

# Cultural Anthropology

Miss/Soc 4183

Arranged

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<http://home.snu.edu/~hculbert.fs/anthro.htm>

## Course Description:

A study of races and cultures of our world with a special look at non-western cultures. It will provide tools for more effective intercultural communications as well as giving us a mirror in which to see ourselves more clearly. One key assumption of this course is that we absorb cultural concepts most effectively through exposure to ethnographic description as well as actual field work.

## Textbook:

*Introducing Cultural Anthropology: A Christian Perspective* by Brian Howell & Jenell Paris

## Requirements

1. **Textbook.** You must read the textbook from cover to cover. Write a reflective summary/reaction (one page may be sufficient) for each chapter plus four "test" type questions which you think will cover the key issues of that chapter (include the answers). Note relationships between textbook material and the videos, case studies and cross-cultural worship experiences.
2. **Writing Assignments.** You need to write a short research paper on a topic related to the course content. This should be typed, double-spaced, 6-8 pages plus a bibliography of sources consulted. Direct quotes should be carefully documented.
3. **Cross-cultural worship.** Attend two worship services in churches ethnically different from your own. Anglos, for example, could visit a black church or an hispanic or korean. One of the two can be a Jewish synagogue or an Islamic mosque.

Write up your reactions and reflections on your visit. Among the things to talk about, for instance, would be how the service unfolded. What was the most meaningful part of the service for you? How did you feel as a minority? What was different about the service from the way you are used to worshipping? Were there things in that worship service which you would enjoy in your own home church? In your report be sure to specify the exact date, time and place of the worship service.

4. **Field research.** Interview for at least 45 minutes someone or a family whose cultural heritage is different from yours. How to meet someone? It may be someone contacted through a minority group church, for example (the pastor or someone he/she suggests). At the interview, your goal will be to get them to talking and telling stories, not just responding briefly to a series of questions you have. Try asking about their favorite traditions in their culture. Ask about prejudice they may have encountered and how they dealt with it. Ask about their growing up years; ask about family life. Ask about what they see as the strengths and weaknesses of their cultural heritage. What have they been the most surprised about in your own cultural group? How do they think they are most misunderstood by members of your own cultural group?

5. **Case study processing.** Read at least two of the 5 case studies listed at <http://home.snu.edu/~hculbert.fs/anthro.htm>

Write a one page reflection/solution for each one that you read.

6.. **Reactions to Videos and Audio Tapes.** Write a one-page summary or reaction to

(a) at least 12 of the videos (of which at least one must be either "Dadi's Family" or "Seasons of a Navajo" — both are good so you may want to watch both!)

(b) at least two of the audio tapes in the following list.

As you watch or listen, reflect on the material in the textbook through which you are working. As I read your summary/reactions I would like to see occasionally something that reflects your reading in the textbook.

Building Cross-Cultural Relations/Ministering Cross-Culturally  
USCWM, 35 min.

BV 2082  
.B3

Dr. E. Thomas Brewster. Talking head. An excellent discussion of successful language and culture acquisition. Notes that there is a difference between studying a language and actually learning it. Normal language acquisition is not an academic pursuit, but a social one. A prerequisite for anyone going overseas or who wishes to successfully "acculturate", minister cross-culturally, and develop an incarnational lifestyle. The challenge of missions today is for adventurers and explorers.

Celebrating the Day of the Dead  
Educational Video Network, 22 min.

GRI15  
.C45

In the U.S. Halloween is a time for costumes and silliness, but The Day of the Dead is a serious affair in Mexico where relatives take the time to remember and honor deceased loved ones. Discusses the imposition of Spanish Catholicism on traditional Indian beliefs. Portions of film in Spanish with English subtitles.

Dadi's Family  
PBS Video, 58 min.

HQ670  
.D33 1662

A look at the relationships a mother and mother-in-law have in India with her sons and their wives. Excellent footage of interactions during the family's daily routine.

