Introduction to Socio-Cultural Anthropology
ANTH S110 (Summer 2019)
Class Times: M-W-F, 9am-11:15am
Amy L. Johnson (amy.l.johnson@yale.edu)

Overview of the Course:
How do human beings make meaning of existence? Cultural Anthropology addresses this timeless question by examining the diversity of human behavior and thought in social interactions. Whether expressed in highly formalized rituals, ordinary routines, or fantasy, our ways of interpreting and experiencing the world might be unique, but they are rooted in a common human condition. As we work through classic topics in Cultural Anthropology—body, mind, individual, society, gender, sexuality, religion, race, nature—we will simultaneously trouble how these topics are studied and represented in knowledge products that we consume as students and as citizens. At the end of the course, we will think of how anthropology is grounded in an ethics of reciprocity, and how that moral compass lends itself to compassionate critical scholarship for our times.

Requirements:
1. Complete assigned readings and be active in discussing them in each class. (20%)
2. Submit reading responses of 500 words at the beginning of each class. Must evidence engaged reading of the material: identify themes, raise questions, and connect with previously assigned readings. (20%)
3. Midterm essay/project: Use 2-3 readings from the first two weeks of the course to delve deeply and critically into a topic of your choice. 10 double-spaced pages long. Due at beginning of class 3 of week 3. (25%)
4. Final essay/project: Using 2-3 readings from the second half of the course and student's own ethnographic data, engage with the topic of Anthropology as Reciprocity, thinking about how anthropological scholarship intersects and informs our understanding of critical social problems and/or practices of representation. (35%)

Notes:
1. All devices must be switched off during class (laptops, cellphones, etc.)
2. No exceptions to assignment due dates.
3. Emails will be responded to within 24 hours, except on Saturdays when I will be away from email access. (Anything received on Saturday will be replied to promptly on Sunday.)
4. The midterm and final assignments will be formulated in conversation with students during class time and in consultation with me in office hours (TBD). Throughout the course, we will be discussing the mechanics of writing critical essays, including choosing a topic, relating evidence to argument, style, citation practices in Anthropology, ethnographic method, and techniques of ethnographic writing.
5. Yale's stance on plagiarism (absolutely forbidden) can be accessed at: http://writing.yalecollege.yale.edu/advice-students/using-sources/understanding-and-avoiding-plagiarism
6. Please note that I cannot accept gifts from students nor can I write letters of recommendation based on participation in this course.
8. List of readings follows. (I reserve the right to add and/or remove readings as we go.)
Week 1: The Body is Social!
1: Robert Hertz, The Pre-eminence of the Right Hand: A Study in Religious Polarity
   Terry Turner, The Social Skin: On Bodily Adornment
2: Louise Meintjes, Dust of the Zulu: Ngoma Aesthetics After Apartheid (selection)
3: Robert Desjarlais, Shelter Blues (selection)

Week 2: Mind, Language, and Word Power
1: Vincent Crapanzano, Tuhami: Portrait of a Moroccan
2: Jeanne Favret-Saada, Deadly Words: Witchcraft in the Bocage
3: Webb Keane, Signs of Recognition: Powers and Hazards of Representation in Indonesian Society (selection)

Week 3: Gifts, Reciprocity, and Relatedness across Humans and Non-Humans
1: Marcel Mauss, The Gift
2: Ethnographic Film in the Himalayas (films in class)
3: Radhika Govindrajan, Animal Intimacies: Interspecies Relatedness in India’s Central Himalayas

Week 4: Culture, or the Stories We(?) Tell About Ourselves
1: Keith Basso, Wisdom Sits in Places
2: Ka’ili Tevita, Marking Indigeneity: The Tongan Art of Social-Spatial Relations (selection)
3: Zora Neale Hurston, Mules and Men

Week 5: Climate Change, Racism, and Anthropology as Reciprocity
1: Kristen Hastrup, Anthropological Contributions to the Study of Climate: Past, Present, Future
   Sarah Vaughn, Disappearing Mangroves: The Epistemic Politics of Climate Adaptation in Guyana
2: Kim Tallbear, Native American DNA: Tribal Belonging and the False Promise of Genetic Science
3: Aimee Cox, Shapeshifters: Black Girls and the Choreography of Citizenship