

ANTH 445: Psychological Anthropology

Fall 2023

T R 3:30-4:45pm; WALNT 110

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Teaching Assistant: Katya Zhao

Description: This course introduces students to psychological anthropology—a subfield of cultural anthropology that focuses on the interrelationship of culture and mind. It will be argued that consideration of sociocultural processes, as well as cross-cultural research in general, allow for fuller accounts of mental and psychological processes. Likewise, it will be suggested that attention to the individual mind—and thus to psychology broadly conceived—enriches the anthropological project. Students will also learn psychological anthropological research methods by reading about, discussing, and *practicing* those methods. Through employing and building on the theories and methods of anthropology and psychology, this course, like the subfield of psychological anthropology itself, will encourage students to challenge certain central assumptions of each of these two disciplines. Overall, the course will develop an “individual in sociocultural context” framework in order to deepen students’ appreciation of the manner that culture and mind mutually inform and constitute each other, and also the way self and personal identity vary cross-culturally.

Readings: Available at the CSU bookstore, with additional readings found on **Canvas**:

Eller, *Psychological Anthropology for the 21st Century* [abbreviated, **21c**]

Watters, *Crazy Like Us: The Globalization of the American Psyche* [**Crazy Like Us**]

Graded Assignments and Class Expectations: Emphasis is placed on discussion, and student participation is critical to this class’s success. To participate meaningfully in class discussions, and to ensure the quality of those discussions, students must keep up with assigned readings. Class readings should be completed by Tuesday each week, and the films by Thursday of each week. **Note:** CSU faculty normally expect 2-3 hours of outside work for each contact hour, thus, minimally, at least 6 total hours of work outside of a week’s regular class meetings (in this case, 2-3 X 3 credit hour course=6-9 hours).

Overall, I’ll assess your work as follows:

Weekly in-class activities & quizzes: **10%**

Exam 1: **15%**

Exam 2: **20%**

Paper: **30%**

Final Exam: **25%**

Course Policies: The course adheres to the Academic Integrity Policy of the General Catalog and the Student Conduct Code. Any breach of these policies and codes is taken seriously. Also, students should be aware that the contents of this syllabus may change. Students are responsible for keeping track of these changes through regular class attendance and attentiveness to announcements from the professor.

Student Disability Center (SDC) Accommodations: If you need accommodations in this class due to a disability or chronic health condition, I need an accommodation letter from the Student Disability Center (SDC) before implementation. Please arrange to meet with me to discuss your needs. If you do not already have an accommodation letter, please contact the SDC to initiate the process. The SDC is

located in the TILT Building, Room 121. SDC Contact Info: 970-491-6385, <https://disabilitycenter.colostate.edu/>.

TOPICS AND READINGS

Introduction

Week 1, Introduction to the course and to the field of Psychological Anthropology (Aug. 22, 24)

Readings: “The Weirdest People in the World” (Henrich et al.) (pp. 61-4)

Video: *Kataragama: A God for All Seasons* (Nairn & Obeyesekere, 1973)

Part I: Psychoanalytic & Ethnographic Roots of Psychological Anthropology

Week 2, Psychology in the formation of anthropology; Ethnographic analysis (Aug. 29, 31)

Readings: **21c:** Intro., Ch. 1 (pp. 1-28); “An Ethnography by Any Other Name...” (Agar); “Appendix: A Synopsis of Abductive Analysis” (Timmermans)

Snodgrass audio lecture & Ppt: https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1rEs_1-DBZE-e01-eORikqd4hMi_lwlqV?usp=sharing

Week 3, The early culture-and-personality school: The Balinese witch play & “diaperology” (Sept. 5, 7)

Readings: **21c:** Ch. 2 (pp. 29-50); “On the Concept of Plot in Culture” (Mead); “Person-Centered Interviewing and Observation” (Levy & Hollan)

Video: *Bathing Babies in Three Cultures* (Bateson & Mead, 1954); [also YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rmvqdDBSY0k>] & *Trance & Dance in Bali* (Mead & Bateson, 1951) [also YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z8YC0dnj4Jw>]

Week 4, The late culture-and-personality school; Trekkies & U.S. middle childhood (Sept. 12, 14)

Readings: **21c:** Ch. 3 (pp. 51-72); “Boys in Space: *Star Trek*, Latency, and the Neverending Story” (Bick; only pages 189-195 and 204-207 are required); “*Star Trek* Rerun, Reread, Rewritten: Fan Writing as Textual Poaching” (Jenkins)

****Exam 1, due in Canvas by Sat., Sept. 16th, 6pm****

Part II. Towards a “Cognitive/Cultural” Anthropology: Specialized Methods in Cognitive/ Psychological Anthropology

Week 5, The cognitive turn in anthropology; Exam (Sept. 19, 21)

Readings: **21c:** Ch. 4 (pp. 73-92); “The Mind-Expanding Ideas of Andy Clark” (MacFarquhar); “The Weirdest People in the World” (Henrich et al.) (pp. 64-9); **Systematic Methods**, Foreword, Ch 1