A Desert Blooms: The Muslim World.  
Zwemer Institute of Muslim Studies. 15 min.

B  
.D4

A great introduction to the Muslim world and the beliefs that shape it (the Five Pillars, for example). A brief yet challenging discussion as to the church's efforts in evangelizing Muslims who are also out to win the world. Makes the point that most Muslims are not the fanatics seen demonstrating on television.

"EE-Taow!"  
New Tribes Mission, 1989, 35. min.

BV3680  
.N5 E37

The Mouk tribe of Papua New Guinea responds dramatically to the Gospel during chronological Bible teaching by a couple who were supposedly old to become missionaries. In three months of teaching, twice a day, five days a week, no one in the village in New Guinea missed the stories. Emphasis was laid on telling the whole story of the Old Testament before getting to the story of Christ.

Faith on the Firing Line.  
Nazarene Compassionate Ministries, 1989. 26 min.

BV 3625  
.M65

The story of Mozambique's cycle of war, famine and grief. What the Church of the Nazarene is doing. A good study of the Church in the midst of need. Filmed on location in Mozambique, your tour guide is Steve Weber. Has personal profiles about people who've been affected by terrorists. Good film.

Five Hardest Questions. G S A L  
Wycliffe Bible Translators, 1970's, 50 min.

BV 2061  
.F5

Footage of Wycliffe missionaries at work who are each asked five questions: 1) are missionaries tools for western imperialism? 2) God says He will take care and provide for you. How have you experienced this? 3) What type of skills are most necessary for a translator to have? 4) Do you think it's fair to raise your children here? 5) Would you make the same decision again? A good introduction to translation and its problems in Canada, Mexico, and the Philippines. A fantastic view into everyday life of the missionary.

- God is Building a City. BV 637  
 Intersarsity Christian Fellowship, 1989, 14 min. .G69  
 Reveals how our world is becoming less a world of independent countries, and more a world of interconnected, international, multi-cultural cities. Through the insight of urban experts, Ray Bakke, Craig Ellison, Floyd McClung, and George McKinney, you can begin to understand your urban future and your role in God's urban world. "You've got an urban future whether you like it or not!"
- The Gods Must Be Crazy A PNI997  
 20th Century Fox, 1984, 109 min. .G626  
 An empty Coke bottle drops from the sky near an African hunter and is brought into his camp. After the bottle causes trouble in his village, the bushman tries to return the bottle to "the gods who must have dropped it." A reasonably sensitive, but humorous look at clash between cultures by Hollywood filmmakers.
- Going International: Beyond Culture Shock A SG156.5  
 Copeland Griggs Productions, 30 mins. .C5 G61, Vol. 3  
 Takes a look at cross-cultural living through eyes of business executives who have done so.
- Going International: Bridging the Culture Gap E184.2 .B75  
 Copeland Griggs Productions, 1983, 28 min  
 Intended to help families adjust to living abroad through exploration of cultural and business practices in various foreign countries. Illuminates cultural differences to which Americans must become attuned if they are to be accepted in their new homes.
- Language and Communication. P 90  
 Insight Media, 1983, 30 min. .L36  
 This program shows how the feelings and aspirations of every culture are expressed in the sounds and movements which constitute language.
- Lord of the Dance GVI601  
 Thirteen/WNET, 1993, 58 min. .D3, Vol. 2  
 What cultural beliefs have shaped the great traditions of sacred and secular dance? This program examines dances of Christian groups in Spain, India and the Yoruba religion in Nigeria. Dialogue in English, Russian and Hindu. Voiceover in English.
- Mexican Youth Today. HQ799.M4  
 Educational Video Network, 1992, 28 min. M49  
 On-the-street interviews of young people in Mexico City on a variety of subjects. They have a lot to say about the stereotypical ways their country is perceived, and they are determined to set the record straight. Bilingual with captions. Be aware that when the young people are interviewed on the issue of AIDS, they openly admit their sexual promiscuity and use of condoms.
- Magical Curing .N5  
 filmed & narrated by William Mitchell, 1988, 17 min.  
 Black & white film. From a purely anthropological basis about the Waope people of New Guinea. An interesting study in primitive or traditional religion. Christians should view for understanding and discuss the contextualization of the Gospel. Helps to understand the bondage of demons and clarify what the Good News really means, releasing the captives and breaking the power of death. Fascinating to watch. A man slips into eternity and becomes a God-spirit to the village.
- Nati: A Mayan Teenager. FI435  
 Educational Video Network, 1991, 17 min. .N37

