

Anthropology 154-99

Culture, Food, and Economy
**An Online Course Offering from
Henry Ford Community College
Fall 2008**

Instructor: Dr. Ronald Rich

email: rdrich@henryford.ucompass.com

Online office hours in the "Office Hours" Chatroom:

Mondays from 10:00 am to 11:00 am

Wednesdays from 12:00 pm to 1:00 pm

Thursdays from 10:00 am to 11:00 am

Here is another way to find me: I am often online working on class materials, grading, etc. At those times you can contact me immediately and request a chat. To find if I am online click on the Who's Online link in the navigation panel. Scroll down the list that is in the window that pops up. If I am online my name will be visible in the list. Click on my name and in the next window will be a link that you can click on to "invite" me to a "private chat." Just click on that link. Once you do a chatroom window will open and I will receive the request. When the chatroom opens, type your question and then post it by clicking on the button. I will enter the chatroom and respond to your question. You may have to wait a few minutes for the request to get to me and then for me to enter the chatroom. Have patience. If I am online I will be there.

If these days and times do not work for you, you can either e-mail me your message, or you can e-mail me a request to meet online in the Office Hours Chatroom at a specific day and time.

Introduction and Objectives

Welcome to Anthropology 154: Food, Culture, and Economy. People have to eat to live, but food is also a cultural event that embraces more than human survival. Food traditions help create group identity, mark class status and ethnicity, and are involved in key aspects of culture such as religion, gender, economics, politics, power, and more. This course introduces you to an anthropological study of culture and food. This is a deeply qualitative course. You are expected to gain basic substantive knowledge of anthropology and of anthropological research on food and culture. In the process, you will learn a great deal about other cultures and the diversity of human social and cultural life. I passionately believe that anthropology offers an important and highly

relevant vision of what it means to be human beings in the times and places we live, and this course explores that vision through food and culture.

There are two goals for this course: 1) introduce you to the importance of food in human cultures; and 2) to better understand how you are situated food consumers. You will develop familiarity with the cross-cultural diversity of food traditions and with the common cross-cultural functions/roles of food. In addition, you will apply the information and concepts used in the course to your own lives and develop a working knowledge of your own food traditions, the food systems that contextualize your own food choices. This course should provide you with tools you can use to better understand yourselves and your lives in social and cultural context. We explore food, culture, and economy through various exercises and assignments that you complete over the semester. Hopefully, through this course you will become more aware of the cultural worlds in which you live and come to have more empathy for the social and cultural worlds in which other people live.

The specific objectives for this course are:

1. Describe and apply basic anthropological/sociological concepts involved in the analysis of society and culture generally, and those required to study food in a cultural context;
2. Illustrate the cross-cultural diversity of food traditions using specific ethnographic examples, and situate that diversity within the range of human subsistence practices (cross-culturally, and in terms of human history);
3. Describe the common roles/functions of food in human cultures and societies;
4. Relate any particular cultures/society's food traditions and practices to other aspects of that culture (a holistic understanding of food) including environment, subsistence practices, religion, social organization, etc.;
5. Apply the information, theoretical and empirical, covered in the course, and describe their own food traditions in relation to aspects of their culture, including the commodity chains, global food systems, and markets that characterize US food production, distribution, and consumption.
6. Critical thinking objectives:
 - a. Describe the variation of food traditions in human cultures through the cross-culturally similar functions and uses of food in human culture;
 - b. Compare and contrast the social, economic, and cultural components of subsistence, market-based, and industrialized food production/distribution systems, and evaluate the relative benefits and drawbacks of each;
 - c. Situate one's own food cultures/traditions by describing how our food choices are embedded (or not) in larger regional and national patterns of production, distribution, and consumption.

Course Structure

The course is divided into three units, each unit composed of five assignment packets that each contain an assignment lecture, assignment vocabulary terms, and the assignment. In addition, two of the assignment packets in each unit contain enrichment exercises that you are required to complete. You take a multiple choice exam at the end of each unit. Each assignment packet contains links to resources that help with course content, including vocabulary flashcards and crossword puzzles, practice quizzes, and tutorials that reinforce course content and which you are expected to use.

Within the files in each assignment packet you will find links to other files that help you understand the tasks you are to perform. Every assignment packet contains links to assignment objectives and an assignment rubric that describes how I will grade each assignment. Also included are "how-to" links that describe how to use assignment lectures, vocabulary lists, the textbook, the tutorials, and assignments.

In order to provide you with flexibility, assignments and enrichment exercises are due no later than the end of the unit in which they are assigned, however, the idea is for you to complete assignments in a regular manner submitting each assignment or exercise when finished. ***It is imperative that you complete the assignments regularly and that you submit them when completed,*** for I provide feedback on the assignments and return them to your folders. My comments are designed to help you with course content that will help you prepare for each unit exam, and so you will benefit from reading the comments when you prepare for the unit exams. If you do not submit the assignments timely I will not have time to return your graded assignments before the exam is due and will not be able to fully help you with material that is covered on the unit exams.

