

**Social and Cultural Anthropology
E200 (Section 0386)**

Meets: Student Building 150
Monday/Wednesday 1:00 - 2:15 pm

Instructor: Sarah D. Phillips

Office: SB 162
Office Hours: Tues. 2-3 p.m.,
Wed. 2:30-3:30 p.m.

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Associate Instructor: Leeanne Atkins

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This course focuses on ethnographic research and writing to explore the dynamics of social life in its many forms. The primary goal of this course is to introduce students to the fundamental concepts and themes of cultural anthropology, including social organization; kinship; religion, myth, and ritual; gender; ethnicity; and others. The course seeks to make the diverse cultures of the world understandable—to make the strange familiar, and the familiar strange. By learning about other cultures we will learn something about ourselves as well.

The following are the required books for the course. They are available at IU Bookstore and TIS:

Annual Editions, Anthropology 04/05 (McGraw-Hill/Duskin, 2004)

Anne Fadiman, The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down: A Hmong Child, Her American Doctors, and the Collision of Two Cultures (Ferrar, Straus, and Giroux, 1997)

Daphne Berdahl, Where the World Ended: Re-Unification and Identity in the German Borderland (U of California Press, 1999)

Lila Abu-Lughod, Writing Women's Worlds: Bedouin Stories (U of California Press, 1993)

A few articles we will read will also be available on E-reserves. E-reserves may be accessed at <http://ereserves.indiana.edu/courseindex.asp>. The course password will be announced during the first class session.

Course Ground Rules

As members of this class, each of us has a responsibility to help foster civility in the classroom. This means avoiding behaviors that are disruptive to other students and the professor. Please turn off cell phones before coming to class. Please do not hold conversations with classmates whenever the professor, AI, or another student is speaking. Please be respectful of peers and instructors at all times.

Course Expectations

Major course requirements are faithful attendance, timely completion of the readings, participation in class discussions, in-class quizzes, two mini-fieldwork projects and essays based on these projects, and a final exam.

The grade will be comprised as follows:

Attendance: 15%

Class participation: 15%

In-class quizzes: 15%

Mini-fieldwork projects/essays: 20% each (x 2)

Final exam: 15%

Attendance: It is crucial that you attend each and every course session. Attendance will be recorded during every class. There are no "free" absences. Students are responsible for all material presented in the course, including lectures, discussions, guest lectures, films, and so on. Guest lectures and films cannot be "made up." The professor and AI cannot provide students with private make-up sessions. If you know you will miss class, contact one of us ahead of time, by phone, voicemail, or e-mail. If you are absent for medical reasons, bring us a doctor's note very soon after the absence. The attendance policy is flexible in case of illness and emergencies, but you should be aware that repeated absences will negatively affect your grade. Absences due to inclement weather will not be excused absences.

Readings: Students are expected to come to class having read the assignment for that day. Quizzes are designed to check students' reading and reading comprehension.

Class Discussion: During most class sessions there will be opportunities for discussion in small groups and as a class. Students are encouraged to ask questions during class. Class periods when mini-fieldwork projects are due will be devoted to discussion of students' projects and findings. You are encouraged to participate in these discussions, as we will learn from one another.

In-Class Quizzes: Quizzes are designed to ensure that students are keeping up with the readings. Quizzes may be announced the class period before, but the instructors reserve the right to give "pop" (unannounced) quizzes at any time. Quizzes missed due to an unexcused absence may not be made up.

Extra Credit opportunities: Students have the opportunity to add points to their quiz scores by attending lectures and events outside class, and submitting a one-page (single-spaced) write-up/response/summary. These events should have direct relevance to cultural anthropology (cultural festivals, lectures on anthropological or anthropologically related topics, the annual Pow-Wow, etc.). Submitting an acceptable write-up will add five points to any single quiz score. Instructors will announce up-coming events in class, but students should seek out such events on their own as well.

Mini-field projects: There are two mini-fieldwork projects that all students will complete. Each project involves field research and an essay. Detailed project assignments will be handed out two weeks before the projects are due.

These projects will center on the following themes:

- 1) Gender
- 2) Ritual

Essays: Essays should be between 5 and 7 pages in length. Specific guidelines will be handed out with each project assignment. Your essays and mini-field projects will be graded on your ability to carry out the project and present your findings and ideas in a sophisticated, insightful manner. Essays should synthesize the issues using concepts covered in class (in addition to other ideas and approaches, of course). Students who find it difficult to express themselves well through writing should utilize the Writing Tutorial Services in Ballantine Hall or the Main Library. Late essays will be assessed a penalty of 5 points off per day. All students are expected to submit work that has been authored by the student and the student alone. Plagiarism is a serious violation of university codes, and

students should consult the student handbook for specific information. Instructors will use TurnItIn.Com to vet any questionable papers.

Final Exam: Our final exam is scheduled for **Wednesday, December 15, 2:45-4:45 p.m.** The exam will cover the main points emphasized throughout the semester. The last class period will be a review session for the final.

Grading Scale:

This course will use a 10-point grading scale, with pluses and minuses.

