

# ANTH 2100 FRONTIERS OF CULTURAL ANTHROPOLOGY

PROFESSOR CAROLE MCGRANAHAN

## ASSIGNMENTS FALL 2010

1. Wikipage Project (40% of recitation grade)
2. Anthropological Essay #1 (25% of recitation grade)
3. Anthropological Essay #2 (25% of recitation grade)

Due dates for assignments are by recitation. The below schedule clearly shows when each of your assignments is due.

DUE DATE	Theoretical Approaches	Wiki Project	Food Essay	Love Essay
Week 5 Monday Sept 20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cultural Evolution</li> <li>• Functionalism</li> <li>• Boasian Anthropology: Historical Particularism and Cultural Relativism</li> <li>• Applied Anthropology</li> <li>• Linguistic Anthropology</li> <li>• Boasian Legacy: Culture and Personality</li> </ul>	#013 Marnie  #015 Marnie	#011 Somraj  #012 Somraj	#014 Ben  #016 Ben
Week 9 Monday Oct 18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Structural-Functionalism</li> <li>• Cultural Ecology</li> <li>• Marxism/Political Economy</li> <li>• Feminist Anthropology</li> <li>• Structuralism</li> <li>• Symbolic + Interpretive Anthropology</li> </ul>	#011 Somraj  #012 Somraj	#014 Ben  #016 Ben	#013 Marnie  #015 Marnie
Week 15 Wed Dec 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• World System: Colonialism and Development</li> <li>• Poststructuralism</li> <li>• The Historic Turn</li> <li>• The Reflexive Turn</li> <li>• Globalization and Transnationalism</li> <li>• Practice Theory</li> </ul>	#014 Ben  #016 Ben	#013 Marnie  #015 Marnie	#011 Somraj  #012 Somraj

The assignments are due at 3pm to your TA's mailbox in Hale 350.

Three blog comments are due between weeks 7 and 11.  
Three blog comments are due between weeks 12 and 16.

## WIKIPAGE PROJECT

As a class project, you will collectively create a webpage presenting theoretical schools in cultural anthropology. Each recitation will be divided into three groups, and each group assigned a theoretical school about which they will conduct research and create a wiki entry with the following information:

- Main points
- Key figures
- Key texts
- Critiques

Working closely with your TA, each group will get their entry into publishable form at which point it will be uploaded onto the public Wikipage. You will be expected to work closely as a group and will be given brief amounts of time in recitation each week (as needed) to coordinate amongst yourselves.

What you need to do:

1. Assign responsibility for the different components of the project;
2. Turn in a research plan to your TA;
3. Consult with your TA and the Professor as needed;
4. Turn in draft of your Wiki entry to your TA;
5. Make necessary revisions;
6. Once your entry is approved by your TA and the Professor, we will upload it to the Wikipage.

Our intention is for this anthropological theory wikipage to be an excellent student-generated resource for students in this course, as well as other anthropology students around the world. Your work will thus contribute to the greater body of knowledge about anthropology.

**\*\*This project will be worth 40% of your recitation grade\*\***

**NOTE:** If needed, please use proper citations for direct quotes *and* ideas from books, lectures, or websites in your Wiki entry. For this class we will use footnote-style citations which do not require a bibliography as the first time you cite a work, you put the full citation in the footnote. Here is an example:

In the early years of exile, the Dalai Lama firmly believed Tibet would gain political independence. In his autobiography *Freedom in Exile*, he writes of his belief that “with Truth, Justice and Courage as our weapons, we Tibetans would eventually prevail in regaining freedom for Tibet.”<sup>1</sup> He has resided in exile in India since 1959 and bases his Tibetan Government-in-Exile in the hill town of Dharamsala in Himachal Pradesh.<sup>2</sup> Beginning in 1967, the Dalai Lama began traveling internationally to spread the word about Tibet.<sup>3</sup> His work educating the world about Tibet has led to wide-spread global knowledge about Tibet, his receipt of the Nobel Peace Prize in 1989, and a greater standard of living for Tibetan refugees, but not as of yet, the return of Tibet to Tibetan rule.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> The 14<sup>th</sup> Dalai Lama, *Freedom in Exile: The Autobiography of the Dalai Lama*, New York: Harper One, 1990, p. 159.