Week 6, Mind in symbols, body, and practice (Sept. 26, 28)

Readings: **21c:** Ch. 5 (pp. 93-113); “Festive Fighting and Forgiving: Ritual and Resilience among Indigenous Indian ‘Conservation Refugees’” (Snodgrass); **Systematic Methods**, Ch 2

Media: *Tajen: Interactive* (Lemelson, Young, & Tucker, 2017) [multimedia interactive website; explore the website, which also contains the Geertz cockfight reading:

<https://www.elementalproductions.org/tajen-interactive>]

Week 7, Refining a cognitive anthropology (Oct. 3, 5)

Readings: **21c:** Ch. 10 (pp. 212-233); “Nature Reverence Does Not Mean Conservation in Tribal Rajasthan” (Snodgrass); **Systematic Methods**, Ch 3

Resources: Visual Anthropac – Free Lists, <http://www.analytictech.com/anthropac/anthropac.htm>

Resources: **Systematic Methods**, Ch. 3 free list supplementary material,
<https://www.routledge.com/Systematic-Methods-for-Analyzing-Culture-A-Practical-Guide/II-Snodgrass-Polzer-Nixon/p/book/9780367551513>

Course Interlude: Conclude First Half of Class

Week 8, Research methods workshop; Exam (Oct. 10, 12)

Readings: **Systematic Methods**, Ch 4

Resources: Visual Anthropac – Pile Sorts, <http://www.analytictech.com/anthropac/anthropac.htm>

Resources: **Systematic Methods**, Ch. 4 pile sort supplementary material,

<https://www.routledge.com/Systematic-Methods-for-Analyzing-Culture-A-Practical-Guide/II-Snodgrass-Polzer-Nixon/p/book/9780367551513>

****Exam 2, due in Canvas by Sat., Oct. 14th, 6pm****

Part III. Self in culture; Ethnographic analysis

Week 9, Self and personhood; Ethnographic fieldnotes (Oct. 17, 19)

Readings: **21c**: Ch. 6 (pp. 117-139); “The Weirdest People in the World” (Henrich et al.) (pp. 69-74); Emerson et. al., “In the field: Participating, observing, and jotting notes” (Emerson et. al.)

Week 10, Altered states of consciousness; Fieldnotes, cont. (Oct. 24, 26)

Readings: **21c**: Ch. 8 (pp. 166-188); “Writing Fieldnotes 1: At the Desk, Creating Scenes on a Page” (Emerson et. al.)

Film: *Jathilan: Trance and Possession in Indonesia* (Lemelson, 2011) [also YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XSGDY63jX20>]

Week 11, Emotion cross-culturally; Text analysis (Oct. 31, Nov. 2)

Readings: **21c**: Ch. 7 (pp. 140-165); “Techniques to Identify Themes” (Ryan & Bernard); **Systematic Methods**, Ch 7

Film: *Ngaben: Emotion & Restraint in a Balinese Heart* (Lemelson, 2012) [also YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Sesmyp3ZVAo>]

Part IV. Crazy Like Us: Globalizing the U.S. (Western) Psyche

Week 12, Culture and mental health; Modern Psychiatry as ethnosciencence? (Nov. 7, 9)

Readings: **21c**: Ch. 9 (pp. 189-211); **Crazy Like Us**: Intro., Ch. 1 (pp. 1-63)

****Paper due, Sat. Nov. 11th, 6pm****

Week 13, Globalizing the U.S. psyche: PTSD and depression (Nov. 14, 16)

Readings: “Antidepressants Are Not Antidepressants” (Moncrieff); **Crazy Like Us**: Ch. 2, 4 (pp. 65-125 & 187-248)

Film: *Shadows and Illuminations* (Lemelson, 2010) [also YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hOXUqa2GTGw&t=19s>]

Week 14, ****Fall Recess**** (Nov. 18-26)

Week 15, Psychosis across cultures (Nov. 28, 30)

Readings: **Crazy Like Us**: Ch. 3 (pp. 127-185); “Differences in Voice-Hearing Experiences of People with Psychosis in the USA, India and Ghana” (Luhmann); “The ‘Truman Show’ Delusion: Psychosis in the Global Village” (Gold brothers)

**Conclusions; Applying Psychological Anthropology:
Examples from Global Mental Health**

Week 16, Course conclusions; Towards a “global” mental health; Final exam review (Dec. 5, 7)

Readings: **Crazy Like Us**, Conclusion (pp. 249-255); “Grand challenges in global mental health” (Collins et al.); “How scientifically valid is the knowledge base of global mental health?” (Summerfield); “How anthropological theory and methods can advance global mental health” (Kohrt & Mendenhall)

Videos: Patel and Summerfield on global mental health; From McGill Division of Social and Transcultural Psychiatry website: <https://www.mcgill.ca/tcpsych/videos/asi-videos/2012>

Final Exam; Due in Canvas Wed. Dec. 13th, 6pm