



B.E. International Program

Faculty of Economics, Thammasat University



Course Syllabus

AN201 Introduction to Anthropology

Semester: 2/2011 (January 9 – May 20, 2012)

Instructor: Yukti Mukdawijitra (PhD., Assistant Professor)
Office Hours: by appointment
Contact Information: iamyukti@yahoo.com

Class time: 14:00 – 17:00 (2-5 pm.)
Class room: 304, Economics Building, TU-Tha Phrachan

Course description

Basic concepts in anthropology including four major subfields: biological anthropology, linguistics, prehistoric archaeology, and social and cultural anthropology.

Objectives

- 1) Focusing on mainly how anthropology contributes to economics, this course introduce students to explore how economic activities relate to other social and cultural activities; how economic behaviors intermingle with religious belief and symbolic expression; why politics always embeds in economy; what kinds of, why, and how culture becomes economic capital. Given that, this course focus mainly on social and cultural anthropology.
- 2) Explore concepts and theories of social science through great thinkers--Karl Marx and Max Weber--and world leading anthropologists' original works--such as works by Bronislaw Malinowski, Marcel Mauss, Clifford Geertz and Pierre Bourdieu.
- 3) Apply anthropological key issues for understanding cultures, societies and human beings around the world to similar issues in Thailand.
- 4) Practice anthropological field research on students' own interest.

Assessments

This class is a reading and writing intensive class. Reading and writing skills are highly required. In addition to sit-in examination, this course requires students to read 30-50 pages a week, write weekly responds to the reading, and write a researched paper.

(1) Class Participation 10%

Thammasat University requires students to attend at least 70% of the total class time of each course in order to earn credits for the course. In addition, this course is a seminar-based course. Participation to class discussion is very necessary.

(2) Weekly Reading Respond 30%

Before attending the class, students are required to read and take notes or questions relating to the course readings (to be available upon the class begins). Team up with one of your classmate to read and summarize main ideas and raise interesting points of the weekly readings. Also prepare at least 5 questions of unclear or comments relating to the weekly readings. Bring the note to the class. Turn in the notes in the class. The note may not be returned. So that please make a copy for yourself prior to attending the class.

(3) One Research Paper 30%

Write a 10-12-page research paper based on field experiences, documents, course materials, interview, participant observation, and other significant information that are necessary to your research. Topic of the paper are various. Students can deliberately choose your own topic and design your own research method under the guidance of the instructor. Use theories, concepts and information taken from the assigned readings as a starting point and analytic tools and materials for writing the paper. Turn in a one-page research topic and research question on the midterm examination day. Students must consult the instructor while gathering data and report briefly to the class occasionally in class Week 7, Week 11, and Week 14. Turn in the paper one week after the final examination date or an appointed date.

(4) Final Examination 30%

The exam tests students' comprehensive knowledge of the course. Materials used for the examination included both the course reader and related key issues discussed in the class.

NOTE THAT STUDENTS SUSPECTED OF COMMITTING PLAGIARISM WILL BE INVESTIGATED. IF FOUND GUILTY, ONE CAN BE PUNISHED AS WORSE AS ONE SEMESTER SUSPENSION. TO AVOID SUCH ACCUSATION, IDEAS OR RESOURCES TAKEN FROM OTHERS MUST BE CITED OR ACKNOWLEDGED PROPERLY.

Tentative Grading Criteria

A	B+	B	C+	C	D+	D
90-100	85-89	80-84	75-79	70-74	65-69	60-64

Course Schedule

Session	Topics and Assigned Readings
Week 1 Jan 12, 2012	Introduction, Principle of Anthropology I
	Course introduction. History of anthropology; key approaches: evolution vs. relativism, culture and society, function, structure and agency, and social process.
	Read: - Sherry Ortner. (1984) "Theory in Anthropology Since the Sixties" Comparative Studies in Society and History. 26: 126-166. Read only pages 126-144.

Session	Topics and Assigned Readings
Week 2 Jan 19, 2012	Principle of Anthropology II
	Anthropological methodology: observers vs. observed, participant observation, fieldnotes, ethnography, comparative methods, observation vs interpretation.
	Read: - Brownislaw Malinowski. (2002 [1922]) "Introduction: the Subject, Method, and Scope of This Inquiry" In Argonauts of the Western Pacific. Pp. 1-20. London: Routledge. Recommend: - Clifford Geertz. (1973) "Thick Description" In Interpretation of Cultures. Pp. 1-30. NewYork: Basics.
Week 3 Jan 26, 2012	Cultural Logic of Economy I
	Social totality and economy.
	Read: - Brownislaw Malinowski. (2002 [1922]) "The Essentials of the Kula" In Argonauts of the Western Pacific. Pp. 62-79. London: Routledge.
Week 4 Feb 2, 2012	Cultural Logic of Economy II
	Economic relativism; economy as cultural system.
	Read: - Mary Douglas. (1967) "Raffia Cloth Distribution in the Lele Economy" In Tribal and Peasant Economies: Reading in Economic Anthropology. George Dalton, ed. Pp. 103-122. New York: The Natural History Press. - Paul Bohannan. (1967) "The Impact of Money on an African Subsistence Economy" In Tribal and Peasant Economies: Reading in Economic Anthropology. George Dalton, ed. Pp. 123-135. New York: The Natural History Press.
Week 5 Feb 9, 2012	Economic and Ecological Logic of Culture
	Ecology, economy and culture; how ecology condition culture.
	Read: - Marvin Harris. "The Cultural Ecology of India's Sacred Cattle." (2004 [1966]). In Anthropological Theory: An Introductory History. 3rd Edition. R. Jon McGee and Richard L. Warms. Pp. 302-315. Boston: McGraw-Hill. - Julian Steward. "The Concept and Method of Cultural Ecology" (1973 [1955]). In High Points in Anthropology. Paul Bohannan and Mark Glazer, eds. Pp. 322-32. New York: Alfred A. Knopf.
Week 6 Feb 16, 2012	Social Relation and Economy I
	Exchange and the emergence and maintenance of society.