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.tibet.com>, accessed 31 August 2010.

<sup>3</sup> *Freedom in Exile*, p. 194.

<sup>4</sup> Lecture, Professor Carole McGranahan, ANTH 1105 Exploring a Non-Western Culture: Tibet, 10 March 2010.

# ANTH 2100 ESSAY #1

## —AND COURSE BLOG PROJECT—

### FOOD

Food? What does food have to do with culture? Lots it turns out. In your first essay for ANTH 2100, please write a short essay on the relationship between food and culture. As you know, anthropologists never only describe cultural phenomenon but also attempt to explain them. Thus, please include two theoretical arguments about the food/culture topic you present in your essay. By theoretical argument, we want you to use the anthropological theories presented in lecture (not one we have not studied in class) to offer preliminary thoughts on why cultural practices, philosophies, phenomenon are the way they are.

Possible topic ideas: Dieting fads, food and pregnancy, corporate food, fast food, food and body image, healthy versus unhealthy, fasting, local versus global food, food offerings, farming

This assignment has TWO parts:

1. Write your essay and turn it in to your TA on time.
2. Follow the course blog and submit *at least three* substantive comments to the posted essays on this topic, Food.

The essay series for this class will be directly linked to our course blog. The TAs and Professor will randomly choose student essays to post on the blog over the course of the semester. These essays will be posted under pseudonyms. Each student in the course is required to submit at least six substantive comments to the blog. Comments to the blog will be moderated, meaning that the TAs and Professor will review them before they are made public. Any student who does not want to post comments using his or her real name must let their TA know the pseudonym they will be using for their comments in order to receive assignment credit. Your grade for this assignment will include both your letter/numeric grade on the essay as well as credit for your substantive participation on the blog.

What do we mean by substantive blog comments? We are looking to create a truly dialogic space for exchange about anthropology. We ask you to engage with the posted essays---for example, offer your thoughts on the author's argument, raise questions, make connections to other course topics or cultural phenomenon, in general, participate in such a way that conversation is started, continued, or otherwise enabled. This will be a public blog, so one open to anyone who cares to read it including your friends, family, and interested anthropologists and lay folks everywhere.

- Due:** actual date by recitation  
Turn in your essay to your TA's box in Hale 350 by 3 pm  
Please no plastic covers or title pages
- Length:** 400-500 words (no more, no less)  
Your total word count should be clearly printed on your essay
- Heading:** An original paper title should be at the top of the paper  
Also list your name, recitation number, TA's name, and the date

**\*\*This essay will be worth 25% of your recitation grade\*\***

## **ANTH 2100 ESSAY #2**

**—AND COURSE BLOG PROJECT—**

### **LOVE**

Love is everyone's new favorite anthropological topic. In your second essay for ANTH 2100, please write a short essay on love and culture. As you know, anthropologists never only describe cultural phenomenon but also attempt to explain them. Thus, please include two theoretical arguments about the topic you present in your essay. By theoretical argument, we want you to use the anthropological theories presented in lecture (not one we have not studied in class) to offer preliminary thoughts on why cultural practices, philosophies, phenomenon are the way they are.

Possible topic ideas:

Love across borders or boundaries, regulation or legislation of love, online dating, alternative forms of marriage, love and family, bromance, dating and courtship, marriage contracts, love and friendship, spiritual love, divorce, Valentine's Day, commodification of love

This assignment has TWO parts:

1. Write your essay and turn it in to your TA on time.
2. Follow the course blog and submit *at least three* substantive comments to posted essays on this topic, Love.

The essay series for this class will be directly linked to our course blog. The TAs and Professor will randomly choose student essays to post on the blog over the course of the semester. These essays will be posted under pseudonyms. Each student in the course is required to submit at least six substantive comments to the blog. Comments to the blog will be moderated, meaning that the TAs and Professor will review them before they are made public. Any student who does not want to post comments using his or her real name must let their TA know the pseudonym they will be using for their comments in order to receive assignment credit. Your grade for this assignment will include both your letter/numeric grade on the essay as well as credit for your substantive participation on the blog.

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