ANSC120_S223_A00 > Syllabus 6∂ Student View Summer II 2023 Course Syllabus Jump to Today August 2023 Home **Announcements** Course Syllabus Jump to Today Syllabus Assignments First things first: ANSC 120 is a live, distance-learning course offered by the Anthropology Department of the 30 University of California, San Diego. Discussions People Course assignments are not weighted. My job as the instructor of record for ANSC 120 is to introduce you to cultural-anthropological thought at a level Grades appropriate for someone majoring in the discipline, or alternately to someone in a closely related field such as **Files** archeology, biological anthropology, or global health. **Academic Support Academic Integrity** I am not paid to make your life more difficult than it need be or to punish you for having important obligations to your own health and safety, to family, or to other people who are dear to you. **Library Resources** Ø **Rubrics** Working together, I believe we can have a successful and rewarding course. If you need special consideration due to Quizzes medical, economic, housing, or psychological distress, or if elements of the course mechanics make your life more Modules difficult than a UCSD upper-division undergraduate college course typically would, please contact me as soon as you are comfortable doing so, and we will do what we can to make fitting accommodations for you. This also pertains to any **Pages** problems caused by special learning needs. While this is not my first time engaging in distance learning, I am still Outcomes learning how to tailor an online class and create a positive learning environment. So, reaching out and letting me know about concrete difficulties caused by the course mechanics will be much appreciated, and may well help your fellow Collaborations students as well. Settings COURSE DESCRIPTION AND LEARNING GOALS: This course will study different anthropological approaches to the study of religion. In addition to exploring some classical approaches that still exercise considerable influence in contemporary anthropology, the course will also address new approaches that potentially reimagine, trouble, or undo the category of religion. Readings: There are no required textbooks in this course; instead, readings will be available as downloads from <u>Canvas.ucsd.edu</u>. Links to an external site. portal. Due to this being a summer course, there will be a slightly larger amount of readings than typically per day, but this should not be too different from what is experienced in other summer-session courses. Occasionally there will be recommended readings that will expand on topics discussed; students are encouraged to read this material, but it is not necessary for lecture or course discussion. Students should read assigned material ahead of the date that they will be discussed in class and should arrive prepared to discuss assigned material. Course Structure: The course will have two instructional components. The first component is pre-recorded lectures that will cover substantive course material, which will be housed on Youtube and can be accessed by links that will be added to the syllabus; there will be a lecture for each course day. The second component is ZOOM discussions, which will be held Tuesdays and Thursdays at 5 pm Pacific Coast Time. These discussions will be recorded so that fully asynchronous students can also benefit from them. **Recommended Texts** All required and recommended readings will be available as PDF files on the ANSC 120 CANVAS Page. **Course Assessment**

1) Regular weekly bulletin board posts

on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

the final). This class is not graded on a curve.

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Each week, students will be expected to make two substantive posts to the course's online discussion board. Students are strongly encouraged to not just post questions or observations about course readings and lectures for the week but to respond to posts made by other students; for this reason, substantive responses should be made. Credit for weekly posts will be graded as pass/fail, but students who repeatedly make insightful, creative, generative, or original posts will be awarded extra credit.

Course assessment will have three components. 1) Regular weekly bulletin board posts, 2) a single take-home, open-

(1/3 of the total class grade for the bulletin board posts, 1/3 of the total class grade for the first take-home midterm

exam, 1/3 of the total class grade for the second take-home midterm examination, and 1/4 of the total class grade for

I also reserve the right to give extra credit to students who attend the "live"/non-asynchronous course discussions held

book essay-style mid-term exam, and 3) a final, take-home open-book exam. Each assessment will be equally weighted

2) Take-home, open-book essay mid-term exam

This class will feature a single take-home, open-book mid-term examinations. Here is the tentative date for the exam:

• Exam prompt(s) distributed August 10th Exam due by midnight, August 20th

Examinations should be turned in by uploading them to the ANSC 120 Canvas page. Since this is a take-home examination, we are relying upon adherence to the UCSD honor code to prevent any collaboration with other students that goes beyond merely studying together.

3) Final examination

The course ends with a take-home, open-book final examination, which will be very similar in format to the mid-terms. Here are the relevant dates regarding the final examinations

• Exam question(s) distributed September 7th • Exam due by 11:59 pm on September 9th

Examinations should be turned in by uploading them to the ANSC 120 Canvas page. Since these are take-home examinations, we are relying upon adherence to the UCSD honor code to prevent any collaboration with other students that goes beyond merely studying together.

Honor Code: As already mentioned, in all assessments, students will be expected to follow UCSD's honor code, which can be accessed online (https://online.ucsd.edu/honor (https://online.ucsd.edu/honor%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank)).

Attendance: There will be two portions to each class day. One portion is a pre-recorded lecture addressing readings and other relevant issues; students are encouraged to view the lectures before the scheduled meeting time. The second portion is a live-via-Zoom discussion section which will be held at the class time listed in the schedule of courses. Attendance in sections is not mandatory, but strongly encouraged; there has historically been a strong correlation between attendance and success in this class. The instructors in this course maintain the right to award extra credit for both participation in discussions, and for possible pop quizzes.

Rules of Engagement (Netiquette): It is important to recognize that the online classroom is still in fact a classroom, and you are expected to be professional, civil, and respectful when communicating with both your peers and your instructor. Whether you are posting to a discussion board, writing an email, or engaging in a ZOOM discussion during virtual office hours, be sure to adhere to the following rules of engagement:

Don't dominate the discussion. Definitely speak up and participate, but also give other students the opportunity to join in and speak up.

