

Introduction to Cultural Anthropology

Anth 1100-001

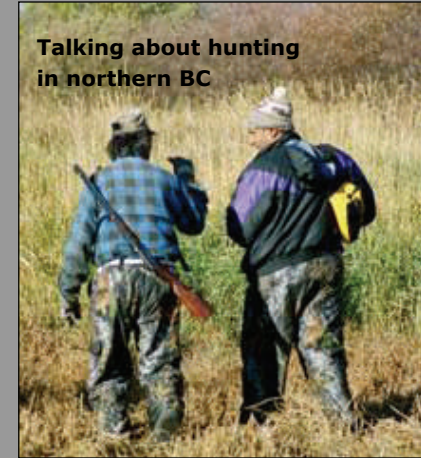
Winter 2012

Mondays and Wednesdays, 8:00-9:50a

NW 3302

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Talking about hunting
in northern BC



What is this course about?

In a recent book, Canadian anthropologist **Wade Davis** writes:

Anthropology began as an attempt to decipher the exotic other, with the hope that by embracing the wonder of distinct and novel cultural possibilities, we might enrich our appreciation and understanding of human nature and our own humanity (Davis, *The Wayfinders*, 2009:10).

This course is designed to get you thinking about cultural diversity – those novel cultural possibilities that **Davis** mentions – and why cultural diversity matters. Moreover, this course asks you to consider why we should care if the different cultures of the world disappear under a wave of modernity. Wouldn't it just be easier if we all believed the same things or spoke the same language? What is gained by living in a world where there are many different cultural realities?

We consider these questions through the lens of cultural anthropology. We will look at cultural difference under topics like *language, culture, kinship, politics, economics, and religion*. And, we'll do so by investigating examples of cultural practices from around the world using lectures, films, and slides.

Get course handouts and an
online syllabus at:

www.tadmclwraith.com/current-courses/anth-1100-win-2012/

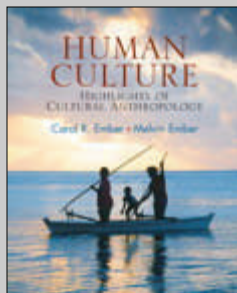
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Who should take this class? This class is for you if you want to learn about cultural diversity and its expressions. Come—read about, watch films about people similar and different from you. Come—and talk about the people living in our world with us and around us. This class is for you if you want to pursue any career in which you work with people.

Textbooks

Ember, Carol R. and Melvin Ember. 2009. *Human Culture: Highlights of Cultural Anthropology*. Toronto: Pearson Ed.



Barker, John. 2008. *Ancestral Lines: The Maisin of Papua New Guinea and the Fate of the Rainforest*. Toronto: Broadview.



Lecture Schedule

- Introduction, The Culture Concept and Methods, January 4, 9, 11
Readings: Ember and Ember 1, 2 / Barker 1
- Economic Anthropology, January 16, 18
Readings: Ember and Ember 4 / Barker 2
- Exchange, January 23, 25
Readings: Ember and Ember 4

Midterm I: January 30

- Kinship and Descent, February 1, 6, 8
Readings: Ember and Ember 7 / Barker 3
- The Anthropology of Religion, February 20, 22, 27
Readings: Ember and Ember 9 / Barker 4
- Political Anthropology, February 29, March 5
Readings: Ember and Ember 8
- Social Stratification, March 7, 12, 14 (Barker Discussion)
Readings: Ember and Ember 5 / Barker 5

Midterm II: March 19

- Language and Communication, March 21, 26, 28
Readings: Ember and Ember 3 / Barker 6; Conclusion
- Cultural Change, April 2, 4
Readings: Ember and Ember 10

Final Quiz: April 11

Course Requirements

Readings:

Students are expected to complete required readings before class.

Tests and Exams: There are 2 mid-terms and a final quiz for this course. Students are responsible for all materials discussed in class. The tests will cover material from a limited number of lectures and the final exam will include materials from the entire course.

Written Assignments: There are two longer written assignments and two shorter written assignments for this course. The longer assignments consist of 1) the observation of a 'cultural scene' and 2) the interpretation of the activities in that 'cultural scene.' The shorter assignments require you to review briefly two chapters of Barker's book (one in each half of the term).

Evaluation and Due Dates

<u>Assignment</u>	<u>Due Date</u>	<u>Weight</u>
Chapter Review I	January 23	10
Observation Writing Assignment I	February 6	20
Midterm I	January 30	15
Chapter Review II	March 12	10
Midterm II	March 19	15
Observation Writing Assignment II	April 2	20
Final Quiz	April 11	10

Respectful Learning Environment: Students are expected to adhere to all College policies regarding respectful conduct in all aspects of this course. This includes classroom conduct and online conduct through message boards, etc. A respectful learning environment also includes the appropriate use of laptops and other kinds of electronics in class. Be aware that anyone sitting behind you can see what you are doing on your laptop – **and it can be VERY distracting**. If you feel you must watch movies, do email, text, etc. during class, then please get yourself a privacy screen for your laptop's monitor. Better yet: save those activities for another time.

Attendance: As material discussed in class will differ from the text material, attending class is important. If you miss a class, it is strongly recommended that you obtain the notes from another student. You are not required to tell me that you have missed class.

Plagiarism (Academic Dishonesty) Policy: Plagiarism is defined as a student "submitting the words, ideas, images or data of another person as his or her own in any academic writing, essay, thesis, research project or assignment in a course or program of study". Plagiarism amounts to cheating: it is a serious academic offence and will be dealt with as such in this course. If you are caught plagiarizing, you will receive a grade of 0 for the assignment and you will be subject to College disciplinary measures.

Course Policies and Other Information

Missed Tests: You must contact the instructor before an examination if an emergency prevents you from attending. Make up tests will only be administered if the student provides a legitimate and pressing reason for missing the test. Otherwise a grade of 0 will be assigned for the test.

Let me put it this way: it is always in your best interest to talk with me if you have an issue before an assignment is due or a test is scheduled. I am in a much better position to help you before the due dates than I am after them.

Late Assignments: Penalties for late assignments will be discussed in class. No assignments will be accepted after the last day of our class.

NOTE: If I grant you an extension, late penalties still apply.

Language Competency Policy: Students are advised that this is a language intensive course. Much of the material covered relies upon students possessing a good grasp of English grammar and syntax. It is strongly recommended that students have completed English 1130 (Academic Writing Skills) or possess its equivalent level for reading and writing English prior to taking this course. Students who do not possess a "post-secondary" level of reading and writing competence in English will not be able to complete this course successfully. Students for whom English is a second language are strongly advised to ensure that their level of English proficiency is adequate before taking this course.