

Anthropology 263g: Exploring Culture through Film

Spring 2006 Lecture 10632R T/Th 2-3:20PM THH 102

Professor: **Lanita Jacobs-Huey**

Office: Grace Ford Salvatori Hall (GFS) 128
[Note: To get to my office, you must first enter the Anthropology Department at GFS 120]

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Office Hours: T/Th 1-2PM; also by appointment. You can also contact me Monday-Friday via email.

Course Website: ANTH 263 course materials are accessible through Blackboard; to access, click on:
<https://totale.usc.edu/>

Required Texts:

1. Hall, Stuart (ed.). 1997. Representation: Cultural Representations and Signifying Practices. New York: Sage. [Note: This text is referenced as Hall in the Reading and Exam Schedule.]
2. Mead, Margaret. 1988 [1973]. Coming of Age in Samoa: A Psychological Study of Primitive Youth for Western Civilization. New York: William Morrow & Co. [Note: This text is referenced as Mead in the Reading and Exam Schedule].
3. Schultz, Emily A. and Robert H. Lavenda. 1998. Cultural Anthropology: A Perspective on the Human Condition. Fifth Edition. London: Mayfield Publishing Company. [Note: This text is abbreviated S&L in the Reading and Exam Schedule.]
4. Anthropology 263 Reader. (Purchase in class) [Note: This text is abbreviated RDR in the Reading and Exam Schedule.]

Highly Recommended Texts:

5. Zinsser, William. 2001. On Writing Well. Sixth Edition. New York: HarperCollins Publishers.

NOTE: Texts by Hall, Schultz & Lavenda (S&L), Mead, and select articles from the ANTH 263 Reader (RDR) are **on reserve in Leavey Library**.

Course Description: This course explores key anthropological concepts through an analysis of visual and written representations of societies throughout the world. More specifically, we will probe issues around identity, language, culture change, and power and resistance through a critical synthesis of ethnographic, theoretical, and popular films/videos and texts. As a primer in cultural anthropological theory, this course will also analyze various visual mediums (e.g., film, video, photography) as both a research tool and medium in the analysis and representation of culture(s). We will ask such questions as: *What does it mean to be a cultural anthropologist?*, *How do we define culture(s)/Culture?*, *How should we observe and represent culture(s)?*, and *What are Western anthropologists' past and present traditions in this respect?* Moreover, we will consider the political implications of writing and/or visually portraying our own or other cultures.

Grading: Ten percent of your grade will be determined by your participation in discussion section; another 10 percent will be determined by a brief writing assignment provided by your T.A. In addition, there will be TWO midterm exams and a final exam covering assigned readings and/or films. Your score on each midterm will constitute 25% of your grade (totaling 50%), and your score on the final exam will constitute the remaining 30%. Each of the three exams will include short-answer and essay questions and will be "non-cumulative." The grading scale is as follows:

Grading Scale:

94-100 = A	87-89 = B+	77-79 = C+	67-69 = D+	≥ 59 = F
90-93 = A-	84-86 = B	74-76 = C	64-66 = D	
	80-83 = B-	70-73 = C-	60-63 = D-	

GRADE BASIS

Participation: 10%
Disc. Section Assignment: 10%
Midterm 1: 25%
Midterm 2: 25%
Final Exam: 30%

An Official Note on Examinations: Make-up exams will only be given under extraordinary circumstances and will require documentation from your doctor. The content and form of any make-up exam will be at my discretion. In any case, do inform me via email or phone prior to missing an exam. If you feel you must reschedule an exam on account of having (a) two additional exams scheduled at the same time or (b) three exams in a 24-hour period, do inform me at least two weeks prior to our scheduled mid-term. The final exam, however, **must** be taken at the time noted below.

Attendance: Consistent and punctual attendance in lecture and discussion section(s) is strongly encouraged as I expect it will increase your understanding of course materials. Your record of attendance may also be considered in determining your discussion section grade, as well as in the case of borderline grades. Do note that it is ultimately *your* responsibility to be aware of what has transpired in class. Should sickness, family emergencies, or other events necessitate your absence from class, I recommend that you consult your student colleagues for copies of their lecture notes.

Academic Accommodations: Students requesting academic accommodations based on a disability should register with Disability Services and Programs (DSP) each semester. A letter of verification for approved accommodations can be obtained from DSP when necessary documentation is filed. Please be sure the letter is delivered to me as early in the semester as possible. DSP is open Monday-Friday, 8:30AM-5PM. The office is in Student Union 301 and their phone number is 213-740-0776.

Discussion Sections: Teaching assistants for the course are Jennifer Cool and Patricia Gilson. Please note that *discussion sections will begin meeting during the 2nd week of class.* The time and location of ANTH 263 discussion sections are as follows: Section 10633R: W 9-9:50AM (GFS 107), Section 10634R: W 10-10:50AM (GFS 109), Section 10635R: F 10-10:50AM (GFS 223), Section 10636R: F 11-11:50PM (GFS 223). As you know, discussion section enrollment is based on a first-come-first-serve basis. As such, please attend the discussion section for which you are enrolled.