Late and Drop Policies

Late Policy: Due to the nature of online courses, the burden is on you to complete the required tasks in your own time and under your own direction. You are expected to turn in assignments and to take exams when scheduled. However, I will always accept work that is handed in late. The total number of points possible on late work will be 85% of the total possible for the assignment. If an assignment is worth 20 points and you turn it in late, the highest score you can achieve will be a 17. I will grade late assignments on the normal 90-80-70-60 scale, giving you a score out of 20, and then apply the late penalty by multiplying your score by .85 (85%), meaning that achieving all 17 points on the late assignment worth 20 total points would only be achieved for a perfect score. This policy applies to all course work.

Drop policy: If you stop attending class it is your responsibility to withdraw from the course in the registration office. I do not automatically drop students who stop attending class. If you do not complete the course and do not withdraw by the deadline you can expect a failing grade on your final grade report. If you do not withdraw by the semester deadline and want me to drop you from the course you must contact me and request that I drop you.

Graded Course Requirements

Assignments

Each of the three units in the course contains five content-driven assignments that cover unit material. The assignments are the most important part of the course. They are the ways that I instruct you on course content. The material covered in the assignments is the

material over which you are tested on the unit exams. In each assignment file within each packet is a link that describes how to use the assignments. You should explore that link for further information. Assignments are worth 20 points and vary in format. Some are detailed essay questions, some are fill-in-the-blank exercises, and some involve analysis of images and text. Students compose responses to the questions and e-mail their responses to me via the Ucompass e-mail system. There is more information on the respective assignments in each assignment packet.

Enrichment Exercises

Two of the five assignment packets in each unit contain what I call Enrichment Exercises that involve further application of key course content. The enrichment exercises often have discussion board components that require you to post your essay and respond to those of other students. I try to make the enrichment exercises engaging activities that deal with contemporary issues and problems that make for lively discussion boards. The Enrichment Exercises are worth 20 points each.

Exams

There are four exams in the course: one for each unit, and a comprehensive final. You take the unit exams on your own schedule so long as they are completed by the due date for each unit. I open each unit exam toward the end of each unit, giving you about a week to find time to take the exam. Each unit exam is 100 points, and consists of 34 multiple choice and true/false questions. You have 50 minutes to take the unit exams. Each exam pertains only to the unit it addresses. Like exams for in-class courses, the idea is for students to read the chapters and complete the assignments before taking the exam. I consider these exams to be "open-book" and construct exam questions based on the premise that you indeed will use your course resources. I try to mix questions that are more definitional, and for which the textbook will help you, with questions that are more "applicational" and for which the text will be less helpful. The "applicational" questions require you to have a good handle on the information you are being tested on and be able to apply that information. I limit the time you have available to take the exam in order to force you to be familiar with the course material. If you have not read the appropriate material for the exam and seek answers in the textbook for more than a few questions you will find it very difficult to complete the exam within the scheduled time. The timed format should not prevent you from consulting your resources, but it should prevent you from consulting the text or other resources for every single question. Remember this as you study for and take your exams.

The final exam is also worth 100 points, but it is comprehensive and is in essay format. The final exam consists of a large essay that requires you to describe and apply the components of the anthropological perspective that runs throughout the course. In addition, there are three essay questions, each one addressing content from one of the three units in the course. There is also an extra credit question on the exam. The final exam is contained in its own packet in the COURSE MATERIALS section of the course site and is available at all times for student viewing. You may work on the final exam at any point in the semester. It is due no later than Friday May 2.

Total Semester Points

Exams 4@100 points each 400 pts. total
Assignments. 14@20 points each 280 pts. total
Enrichment Exercises 6@20 points each 120 pts total
Total. 800 total pts. available

Grades by points:

In order to receive an A grade 720 points (90% of 800) are required
In order to receive a B grade 640 points (80% of 800) are required
In order to receive a C grade 560 points (70% of 800) are required
In order to receive a D grade 480 points (60% of 800) are required
Less than 480 points fails the course

Required Text and Other Readings

Haviland, William A., Harald E. L. Prins, Dana Walrath, and Bunny McBride

2008 Anthropology: The Human Challenge. Twelfth edition. Belmont, CA: Wadsworth.

Podolefsky, Aaron and Peter J. Brown, eds.

2007 Applying Anthropology: An Introductory Reader. Eighth edition. New York, NY: McGraw-Hill.

Both texts are required and can be purchased at the HFCC bookstore. The Study Guide for Haviland, Prins, Walrath, and McBride is NOT required for the course.

Henry Ford Community College Information

Drop Dates

For Winter Semester 2008, the last day to withdraw from the course and receive 100% tuition refund is January 11 at 4:30 pm. The last day to drop the course with no indication on your record is January 18 by 4:00 pm. The last day that students can drop a course and receive a 50% tuition refund is also January 18 by 4:00 pm. The last day that students can drop the course in the Registration office is March 26. Students receiving federal financial aid may have additional refund options available to them. They should review the brochure Financial Aid Information Guide and Consumer Information Supplement, available in the Financial Aid Office.

