

DEPARTMENT OF ANTHROPOLOGY
Anthropology 317.01

Ethnographic Survey of Africa South of the Sahara

Winter 2014 Venue: A142 T,R 14:00 – 15:15
Instructor: Dr Gamal Adam Office: 602J Earth Science Building
Phone: (403) 220-2063 Email: gadam@ucalgary.ca
Office Hours: Wed/Fri 14:30-15:30 or by appointment
TA: Juli Finlay (7th Floor- ES)



Course Description

The goal of this course is to provide students with a kaleidoscopic introduction to the anthropological study of African societies south of the Sahara. The principle themes of the course are: African history including agricultural innovation and state formation; the “incorporation” of Africa into European thought, especially how anthropology has represented African societies during the 20th Century; and the representation of African themes in the modern world, including through the media.

The course is organized thematically around a series of readings that give students an overview of the diversity of scholarship on a given topic. We begin with a brief introduction and overview of the African continent and its history, and then look at key topics in African anthropology such as tribe/ethnicity, witchcraft, gender, economics and nationalism. There will be an opportunity, especially through the ethnography texts, to examine some aspects of Africa in the contemporary world.

Required Text

Grinker, R., S. Lubkemann, and C. Steiner (2010), *Perspectives on Africa: A reader in culture, history, and representation* (2nd edition), Malden, Mass: Blackwell

Reading Assignments and Topic sequence

These will be posted on Blackboard *before the start of lectures*, (Jan 8th).

Assessments

ITEM	WEIGHT	
Quiz 1	10%	22 Jan
Quiz 2	15%	24 Feb
Article/Chapter review	15%	26 Mar
Mid Term	20%	14 Mar
Final Exam	40%	As per Registrar’s timetable

Quizzes

Quiz No. 1 will cover the physical and political geography of Sub-Saharan Africa, and is intended to ensure that students have some idea of the locations of countries, capitals and major land types, knowledge of which is presupposed in the lectures and readings.

Quiz No. 2 will require short (100 words) definitions/contrasts of major ethnic and anthropological concepts presented in the readings and lectures. A study guide for each quiz, detailing the coverage, will be distributed a week prior to the quiz.

Article Review

A two page (max 700 words) summary/Review of One Article/Chapter

Midterm and Final Examinations

These examinations will have a similar format. Essay(s) to be written on topics **which will have been previously distributed.**

Grade Calculations

Each item of course work will be assigned a Mark out of the possible percentage points for that item. The total marks at the end of the course will be converted to a Letter Grade according to the following scheme:

A+	100- 94.9
A	94.8-89.9
A-	89.8-84.9
B+	84.8-79.9
B	79.8-74.9
B-	74.8-70.9
C+	70.8-66.9
C	66.8-62.9
C-	62.8-58.9
D+	58.8-54.9
D	54.8-49.9
F	49.8% and below

Missed Course work: Note Carefully

Assignments must be submitted on due dates and if any item of course work is missed, written documentation from a licensed authority (e.g. Student Health services physician, Disability Resource Centre) must accompany any request for an alternate assignment.

Please note: the final examination is a requirement for completion of this course. If you are unable for any reason to complete the final exam/essay on the date scheduled you should immediately contact the Admissions office at the University of Calgary (210-rock) in order to complete the formalities necessary for a Deferred Final Examination.

Return of Course Work

Quizzes and midterm examination will be returned at a subsequent class or during office hours on presentation of student ID. Any uncollected course work will be returned at the final examination.

Communication Policies

Outside lectures and office hours, the primary forms of communication in the course take place through Blackboard, including the bulletin board, email and chat rooms. Please do **NOT** leave urgent messages on my Office phone voicemail. Either email me on my U of C email or contact the Dept Secretary for my cell phone #.

Plagiarism and Cheating

Plagiarism is: "to steal and pass off the ideas or words of another as one's own" (Webster's). Plagiarism will not be tolerated and will automatically result in a failing grade for the submission. Any student caught plagiarizing might also be subject to additional University sanctions. Students are expected to be familiar with the Anthropology Departments policy on intellectual honesty available at: <https://www.anth.ucalgary.ca/home/links/intellectual-honesty-guidelines>.

PowerPoint Slides/Lecture Notes

PowerPoint slides and Word Notes related to lectures will be posted on Blackboard *after* the lectures in which they are used. It is my goal to have the slides available for you on Blackboard within 72 hours of the lecture. In the event that I am forced to miss a class for health or other urgent reasons that are beyond my control, I may post essential lecture material online.

Please Note: lecture notes are NOT a substitute for reading the relevant chapter.

Bulletin Board

Any questions that you may have that relate to course content, course procedures, the assignments or the readings should be posted to the main bulletin board. This allows everyone in the class to see the responses that I give and it makes my life a bit easier because I won't have to answer 6 identical questions. It also will hopefully jump start the bulletin board as a venue for informal discussions about the course.

Email

Questions on more personal issues can be sent to my University email. I will check my email once a day during the week and I will try to reply to you within 72 hours.

GA☺

Academic Accommodation Policy:

If you are a student with a disability who may require academic accommodation, it is your responsibility to register with the Disability Resource Centre (220-8237) and discuss your needs with your instructor no later than fourteen (14) days after the start of the course. For further information, please see: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/drc/node/46>

Emergency Evacuation:

In the event that the classroom should need to be evacuated due to an emergency please note that the primary assembly point shall be the Social Sciences Food Court and the secondary assembly point shall be the ICT Food Court.

USRI:

At the University of Calgary, feedback provided by students through the Universal Student Ratings of Instruction (USRI) survey provides valuable information to help with evaluating instruction, enhancing learning and teaching, and selecting courses (www.ucalgary.ca/usri). Your responses make a difference - please participate in USRI Surveys.