Never use offensive language. Avoid using vernacular and/or slang language. Avoid texting abbreviations (such as "u" instead of "you"). Present your ideas professionally.

Never make fun of someone's writing ability or ideas expressed.

Be mindful of how your statements will be received/interpreted by others. For example, don't write in ALLCAPS, as it can be interpreted as shouting.

Be cautious when using humor, as tone can easily be lost in an email or discussion post, and your message may be taken seriously or offensively.

Share tips with other students.

Think (and edit) before you push the Send button!

Finally, students are strongly encouraged to be sensitive to their colleagues' self-presentation of their gender, and also to any stated preferred pronouns.

Wk 1 dy 1 WHAT IS THE ANTHROPOLOGICAL STUDY OF RELIGION/ COGNITION, SOCIETY, AND MODERNITY (August 8th)

 Religion in Primitive Cultures, Edward Burnett Tylor (Lambek Reader) • The Elementary Forms of Religious Life, Emile Durkheim (Lambek Reader)

• Lecture about class mechanics: https://youtu.be/mSsbpi61LcY Links to an external site. • Substantive lecture for this week: https://youtu.be/loCT7_xFksY Links to an external site.

Wk 1 dy 2 CODE AND PERFORMATIVES (August 10th)

• Claude Levi-Strauss, "The Sorcerer and His Magic" and "The Effectiveness of Symbols," in Structural Anthropology(New York: Basic Books, 1963), pp. 167-205.

• Victor Turner, The Forest of Symbols: Aspects of Ndembu Ritual (Cornell: Cornell University Press, 1970) pp. 19-41.. • Roy Rappaport, "Enactments of Meaning," in Michael Lambek, editor, A Reader in the Anthropology of Religion (New York: Blackwell Press, 2002).

Wk2 dy1 CULTURE AND MEANING (August 15th)

• The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism, Max Weber • Religion as a Cultural System, Clifford Geertz (whole version)

• Recording of Zoom discussion: https://youtu.be/7nx-Z_XEBmQ

• Sahlins, The Sadness of Sweetness (Recommended) • Zoom link for 5 pm Pacific discussion: https://ucsd.zoom.us/j/92100569203? pwd=N0FwSXhHdEF1NkNsMjBKWFkrUjdMZz09 Meeting ID: 921 0056 9203 Password: 810346

Wk2 dy2 MATERIALISM (August 17th)

• Karl Marx, "Theses on Feuerbach" and "The German Ideology" in The Marx-Engels Reader • Maurice Bloch, "Symbols, Song, Dance and Features of Articulation: Is religion an extreme form of traditional authority?" European Journal of Sociology 15, Issue 1 (1974), pp. 55-81. Taussig, Michael, "The Devil in the Mines"

• Jean Comaroff and John Comaroff, "Occult economies and the violence of abstraction: Notes on the South African postcolony." American Ethnologist 26, Issue 2 (1999), pp. 279-303.

• Engelke, "Secular Shadows: African, Immament, Post-Colonial"

Wk3 dy1 SECULARISM AND THE CATEGORY OF RELIGION(August 22nd)

• Talal Asad, "The Construction of Religion as an Anthropological Category" in Michael Lambek, editor, A Reader in the Anthropology of Religion (New York: Blackwell Press, 2002). • Sullivan, Winnefred Fallers. "The Impossibility of religious freedom." (Selections)

Wk3 dy2 THE BODY (August 24th)

• Tanya Luhrmann, "Metakinesis: How God Becomes Intimate in Contemporary U.S. Christianity, American

Anthropologist, 106, No. 3 (2004), pp. 518-528.

• Sabah Mahmood, "Rehearsed Spontaneity and the Conventionality of Ritual: Disciplines of " American Ethnologist Vol. 28, No. 4, pp. 827-853. • Charles Hirschkind, "The Ethics of Listening: Cassette-Sermon Audition in Contemporary Egypt." American

Ethnologist 28, No. 3, pp. 623-649.

Wk4 dy1 LANGUAGE (August 29th)

• Susan Harding, "Convicted by the Holy Spirit" American Ethnography Vol. 14, no. 1 (1987), pp 167-181. • Simon Coleman, "Materializing the Self: Words and Gifts in the Construction of Evangelical Identity" in The

Anthropology of Christianity ed. F. Cannell (North Carolina: Duke University Press, 2006) pp.163-184, 2006 • RECOMMENDED: Webb Keane "Religious Language." Annual Review of Anthropology Vol. 26 (1997), pp. 47-71.

Wk4 dy 2 ONTOLOGY August 31st)

• Latour, Bruno, "Type or Bomb"? • Willerslev, Rane, "Not Animal, Not Not-Animal: Hunting, Imitation and Empathetic Knowledge among the Siberian Yukaghirs"

Wk5 dy 1 NEW POLITICS (September 5th)

• Holston, James. "Alternative Modernities: Statecraft and Religious Imagination in the Valley of the Dawn." • De la Cadena, Marisol. "Indigenous Cosmopolitics in the Andes: Conceptual Reflections beyond 'Politics'"

• Bialecki, Jon. "Mormon Transhumanism"

Wk5 dy 2 POST-RELIGION AND TECHNOLOGY (September 7th)

• Bernstein, Anya. "Freeze, die, come to life" • Farman, Abou. "Transhumanist spirituality"

• Bataglia, Deborah. "For those not afraid of the future" Weibel, "The Overview Effect and the Ultraview Effect"

Course Summary:

Details Date Due Sun Aug 20, 2023 Midterm examination due by 11:59pm