

9-2008

## ANTH 220.01: Comparative Social Organization

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**ANTHROPOLOGY 220: COMPARATIVE SOCIAL ORGANIZATION**  
**FALL 2008**  
**MWF \* 1:10-2:00pm \* SS 352**

**INSTRUCTOR:** Dr. Richard A. Sattler  
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**E-MAIL:** richard.sattler@umontana.edu

**OFFICE:** Social Sciences 222  
**OFFICE HOURS:** T/R 1:00-2:00pm  
W 11:00-12:00n  
*or by appointment*

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course provides an in-depth introduction to sociocultural anthropology, with an emphasis on social organization. We will examine variations in marriage, family, and kinship; economic and political systems; religious beliefs and practices; and social hierarchies and stratification. We will also examine the ways that anthropologists study and interpret cultural diversity, drawing on examples from both Western and, more commonly, non-Western societies. There are no prerequisites. This course is required for anthropology majors and minors and fulfills the general education social science distribution requirement. The course is lecture based with opportunities for discussion of lecture and films;

**COURSE OBJECTIVES**

1. Students will gain an appreciation of the diversity and richness of human social and cultural systems
2. Students will acquire an understanding of the ways in which anthropologists study societies and current issues and approaches;
3. Students will increase their knowledge of the nature, component elements, and interconnections of social and cultural systems;

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

**Examinations:** There will five 100-point exams consisting of 50 True-False, Matching, and Multiple-Choice questions covering lectures, films, classroom presentations, and readings. None of the exams is comprehensive and the lowest grade will be dropped. **All students must take the last exam.** Students will need to bring a **narrow red scantron sheet** and a **number 2 pencil** to class on the day of the exam;

**Grading Scale:** Exams - 100-90=A, 89-80=B, 79-70=C, 69-60=D, 59-0=F;

Course - 400-360=A, 359-320=B, 319-280=C, 279-240=D, 239-0=F;

**Attendance:** Students are expected to attend all classes and are personally responsible for all material covered in class. Tests cover both readings and classroom presentations equally. There may be pop quizzes;

**Make-Ups:** Students are expected to do all work on the scheduled date listed in the syllabus. **Make-ups** will only be given in the case of **unavoidable** absences. It is the student's responsibility to contact the instructor as soon as possible (within 1 week of return to classes) in such cases and to arrange for a make-up;

**Extra Credit:** Students may earn extra credit by writing a 2-4 page critical review of a book selected from the approved list available on **ERes**. Guidelines for the reviews are also available there. This review is worth up to 10 points. Other extra credit opportunities may be available during the semester as well and will be announced in class and posted on Blackboard. All extra credit papers are **due on Friday Dec 5, 2008**;

**Academic Honesty:** The University of Montana expects students to be academically honest. Cheating and plagiarism are serious offences carrying serious penalties under the student code. Consult the "Academic Policies and Procedures" section of the current University catalog for details regarding penalties;

**Access:** This syllabus, along with study guides, overheads, announcements, etc., will be available on-line through the university's Blackboard system. You will receive an email to your official university email account with directions for accessing Blackboard;

**Required Readings:**

Bonvillain, Nancy. *Cultural Anthropology*. New York: Pearson/Prentice Hall, 2006

Spradley, James, and McCurdy. *Conformity and Conflict*. 12<sup>th</sup> ed. Allyn and Bacon, 2007

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PROVISIONAL COURSE OUTLINE

WEEK 1 INTRODUCTION

READINGS: Bonvillain, Ch. 1; Spradley & McCurdy, Ch. 35-37

Aug 27 (Wed) - Video: "Nature of Anthropology" (30)

Aug 29 (Fri) - Video: "Off the verandah" (53)

WEEK 2 THEORY AND PRACTICE

READINGS: Bonvillain, Ch. 3; Spradley & McCurdy, Ch. 1,4-5

Sep 1 (Mon)

*Labor Day Holiday*

WEEK 3 CULTURE

READINGS: Bonvillain, Ch. 2, 5; Spradley & McCurdy, Ch. 2-3, 6-7, 9

Sep 12 (Fri)

FIRST EXAM

WEEK 4 SUBSISTENCE

READINGS: Bonvillain, Ch. 6; Spradley & McCurdy, Ch. 10-12

Sep 15 (Mon) - Video: "Hunters and Gatherers" ( )

WEEK 5 ECONOMICS

READINGS: Bonvillain, Ch. 7; Spradley & McCurdy, Ch. 13-15

Sep 22 (Mon) - Video: "Ongka's Big Moka" (60)

WEEK 6 POLITICS

READINGS: Bonvillain, Ch. 12-13; Spradley & McCurdy, Ch. 24-26

Oct 3 (Fri)

SECOND EXAM

WEEK 7 EQUALITY & INEQUALITY

READINGS: Bonvillain, Ch. 11;

Oct 6 (Mon) - Video: "Principles of Caste" (30) & "The Aymara: A Case Study in Social Stratification" (30)

WEEK 8 MARRIAGE & FAMILY

READINGS: Bonvillain, Ch. 9; Spradley & McCurdy, Ch. 16, 18-19

Oct 13 (Mon) - Video: "Dadi's Family" (60)

WEEK 9 KINSHIP & DESCENT

READINGS: Bonvillain, Ch. 8; Spradley & McCurdy, Ch. 17

Oct 24 (Fri)

THIRD EXAM

WEEK 10 GENDER & AGE

READINGS: Bonvillain, Ch. 10; Spradley & McCurdy, Ch. 20-22

Oct 27 (Mon) - Video: "Masai Women" (60)

WEEK 11 ETHNICITY & NATIONALISM

READINGS: Spradley & McCurdy, Ch. 24

Nov 3 (Mon) - Video: "Awara Soup" (68)

WEEK 12 RELIGION & WORLDVIEW

READINGS: Bonvillain, Ch. 14; Spradley & McCurdy, Ch. 27-30

Nov 14 (Fri)

FOURTH EXAM

WEEK 13 GLOBALISM & MODERNITY

READINGS: Bonvillain, Ch. 16-17; Spradley & McCurdy, Ch. 31-34

WEEK 14 GLOBALISM & MODERNITY

Nov 24 (Mon) - Video: "Globalization & human rights" (57)

Nov 26-30

*Thanksgiving Holiday*

WEEK 15 ART & AESTHETICS

READINGS: Bonvillain, Ch. 15; Spradley & McCurdy, Ch. 8

Dec 1 (Mon) - Video: "Crooked Beak of Heaven" (55)

FINALS WEEK

Dec 11 (Thu) - 1:10 pm

FIFTH EXAM