Session	Topics and Assigned Readings
	Read: - Marcel Mauss. (1966 [1950]) "Introductory," "Gifts and the Obligation to Return Gifts," In <i>The Gift: Forms and Functions of Exchange in Archaic Societies</i> . Ian Cunnison, tr. Pp. 1-16. London: Cohen and West. - Marshall Sahlins. (1972) "The Spirit of the Gift" In <i>Stone Age Economics</i> . Pp. 149-183. London: Tavistock Publications.
Week 7 Feb 23, 2012	Social Relation and Economy II
	Social logic of reciprocity.
	Read: - Marshall Sahlins. (1972) "On the Sociology of Primitive Exchange" In <i>Stone Age Economics</i> . Pp. 185-203. London: Tavistock Publications.
Mar 1, 2012	Midterm Exam Week. SUBMIT A ONE-PAGE RESEARCH PROPOSAL. (This course does not hold a midterm exam.)
Week 8 Mar 8, 2012	Politics and Economy I
	Economy and social formation.
	Read: - Karl Marx. (1978 [1848]) "Manifesto of the Communist Party (excerpted)." In <i>The Marx-Engels Reader</i> . 2nd Edition. Robert C. Tucker, ed. Pp. 473-491. New York: W. W. Norton and Company. - Paul A. Erickson with Liam D. Murphy. (1998) "Marxism" In <i>A History of Anthropology Theory</i> . Pp. 39-44. Ontario: Broadview Press.
Week 9 Mar 15, 2012	Religious and Symbolic Value of Economy
	Religious and social and economic formation.
	Read: - Max Weber (1950 [1930]) "Author's Introduction," "Religious Affiliation and Social Stratification," "The Spirit of Capitalism," In <i>Protestant ethics and capitalism</i> . Talcott Parson, tr. Pp. 13-47. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons.
Week 10 Mar 22, 2012	Language and Culture as Capital
	Language as capital, cultural capital.
	Read: - Pierre Bourdieu. (1986 [1983]) "The Forms of Capital." (First published in <i>Handbook of Theory and Research for the Sociology of Education</i> . Richardson, J, ed. Pp. 241-258. Westport, CT: Greenwood. - Judith Irvine. "When Talk Isn't Cheap: Language and Political Economy" <i>American Ethnologist</i> 16(2): 248-267.

Session	Topics and Assigned Readings
Week 11 Mar 29, 2012	Political Economy II
	Economy and social transformation.
	Read: - Sidney Mintz. (1985) "Introduction," "Food, Sociality, and Sugar" In Sweetness and Power: The Place of Sugar in Modern History. Pp. xv-xxx, 3-18. New York: Penguin.
Week 12 Apr 5, 2012	Pre-modern Economy and Capitalism
	Is capitalism modern or premodern? Does "subsistent economy" exist or did it ever exist?
	Read: - Katherine Bowie. (1996) "Slavery in Nineteenth-Century Thailand" Kyoto Review of Southeast Asia.
Week 13 Apr 12, 2012	Modern Economic Society I: Capitalism and the Subaltern.
	Ethnicity in the age of globalization; lives (and deaths) of the marginal, the trans-national.
	Read: - Eric Wolf. (1982) "Introduction" and "Trade and Conquest in the Orient" In Europe and the People Without History (1982). Pp. 3-23; 232-262. In Europe and the People without History. Berkeley: University of California Press.
Week 14 Apr 19, 2012	Modern Economic Society II: Capitalism and Nationalism.
	Ethnicity, culture, nation-state and capitalism.
	Read: - Ernest Gellner. (1983) "Industrial Society" and "Transition to an Age of Nationalism" In Nations and Nationalism. Pp. 19-52. Ithaca: Cornell University Press.
Week 15 Apr 26, 2012	Post-Modern Economic Society.
	Post-modernity and its conditions. Advertisement and sign value; economy of sign. Concluding the Course.
	Read: - David Harvey. (1992 [1989]) "Part I: The passage from modernity to postmodernity in contemporary culture" In The Condition of Postmodernity: An Inquiry into the Origins of Cultural Change. Pp. 2-65. Chicago: Blackwell.