Introduction to Socio-Cultural Anthropology
ANTH S110 01 (Summer 2018)
Class Times: M-W-F, 3:30 - 5:45, July 2 - August 3, Yale Summer Session, 2018
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Overview of Course:
An introduction to the central ideas, methods, and debates that make up the anthropological study of human thought and behavior. Survey of dynamic ways of life in many different societies; outline of the ways anthropologists have tried to understand societies. Hands-on ethnographic research provides insight into how cultural anthropologists do what they do—what problems they encounter and what tools and techniques they use for research and analysis.

Requirements:
1. Do the readings and be active in discussing them each class (20% of grade).
2. Weekly reading responses, 1-2 pages long (20%), due at the beginning of the class we discuss them. Must constitute clear evidence that you carefully did the reading, and so are ready to actively participate in the seminar.
3. Midterm essay/project: careful summary, synthesis, use (and possibly critique) of 2-3 readings in first half of class (30%), potentially using student’s own ethnographic data, 10 (double-spaced) pages long. Due Monday, July 16th.
4. Final essay/project: careful summary, synthesis, use (and possibly critique) of 2-3 readings in first half of class (30%), using student’s own ethnographic data, 10 (double-spaced) pages long. Due Monday, August 6th.

Notes:
1. Cellphones, laptops, and other electronic devices must be turned off during class.
2. No exceptions to assignment due-dates.
3. Students will formulate both their midterm and final essays/projects in dialogue with other students, and in consultation with me. The papers will turn on readings and topics discussed in class, but can take into account issues and events outside of class readings if relevant. For both papers, students are expected to start formulating a topic and thesis at least two weeks before the due date. As the first-paper is underway, and through our close analysis of each of the readings, we will discuss strategies for topic-choice, the relation between evidence and argument, conventions of scholarly citation, the methods of ethnographic research, and the techniques of ethnographic writing. Through these step-by-step processes, students will produce demonstrably singular essays, while learning the craft of ethnographic research and writing, the ethics of academic integrity and scholarship, and the pleasures of creative inquiry.
4. For students unsure about Yale’s stance on plagiarism, please see the following link:
http://writing.yalecollege.yale.edu/advice-students/using-sources/understanding-and-avoiding-plagiarism
5. List of readings follows. (I reserve the right to add and/or prune readings as we go.)

Readings:

**Week 1: Tattoos, Piercings, Jewlery, Witches and Wealth (Classic Ethnography)**
- Class 1: Terry Turner: The Social Skin: on Bodily Adornment
- Class 2: Evans-Pritchard: Magic Among the Azande, Chapter 2: on Witchcraft
- Class 3: Evans-Pritchard: The Nuer, Chapter 1: on Human-Animal Interactions

**Week 2: Language, Magic, Taboo, Poetry, and Pollution (More Classic Ethnography)**
- Class 1: Basso: Wisdom Sits in Places: on Language, Space, and Mind
- Class 2: Tambiah: The Magic Power of Words: On Magic, Poetry, and Gardening
- Class 3: Douglas: Purity and Danger: On Dirt, as Matter Out of Place, and Taboo

**Week 3: Inalienable Possessions, Value, Power and Personhood**
- Class 1: Graeber: Beads and Money, Notes Towards a Theory of Wealth and Power
- Class 2: Kockelman: Inalienable Possessions and Personhood
- Class 3: Guyer: Marginal Gains (selections); Bohannan: The Impact of Money

**Week 4: Contemporary Debates: Racism, Environmental Disaster, and Digital Crime**
- Class 1: Hill: Language, Mock Spanish, and White Public Space
- Class 2: Cepek: Life in Oil: Cofán Survival in the Petroleum Fields of Equador (selection)
- Class 3: Dibbell: My Tiny Life: Crime and Passion in a Virtual World (selection)

**Week 5: Contemporary Debates: Magic (again!), Microbes, and Mystery**
- Class 1: Jones: Trade of the Tricks: Inside the Magician’s Craft (selection)
- Class 2: Helmreich: Alien Oceans: Anthropological Voyages in Alien Seas (selection)
- Class 3: Review, No Reading