A+ 100	B 83-86	C- 70-72	F 0-59
A 93-99	B- 80-82	D+ 67-69	
A- 90-92	C+ 77-79	D 63-66	
B+ 87-89	C 73-76	D- 60-62	

Special Needs:

If you have a physical or learning disability, or ADHD, or any other reason to request special consideration concerning tests, papers or any other aspect of the course, please see me to discuss your needs as early in the semester as possible.

Religious Holy Days and Holidays

If you must miss class because of a religious holy day or holiday, please let the instructors know as early in the semester as possible, so we can make any necessary accommodations for you. You may view the University's policy on accommodations for religious holy days or holidays on the web at

<http://www.indiana.edu/~deanfac/holidays.html>

Forms are available for you to complete to request accommodation at

<http://www.indiana.edu/~deanfac/download/download.html#awnom>

Other Important Information:

In your Schedule of Classes bulletin (also available online), there is important information on academic freedom, academic misconduct policies, the Code of Academic Ethics, and the campus calendar. Please read through these sections and any others that may concern you personally.

The instructors reserve the right to make *minor* adjustments to this syllabus during the semester. Any changes will be announced in class.

The professor and AI are available to discuss questions and concerns with students concerning the course during our office hours (see above). If you cannot come to our office hours, please let us know so we can schedule an alternative meeting with you.

Dr. Sarah D. Phillips

Dr. Phillips grew up in the mountains of North Carolina, and received a BA in Anthropology and Russian at Wake Forest University. She got her PhD in Anthropology at UIUC. Dr. Phillips joined the Department of Anthropology at IUB as an assistant professor in 2003. Her teaching interests include introductory cultural anthropology, the history of anthropology, medical anthropology, and the anthropology of Russia and Eastern Europe. Since 1995, Dr. Phillips has conducted research in Ukraine on gender, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and civil society, Chernobyl, and disability politics. She enjoys spending time with her 3-year-old son, singing, dancing, biking, and gardening.

Ms. Leeanne Atkins

Ms. Atkins received her BA degree from Smith College with a double-major in Afro-American Studies and Portuguese-Brazilian Studies. She spent a year studying and conducting research in Brazil. Her research interests include "race," class, and gender, and issues of religious diaspora, especially Yoruba and Fon religious practitioners on the Nigerian-Benin border. She is also interested in the role of women in Yoruba-derived religious communities in the New World. She has done research among the Yoruba Temple of America community of Brooklyn, NY.

Class Schedule:

Monday, August 30

Introduction to the course, syllabus overview.

General Anthropology and the sub-disciplines of Anthropology. Who are anthropologists, and what do we do?

Wednesday, September 1

Intro to Anthropology, cont. Scope of cultural anthropology. Ethics and research methods in cultural anthropology. Applied anthropology.

Reading:

Napoleon Chagnon, "Doing Fieldwork among the Yąnomamö" (AE pp. 2-13)
Tracy Kidder, "The Good Doctor" (E-Res)

Monday, September 6

Labor Day (Classes meet)

What is Culture? Ethnocentrism, cultural relativity, and human rights.

Reading:

Richard Kurin, "Doctor, Lawyer, Indian Chief" (AE pp. 14-18)

Richard Borshay Lee, "Eating Christmas in the Kalahari" (AE pp. 19-22)

Wednesday, September 8

Culture clash in California—the Hmong experience. Migration and culture change.
Kinship (descent groups). Religion (animism).

Reading:

Fadiman, The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down, Preface, and Chapters 1 - 5
(pp. vii - 59).

Monday, September 13

Multiculturalism. Medical anthropology. "Meaningful" illness and Western doctors' cultural competency. Fadiman's research methods.

Reading:

Fadiman, Chapters 6 - 10 (pp. 60 - 139).

Wednesday, September 15

Multiculturalism and culture conflict, continued—anthropologists' roles.
Guest lecture by Meredith Johnson—Somali communities in the US Northeast.

Reading:

Fadiman, Chapters 11 - 14 (pp. 140 - 209).

Monday, September 20

Culture: who has it?

Reading:

Fadiman, Chapters 15 - 19 (pp. 210 - 288).

Video in class: The Split Horn

Wednesday, September 22

Social organization—political systems

Video in class: Political Organization (28 min.)

Monday, September 27

Economic systems. Foraging. Distribution, exchange, and reciprocity. Modes of production. Ecological anthropology.

Reading:

Jane Fortier, "Without the Forest, There is No Life" (AE pp. 61-65)

David Counts, "Too Many Bananas, Not Enough Pineapples, and No Watermelon at All: Three Object Lessons in Living with Reciprocity" (AE pp. 73-75)

Videos in class: Patterns of Subsistence: Food Foragers & Pastoralists (28 min.)
Patterns of Subsistence: The Food Producers (28 min.)

Wednesday, September 29

Marriage. Exogamy, endogamy, incest taboo. Plural marriages. Arranged marriages.