Student support services

HFCC has numerous support services for students. Here are some that may help you through the semester:

Ucompass accessibility

If you require assistance accessing UCompass Educator courses, please contact Instructional Technology at 313.845.9663, ext. 3, 4, or 5 or via e-mail at signorelli@hfcc.edu, kolin@hfcc.edu, or vbeaty@hfcc.edu. On-campus assistance is also available in the Student Center at the Tech Buddy Desk or within Instructional Technology, Monday - Friday, 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Instructional Technology is located on the lower level of the Learning Technology Center (same building as Campus Safety), room A-004.

Media Center

Located on the second floor of the Library, the Media Center is an open access computer lab where students can go to work on computer assignments, access the internet, and/or check their e-mail. For more information, you may contact the Media Center at 313.845.6386. For more information regarding Library Services, you may phone 313.845.9606.

Assisted Learning Services

The Assisted Learning Services Program is designed to assist physically challenged, learning disabled, or academically disadvantaged students at Henry Ford Community College to overcome barriers to education through supportive services. In addition, the Assisted Learning Services Department also provides tutoring services to the general student population. Assisted Learning Services is located in the LRC (Learning Resources Center), north side (parking lot side) main level. For more information, you may contact the office at 313.845.9617 or for the hearing impaired 313.845.9804.

Learning Lab

Located on the second floor of the Learning Resource Center, the Learning Lab assist HFCC students with identifying and improving the skills needed for success in the areas of Reading, Writing, and Math.

Although operation hours may slightly vary each semester, generally, the Learning Lab is open Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, from 7:30 a.m. to 8:40 p.m., on Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., and Saturday from 9:40 a.m. to 1:40 p.m. For more information, contact the Learning Lab at 313.845.9643.

Topics and Work Schedule

Unit 1: Monday January 7 to Monday February 11: All Unit 1 materials, including the assignments, enrichment exercises, and the Unit 1 exam are due NO LATER THAN MONDAY FEBRUARY 11.

Unit 1 Assignment 1: Introduction to Anthropology

Haviland: Chapter 1

Unit 1 Assignment 2: Principles of Evolution

Haviland: Chapter 2; Chapter 5, pp. 106-111

Unit 1 Assignment 3: Primates

Haviland: Chapter 3; Chapter 5, pp. 111-123, Chapter 5, pp. 125-143

Unit 1 Assignment 4: Hominin/Homo sapiens Evolution

Haviland: Chapter 6, Chapter 7, pp. 150-154, and pp. 161-167; Chapter 8, pp. 180-186 and pp. 191-198; Chapter 9, 202-204

Unit 1 Assignment 5: Contemporary Human Variation

Haviland: Chapter 12, Chapter 13

Reader Articles for Unit 1

#1, 2, 3, 6, 7, 10, 11, 22, 29, 30, 31

Unit 2: Tuesday February 12 to Monday March 24: All Unit 2 materials, including the assignments, enrichment exercises, and the Unit 2 exam are due NO LATER THAN MONDAY MARCH 24.

Unit 2 Assignment 1: Cultural Evolution

Haviland: Chapter 18, pp. 406-417; Chapter 4; Chapter 7, pp. 154-161 and 167-176; Chapter 8, pp. 181-182 and 186-191; Chapter 9, 204-218

Unit 2 Assignment 2: The Neolithic: Cultivation and Domestication

Haviland: Chapter 10; Chapter 11; Chapter 18, pp. 417-429

Unit 2 Assignment 3: The Culture Concept

Haviland: Chapter 14, Chapter 15

Unit 2 Assignment 4: Culture and Language

Haviland: Chapter 16

Unit 2 Assignment 5: Social and Political Organization

Haviland: Chapter 23; Chapter 22

Reader Articles for Unit 2

#12, 13, 14, 15, 21, 23, 25, 42

Unit 3: Tuesday March 25 to Monday April 28: All Unit 3 materials, including the assignments, enrichment exercises, and the Unit 3 exam are due NO LATER THAN MONDAY APRIL 28. The final exam is due NO LATER THAN FRIDAY MAY 2.

Unit 3 Assignment 1: Economics and Anthropology

Haviland: Chapter 19; Review Chapter 18, pp. 406-417

Unit 3 Assignment 2: Marriage/Family

Haviland: Chapter 17, Chapter 20

Unit 3 Assignment 3: Kinship/Descent

Haviland: Chapter 21

Unit 3 Assignment 4: Religion/Worldview, and Art

Haviland: Chapters 24 and 25

Unit 3 Assignment 5: Culture and Change

Haviland: Chapters 26, 27

Reader Articles for Unit 3

#17, 26, 32, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 41, 47, 49