READING & EXAM SCHEDULE*

Week 1: COURSE INTRODUCTION, ANTHROPOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVES ON CULTURE

- 1/10 • S&L Chapters 1-2
- 1/12 • Film: *Anthropologists at Work* (Visual #144 at Leavey Library)

Week 2: ANTHROPOLOGICAL METHODS **NOTE: Discussion Sections Begin 2nd Week**

- 1/17 • S&L Chapter 3, Agar [in RDR]
- 1/19 • Collier & Collier Chapter 10 [in RDR] Asch 1992 [in RDR]
- Films: Excerpts from *A Man Called Bee* (Visual #92 at Leavey Library)

Week 3: ANTHROPOLOGICAL METHODS

- 1/24 • Geertz [in RDR], Abu-Lughod [in RDR]
- 1/26 • Mead: Chapters 1 and 7, Freeman: Chapters 1 and 15 [in RDR]
- Film: *Strangers Abroad: Margaret Mead, Coming of Age* (Visual #55 at Leavey Library)

Week 4: ANTHROPOLOGY AND ITS HISTORICAL CONTEXT

- 1/31 • S&L Chapter 4, Kuehnast [in RDR]
- 2/2 • Film: *The Life and Times of Sara Baartman: The Hottentot Venus*

Week 5: ETHNOGRAPHY AND THE POLITICS OF REPRESENTATION

- 2/7 • **Exam 1 on Thursday, February 9th**
- 2/9 Exam 1 • Film: *Papua New Guinea: Anthropologists on Trial*
- Jacobs-Huey: Natives are Gazing [in RDR], Faris [in RDR], Kent [optional; in RDR]

Week 6: LANGUAGE AND IDENTITY POLITICS

- 2/14 • Film: *American Tongues* (LVYVID#559)
- 2/16 • S&L Chapter 5 (Optional)
- Jacobs-Huey, We Are Like Doctors, We Heal Sick Hair [in RDR]

Week 7:	LANGUAGE, IDENTITY, AND CULTURE
2/21	• Jacobs-Huey: “The Arab is the New Nigger”: African American Comics Confront the Irony & Tragedy of 9/11 [to be posted in Blackboard]
2/23	• Film/Clips: TBA
	• Guest Speakers: TBA
Week 8:	CULTURAL WORLDVIEWS
2/28	• S&L Chapter 8
3/2	• Film: TBA
Week 9:	CULTURAL CONTACT, CHANGE, AND HYBRIDIZATION
3/7	• S&L Chapter 14
3/9	• S&L Chapter 15 (optional)
	• Films: TBA
SPRING BREAK [3/13-3/18 -- No class this week]	
Week 10:	READING FILM/READING CULTURE
3/21	• Hall: Chapter 3, Crawford [in RDR]
3/23	• Film: Revisiting <i>The Life & Times of Sara Baartman</i> (LVYVID 1034), <i>Ethnic Notions</i> (LVYVID #823 and LVYVID #209)
Week 11:	EXPLORING IDENTITY & “AUTHENTICITY” IN POPULAR CULTURE
3/28 Exam 2	• EXAM 2 – TUESDAY MARCH 28TH
3/30	• Hall: Chapter 4
	• Film: <i>Black Is ... Black Ain't</i> (LVYVID #821)
Week 12:	EXPLORING IDENTITY & “AUTHENTICITY” IN POPULAR CULTURE
4/4	• Mercer [in RDR; skim]
4/6	• Tuan [in RDR]
	• Waters [in RDR]
	• Film/Clips: TBA
Week 13:	CONCEPTUALIZING ETHNOGRAPHIC FILM
4/11	• Collier & Collier, Ch. 14 [in RDR]
4/13	• MacDougall Ch. 4 [in RDR]
	• Film: TBA
Week 14:	SUBJECTIVITY/REFLEXIVITY IN FILM
4/18	• Rosaldo [in RDR]
4/20	• Ruby [in RDR]
	• Film: <i>In Her Own Time</i> (Visual #165)
Week 15:	CAN “THICK DESCRIPTIONS” BE FOUND IN FILM?
4/25	• Ginsburg [in RDR]
4/27	• MacDougall Ch. 2 [in RDR]
	• Film: <i>Nanook of the North</i> (Visual #46); <i>Nanook of the North Revisited</i> (LVYVID 1393)
FINAL EXAM: THURSDAY, MAY 4TH 2-4PM THH 102	

* The Reading and Exam Schedule may be subject to modification (e.g., trimming, additions, etc.).

ANTHRO 263 BIBLIOGRAPHY: Exploring Culture Through Film

(NOTE: ARTICLES ARE ALPHABETIZED BY LAST NAME IN YOUR READER. Textbooks are in bold.)

