

**Anthropology 2203-005  
Peoples of the World  
Spring 2004**

**Dr. Kermyt G. Anderson**  
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**Time: Tues/Thurs 9:00 – 10:15 AM**  
**Classroom: George Lynn Cross Hall 0233**  
**Office Hours: Tu/Th 2:00 – 3:00 PM or by appt**

**Teaching assistant: Abby Wightman**      **Email: abbywightman@ou.edu**

**Introduction:** “Peoples of the World” is a survey of world cultures, dealing with representative hunting and gathering, horticulturalist, pastoralist and complex societies. The course is designed to familiarize you with the full range of variation of human behavior, and to familiarize you with anthropological perspectives on studying world cultures. This course will enable you to think about why people around the world are different from you, and why these differences do not make them stupid or bad people. The course will also allow you to look at the cultural world and examine your own experience in new ways.

**Texts (available at the OU bookstore):**

- *Cultural Anthropology*, by Conrad P. Kottak. Tenth edition, 2003
- *Nisa: The Life and Words of a !Kung Woman*, by Marjorie Shostak, 1981

**Course Requirements:**

3 exams (75 points each)	225 pts
1 out-of-class writing assignment	75 pts
<u>10 in-class activities (5 points each)</u>	<u>50 pts</u>
Total	350 pts

The exams are closed-note, closed-book, and are not cumulative. They will consist of multiple choice, true/false, and short answer questions. The lectures and material covered by each exam are indicated in the schedule below. Each exam is worth 75 points; together, they comprise about 2/3 of your class grade. The final exam is simply another exam; it is not cumulative.

Please note that make-up exams will be given only when (a) there are exceptional circumstances preventing you from taking the exam on the scheduled day (e.g., a serious illness requiring hospitalization, death of a family member), (b) you can provide written proof of the exceptional circumstances (e.g., a note from a physician), and (c) you notify me of the situation prior to the time of the exam. Outside of these circumstances, you will receive a zero for a missed exam. Make-up exams are not granted for dental appointments, ill pets, flat tires, etc.

The out-of-class writing assignment is to be sole-authored, that is, written by you and you alone. The assignment is due at the beginning of class on April 22. It will consist of a five page essay based on your reading of Marjorie Shostak’s ethnography *Nisa: The Life and Words of a !Kung Woman*. I will provide further details about the paper well in advance of its due date.

The in-class activities are exactly that: activities done within the class period. Typically these will be writing assignments based on class discussion, the readings for that week, or a video we have just watched. Each assignment is worth five points. They are to be handed in at the end of the class; they

cannot be made up if missed, except for officially excused absences. Each assignment is worth five points. I will collect 11 assignments, although only 10 will count towards your grade. This means that you may miss one in-class activity with no penalty against your grade.

There will be no extra credit. Your total point score, divided by the highest score achieved in the class, will determine your final grade. So, for example, if the highest score in the class is 345 points, your final grade will be (your score)/345. Letter grades will be assigned on a ten point scale. (A = 90+, B = 80-89, etc.)

**Other Requirements and Expectations (the fine print):**

- 1) You should read all assigned material **before** class meets. The material for each class averages only 20-30 pages per class, but if you fall behind it will entail a large amount of work to catch up. These readings form the basis of the online quiz material; additionally, each exam will contain questions based on material covered only in the readings.
- 2) You are expected to come to class and participate in class discussions. Attendance and class participation are graded indirectly, through the in-class assignments. Lecture materials and videos presented during class time will form an important component of the exams; missing this material will disadvantage you. Lastly, the Faculty Handbook notes that “When absences seriously affect a student’s class work, the instructor will report this fact to the Admissions and Records Office, where the information will be directed to the dean concerned.”
- 3) You are expected to take notes in class. The lecture notes used in class will be made available on Blackboard (usually within 24 hours after class). However, the overheads are often sketchy and incomplete, and I always explain material verbally in class that is not written down on the slides. This oral material is important, and will be included on the exams. My experience from previous semesters suggests that students who rely solely on the overheads rather than taking notes in class receive lower grades on exams.
- 4) Log in to Blackboard ([ou.blackboard.com](http://ou.blackboard.com)) as soon as possible, and familiarize yourself with the site. You can always obtain a copy of this syllabus on Blackboard. The online quizzes available on Blackboard are an integral part of your grade, and you are expected to check Blackboard on a weekly basis (if not more often). Announcements, class notes, etc., will be posted on Blackboard on a regular basis.
- 5) We will view a variety of videos throughout the semester. Each test will contain questions drawn from material contained in the videos. Please do not treat film days as an excuse to skip, as this will lower your final grade. Also, in-class assignments often coincide with film days. Videos cannot be made up if missed.
- 6) Please act respectfully and courteously toward the rest of the class, including the instructor. This means not reading newspapers, not sleeping during class, not using cell phones (cell phones and pagers should be turned off during class), not engaging in conversations with your classmates unless told to do so, and so forth. I reserve the option of deducting points from your grade for persistent disrespectful behavior.
- 7) Academic misconduct—cheating and plagiarism—will be treated as a serious offense. Cheating includes the use of notes or other materials during exams and discussion of exam questions with other students during the exam period. Plagiarism includes the presentation of the work or ideas of others as your own. You are expected to know and understand university policy regarding academic misconduct (see <http://www.ou.edu/provost/integrity>). Academic misconduct may result in severe penalties, including a zero on the assignment in question, as well as further sanctions from the provost such as censure, suspension, or expulsion.
- 8) The University of Oklahoma is committed to providing reasonable accommodation for all students with disabilities. Any student in this course who has a disability that may prevent him or her from fully demonstrating his or her abilities should contact me personally as soon as possible so we can discuss accommodations necessary to ensure full participation and facilitate your educational

