressures in the new consumer society, including what makes a crime a crime. (For this assignment, please select only one from this series.)

The Heart of the dragon (Series): Episode 7, Living 1 videocassette (57 min.) Investigates the life of China's peasants--over four-fifths of the one billion population. Visits the Moaping village in Zhejiang province, and follows the daily life of one family as they tend their state-allocated land and their own private plot. (For this assignment, please select only one from this series.)

The Heart of the dragon (Series): Episode 8, Marrying 1 videocassette (57 min)
Examines the societal role of the Chinese family, the changing status of women, and rural reactions to the government birth control policy of one child per family. Shows the role of the marriage broker. Filmed in Maoping village in Zhejiang province. (For this assignment, please select only one from this series.)

The Hunters 1 videocassette (72 min) In this classic documentary, the Kalahari Bushmen of Africa wage a constant war for survival against the hot arid climate and unyielding soil. 'The Hunters' focuses on four men who undertake a hunt to obtain meat for their village. The chronicle of their 13-day trek becomes part of the village's folklore, illustrating the ancient roots and continual renewal of African tribal cultures.

The spirit possession of Alejandro Mamani 1 videocassette (28 min.) In a Bolivian village, one of the village elders discusses his belief that he is possessed by evil spirits that are driving him to his death. Cures are tried, but nothing works. His anguish and that of his family point out a common problem with the aging.

The Trobriand Islanders of Papua New Guinea 1 videocassette (52 min.) The Trobriand Islands lie off the eastern tip of Papua New Guinea. The island society has a complex balance of male authority and female wealth. Magic spells and sorcery pervade everyday life. This program focuses on two important events: the distribution of women's wealth after a death, and the "month of play", a time of celebration following the yam harvest.

Todos Santos Cuchumatan 1 videocassette (41 min.) Examines everyday life in Todos Santos (Guatemala) before the violence. Discusses the increasing importance of cash to this once self-sustaining farming community. Shows the annual harvest, the elaborate Fiesta of Todos Santos, and the mass seasonal migration out of the mountain village in search of work on the cotton plantations of Guatemala's lowlands. Illustrates the social changes in the lives of Guatemalan Indians that led to the political upheaval of the 1980's.

Todos Santos, the survivors 1 videocassette (41 min.) (Sequel to above) Documents the changes wrought by guerrilla warfare and government reprisal in the Indian village of Todos Santos Cuchumatan, in the Guatemalan highlands, since the documentary of that name was made in 1979.

Trobriand cricket: an ingenious response to colonialism 1 videocassette (55 min.) Shows how the Trobriand Islanders have transformed the British game of cricket over the last seventy years into a unique Trobriand sport and a colorful ritual expressing their own cultural values. A classic.

Warriors of the Amazon 1 videocassette (60 min.) Visit the Yanomami Indians, an endangered tribe of the Amazon rainforest, whose culture is built on communal harmony and fierce rivalries.

Yeah you rite! 1 videocassette (29 min.) Looks at the linguistic diversity of New Orleans in this amusing study of the ways accent and dialect identify and influence the people who use them. Examples from vendors, children's games, social occasions, and people on

the street illustrate their language as an indicator of social and economic rank, race, and neighborhood.