- Abu-Lughod, Lila. 1991. Writing Against Culture. *In* R. Fox (ed.) *Recapturing Anthropology: Working in the Present* (137-162). Santa Fe, NM: School of American Research Press.
- Agar, Michael. 1996. Who are You to Do This? *In* *The Professional Stranger: An Informal Introduction to Ethnography*, 2nd Edition (91-111). New York: Academic Press.
- Asch, Timothy. 1992. The Ethics of Ethnographic Film-making. *In* P.I. Crawford and D. Turton (eds.) *Film as Ethnography (196-204)*. New York: Manchester University Press.**
- Collier, Jr., John and Malcolm Collier. 1986. Ethnographic Film and Its Relationship to Film for Research. *In* *Visual Anthropology: Photography as a Research Method* (150-160). Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press.
- Collier, Jr., John and Malcolm Collier. 1986. Risks to Rapport in Photographic Probing. *In* *Visual Anthropology: Photography as a Research Method* (133-137). Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press.
- Crawford, Peter Ian. 1992. Film as Discourse: The Invention of Anthropological Realities. *In* P.I. Crawford and D. Turton (eds.) *Film as Ethnography* (66-82). New York: Manchester University Press.
- Faris, James C. 1992. Anthropological Transparency: Film, Representation, and Politics. *In* P.I. Crawford and D. Turton (eds.) *Film as Ethnography (171-182)*. New York: Manchester University Press.**
- Freeman, Derek. 1999. Introduction. *The Fateful Hoaxing of Margaret Mead: A Historical Analysis of Her Samoan Research* (1-15). Boulder, CO: Westview Press.
- Freeman, Derek. 1999. The Mythic Process. *In* *The Fateful Hoaxing of Margaret Mead: A Historical Analysis of Her Samoan Research* (191-202). Boulder, CO: Westview Press.
- Freeman, Derek. 1999. Afterward. *The Fateful Hoaxing of Margaret Mead: A Historical Analysis of Her Samoan Research* (203-217). Boulder, CO: Westview Press.
- Geertz, Clifford. 1971. Thick Description: Toward an Interpretive Theory of Culture. *In* *The Interpretation of Culture* (3-30). New York: Basic Books.
- Ginsburg, Faye. 1995. Mediating Culture: Indigenous Media, Ethnographic Film, and The Production of Identity. *In* L. Devereaux and R. Hillman (eds.) *Fields of Vision: Essays in Film Studies, Visual Anthropology, and Photography* (256-291). Los Angeles: University of California Press.
- Hall, Stuart (ed.). 1997. Representation: Cultural Representations and Signifying Practices. New York: Sage.**
- Jacobs-Huey, Lanita. 2002. The Natives are Gazing and Talking Back: Reviewing the Problematics of Positionality, Voice, and Accountability among “Native” Anthropologists. *American Anthropologist* 104(3): 791-804.
- Jacobs-Huey, Lanita. 1998. We Are Just Like Doctors, We Heal Sick Hair: Cultural and Professional Discourses of Hair and Identity in a Black Hair Care Seminar. *In* Chalasani, Mani C., Jennifer Grocer and Peter Haney (Eds.) *SALSA V: Proceedings of the 5th Annual Symposium about Language and Society-Austin*, TLF 39 (213-223). Austin: Texas Linguistics Forum.
- Kent, Linda L. 1992. Fieldwork that Failed. *In* P.R. DeVita (ed.) *The Naked Anthropologist: Tales from Around the World (17-25)*. Belmont, CA: Wadsworth.**
- Kuehnast, Kathleen. 1992. Visual Imperialism and the Export of Prejudice: An Exploration of Ethnographic Film. *In* P.I. Crawford and D. Turton (eds.) *Film as Ethnography (183-195)*. New York: Manchester University Press.**
- MacDougall, David. 1998. Beyond Observational Cinema. *In* L. Taylor (ed.) *Transcultural Cinema (125-139)*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.**
- MacDougall, David. 1998. Visual Anthropology and Ways of Knowing. *In* L. Taylor (ed.) *Transcultural Cinema* (61-92). Princeton: Princeton University Press.

- Mead, Margaret. 1988 [1973]. *Coming of Age in Samoa: A Psychological Study of Primitive Youth for Western Civilization*. New York: William Morrow & Co. [Note: This text is referenced as Mead in the Reading and Exam Schedule].**
- Mercer, Kobena. 1994. Black Hair/Style Politics. *In* *Welcome to the Jungle: New Positions in Black Cultural Studies* (97-138). Cambridge, MA: The MIT Press.
- Miner, Horace. 1956. Body Ritual among the Nacirema. *American Anthropologist* 58: 503-507.
- Rosaldo, Renato. 1993. Subjectivity and Social Analysis. *In* *Culture and Truth: The Remaking of Social Analysis* (168-195). Boston: Beacon Press.
- Ruby, Jay. 2000. *Exposing Yourself: Reflexivity, Anthropology, and Film*. *In* *Picturing Culture: Explorations of Film and Anthropology* (151-180). Chicago: University of Chicago Press.**
- Schultz, Emily A. and Robert H. Lavenda. 1998. *Cultural Anthropology: A Perspective on the Human Condition*. Fourth Edition. London: Mayfield Publishing Company.
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- Waters, Mary C. 1990. The Costs of a Costless Community. *In* *Ethnic Options* (147-168). Los Angeles: University of California Press.