opportunities. Students with disabilities must be registered with the Office of Disability Services prior to receiving accommodations in this course. The Office of Disability Services is located in Goddard Health Center, Suite 166, phone 405/325-3852 or TDD only 405/325-4173. Students whose first language is not English should discuss any concerns or needs with me as soon as possible.

- 9) Students who need to miss a class because of a religious holiday, a university-sponsored activity (e.g., a scholarly competition, fine arts performances, an academic field trip) or a legally required activity (e.g., emergency military service, jury duty), should contact me in advance regarding their absence from class.
- 10) If you prefer to use a non-OU address for your e-mail: please either check your OU address regularly or set your OU address to autoforward mail to your preferred address, so that you can receive important announcements and last-minute information.

### **Schedule and Readings:**

(The course schedule and readings are subject to change. You will be fully informed of any changes, and the updated syllabus will be available on Blackboard.)

#### **Jan 13, Jan 15 - What Anthropologists Do**

- Kottak, Ch. 1
- Shostak, Introduction

#### **Jan 20, Jan 22 – Applying Anthropology**

- Kottak, Ch. 2
- Shostak, Ch. 1, 2

#### **Jan 27, Jan 29 – Ethics & Methods**

- Kottak, Ch. 3
- Shostak, Ch. 3, 4

#### **Feb 3, Feb 5 - Culture**

- Kottak, Ch. 4
- Shostak, Ch. 5

#### **Feb 10 - Exam #1 (Tuesday)**

- Covers all material from 1/13 through 2/5

#### **Feb 12 – Human Diversity and “Race”**

- Kottak, Ch. 5
- Shostak, Ch. 6

#### **Feb 17, Feb 19 - Ethnicity**

- Kottak, Ch. 6
- Shostak, Ch. 7, 8

#### **Feb 24, Feb 26 – Language and Communication**

- Kottak, Ch. 7
- Shostak, Ch. 9, 10

#### **Mar 2, Mar 4 – Making a Living**

- Kottak, Ch. 8
- Shostak, Ch. 11

**Mar 9, Mar 11 – Political Systems**

- Kottak, Ch. 9
- Shostak, Ch. 12

**Mar 16, Mar 18 - SPRING BREAK (no class)**

- No readings

**Mar 23, Mar 25 – Families, Kinship and Descent**

- Kottak, Ch. 10
- Shostak, Ch. 13

**Mar 30 - Exam #2 (Tuesday)**

- Covers all material from 2/12 through 3/25

**Apr 1 - Marriage**

- Kottak, Ch. 11
- Shostak, Ch. 14, 15

**Apr 6, Apr 8 - Gender**

- Kottak, Ch. 12
- Shostak, Epilogue

**Apr 13, Apr 15 – Religion**

- Kottak, Ch. 13

**Apr 20, Apr 22 – The Arts and the Modern World System**

- Kottak, Ch. 14, 15
- **Nisa paper due on Thursday, April 22**

**Apr 27, Apr 29 – Colonialism, Cultural Exchange and Survival**

- Kottak, Ch. 16, 17

**May 5 - Final Exam (Exam #3)**

- 8:00 to 10:00 AM (Wednesday)
- covers all material from 4/1 through 4/29

A note on the timing of the final exam: this schedule is set by the University, and is beyond my power to change. Please do not ask me if you can take the final exam ahead early so you can leave town. The University's policy on such matters is clear (<http://www.ou.edu/bulletins/01catalog/HTML/policies.htm>):

“An examination may be rescheduled for an individual student only in emergencies such as the illness of the student, a serious illness or death in the immediate family or an unavoidable academic conflict of compelling importance. For such a conflict to be considered as grounds for rescheduling a final examination, the activity must be directly related to the student's academic work in the University. Such rescheduling must have the approval of the instructor or instructors concerned, the department chair or chairs concerned, and the dean of the college in which the student is enrolled and should be timed in such a way to avoid compromising the integrity of the examination.”

**Final Note: Feb 21** is the final day to withdraw from a course with a W.