Reading:

Melvyn C. Goldstein, "When Brothers Share a Wife" (AE pp. 91-94)

Serena Nanda, "Arranging a Marriage in India" (AE pp. 116-120)

Monday, October 4

Socialization and childcare

Reading:

Meredith Small, "Our Babies, Ourselves" (AE pp. 109-115)

Jane Furio, "Why Arctic Women Choose to Give Away Their Babies" (E-Res)

Nancy Scheper-Hughes, "Death Without Weeping" (AE pp. 104-108)

Alma Gottlieb, "The Anthropologist as Mother: Reflections on Childbirth Observed and Childbirth Experienced" (E-Res)

Wednesday, October 6

Gender. Gender stereotypes. Gender roles. Gender stratification.

Reading:

Walter L. Williams, "The Berdache Tradition" (AE pp. 135-140)

Sarah D. Phillips, "Ukrainians" (E-Res)

Jan Goodwin, "Tradition or Outrage?" (E-Res)

Video in class: Wedding highlights (15 min.)

Monday, October 11

Women and Islam. Writing against cultural generalizations. Experimental ethnography.

Mini-Fieldwork Project #1 Guidelines Distributed

Reading:

Lila Abu-Lughod, *Writing Women's Worlds*, Preface and Introduction (pp. xi - 42).

In-class video: "Women and Islam" (with Leila Ahmed, 30 min.)

Wednesday, October 13

Marriage and Kinship among the Awlad 'Ali Bedouin. Kinship charts.

Reading:

Abu-Lughod, Chapter 1 (pp. 45 - 85).

Monday, October 18

Polygyny, dowry, and bridewealth: in-class debates.

Reading:

Abu-Lughod, Chapters 2 and 3 (pp. 87 - 165)

Wednesday, October 20

Women's words and resistance.

Reading:

Abu-Lughod, Chapters 4 and 5 (pp. 167 - 242).

Monday, October 25

Mini-Fieldwork Project #1 Due in Class. Discussion of Projects.

Wednesday, October 27

Religion and myth. Functions of religion. Magic and religion. Origin myths. Culture change.

Reading:

George Gmelch, "Baseball Magic" (AE pp. 169-173)

In-class video: Excerpts from "Whale Rider"

Monday, November 1

Ritual. Rites of passage. Ritual practice. Body ritual.

Reading:

Tepilit Ole Saitoti, "The Initiation of a Maasai Warrior" (AE pp. 147-151)

Ann M. Simmons, "Where Fat Is a Mark of Beauty" (AE pp. 145-146)

Horace Miner, "Body Ritual Among the Nacirema" (AE 166-168)

Elizabeth D. Purdum and J. Anthony Paredes, "Rituals of Death" (E-Res)

In-class video: Excerpts from Discovery Channel special on Tattoos

Wednesday, November 3

Magico-Religious rituals in contemporary Slavic societies.

Reading:

Sarah D. Phillips, "Waxing Like the Moon: Women Folk Healers in Rural Western Ukraine" (E-Res)

In-class video: Shapes in the Wax: Tradition and Faith among Folk Medicine Practitioners in Rural Ukraine (Phillips and Miller)

Monday, November 8

Culture and power. Soviet state socialism. Legacies of the Cold War.

Reading:

Berdahl, Where the World Ended, Introduction (pp. 1 - 22).

In-Class video: Goodbye, Lenin!

Wednesday, November 10

Soviet state socialism, cont. Social organization. Social control.

Reading:

Berdahl, Chapters 1 - 2 (pp. 23 - 71).

In-class video: Goodbye, Lenin!, (cont.)

Monday, November 15

Folk religion. Religious creativity.

Reading:

Berdahl, Chapter 3 (pp. 72-103).

Wednesday, November 17

State socialism: economic aspects, consumerism.

Reading:

Berdahl, Chapter 4 (pp. 104 - 139).

Monday, November 22

Post-Cold War initiation rituals. Ostalgia. Collective memory. Gender.

Guidelines for mini-fieldwork project #2 distributed.

Reading:

Berdahl, Chapters 5 - 7, and Epilogue (pp. 140 - 233).

Wednesday, November 24
No Class—Thanksgiving Break

Monday, November 29
(Mis)communication and culture. Sociolinguistics.

Reading:
Deborah Tannen, "Why Don't You Say What You Mean?" (AE pp. 34-37)
Laura Bohannon, "Shakespeare in the Bush" (AE pp. 51-55)
Keith Basso, "Joking Imitations of Anglo-Americans: Interpretive Functions" (E-Res)

Wednesday, December 1
Talk and troubles in Northern Ireland: language, identity, and conflict. Ethnicity and "race."

Reading:
William F. Kelleher, Jr., "Dividing Space & Making 'Race,'" and "Living the Limit" (E-Res)

Students are strongly encouraged to independently view the feature film "An Everlasting Piece" prior to class

Monday, December 6
Mini-fieldwork project #2 due, Discussion of projects

Wednesday, December 8
Hanukkah (Classes meet)
Last day of class, Review for Final Exam

Final Exam: Wednesday, December 15, 2:45-4:45 p.m.