Nati is a 14-year-old Tzeltal Maya who lives in a remote settlement in Chiapas, Mexico. Surrounded by the ruins of his ancestors' once-mighty civilizations, Nati is more concerned with his daily routine and prospects for the future. Due to the demands of his own culture, Nati is seriously considering marriage and family life at an age when most U.S. teens are still considered children. This trip to a Third World village through the eyes of a 14-year-old offers a different look at rural Latin America. Pretty sketchy in terms of details it offers, however.

"Now We See Clearly" BV2835.21  
New Tribes Mission, 1992, 30 min. .N66

Why was it important to teach the Bible chronologically to the Puinave tribe of Colombia? Replacing Spanish with the Puinaves' own tribal language was not enough to deliver them from their syncretism. The chronological approach allowed the Gospel to be presented gradually within the full context of the whole Scripture. This is a true account of their journey from confusion to faith. The opening sequences refer back to Ee-Taow in order to lead into this one.

Papua New Guinea. .N5 P2  
NBC TV, 1987, 30 min total

Five segments reported during the morning news show of NBC television. The Church of the Nazarene serves as guides for NBC journalists. It briefly discusses changes that tribes are going through and the role of missionaries. Highly recommended for all viewers. Cultural change, primitive cultures, tribal missions, medical missions. The host is an SNU graduate.

Peace Child, Gospel Films 30 min.

Missionary Don Richardson goes to Papua New Guinea. He meets a people (the Sawi) who value treachery more than anything else. Frustrated with sharing the gospel, he finally uses the motif of Jesus as God's peace child to tell the story of God's love to these people who did not understand it any other way.

The Piñata GV1218.P5 1989  
Educational Video

A Poor Man Shames Us All. GN 380  
Biniman Productions / PBS Video, 1992, 60 min. .M39

Explores the alternative views of wealth and economy that are exhibited in the lives of tribal cultures. Have things replaced people as the focus of our relationships? This video, one of the series "Tribal Wisdom and the Modern World," explores the alternative views of wealth and economy that are exhibited in the lives of tribal cultures. It takes you from a New York ad agency to the jungles of Indonesia and the plains of Kenya. It notes that Western views of wealth and economic needs have created a society of strangers in the midst of material riches, while tribal cultures such as the Weyewa of Indonesia and the Gabra of Kenya create economies of dependency on others and measure wealth through people, not things.

Seasons of a Navajo E99  
1988, 60 min.

Shows one year in the life of an extended Navajo family on a southwestern reservation. Contrasts the traditional life with modern changes. .N3 S42

Vibration and Pagan Rites, Part I of Music in Time A ML160  
Films for the Humanities, 1982, 60 min. .V5

A look at music in different cultures. Not as "pagan" as the title really sounds. Flutist James Galway takes the viewer backward through time to demonstrate how ageless and universal is the human impulse to make music and how logical and natural has been the development of Western music.

Women in the Third World

PBS Video - The World Bank/WETA, 1986 29 min.

Discusses the economic and social conditions of women in the Third World.

#### Audio Cassettes

"Anthropological Insights"

A series of six audio cassettes recorded at a summer workshop with furloughed Nazarene missionaries.

"Margaret Mead: How People Change"

Audio-Forum Sound Seminars, 1962, 25 min.

"Margaret Mead: Letters from the Field"

Audio-Forum Sound Seminars, 1977, 55 min.

"How to Communicate Across Cultural Barriers"

Four audio cassettes