

**Anthropology 385.01  
Economic Anthropology  
Winter 2014**

**Location:** A 140

**Instructor:** Dr Chris Holdsworth

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**Office Hours:** MWF 11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.  
or by appointment

**Times:** MWF 1:00-1:50 pm

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**Office Hours:**



**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

Economic anthropology examines the systems and processes of production, exchange, distribution, and consumption of material goods and services in relation to the socio-cultural contexts in which they are embedded. Beginning with an examination of the historical and theoretical approaches to understanding economic life, the course then takes a cross-cultural examination of economic features such as labour, markets, commodities, and money in the context of power relations, kinship, gender, religion, identity, and social transformation. Attention then turns to how individuals and communities around the globe are responding to contemporary economic processes, economic development, and globalization.

**FORMAT**

The course will follow an interactive lecture-discussion style format together with the occasional film or video. Classes will not repeat or cover all the readings but will elaborate on selected topics to provide a deeper understanding of the material. It is essential, therefore, that students have read the assigned readings before class and come prepared to actively participate in discussing them and to ask questions.

**OUTCOMES**

By the end of this course, students should be able to:

1. Critically evaluate the strengths and limits of the main concepts and theories of Economic Anthropology;
2. Provide theoretical bases for critical thinking about the anthropological implications of economic practices and policies.
3. Provide richly detailed cross-cultural examples of economic practices and their socio-cultural ramifications.
4. Apply theory and data to analysis and to convey the results efficiently in spoken and written forms.

## REQUIRED TEXTS AND SOFTWARE:

### Texts

1. Wilk, Richard and Lisa Cliggett. 2007. *Economies and Cultures: Foundations of Economic Anthropology* (2<sup>nd</sup> edn.)
2. Mintz, Sidney 1985. *Sweetness and Power: The Place of Sugar in Modern History*. Penguin Books; ISBN-13: 978-0140092332

### Top Hat

- This term we will be using Top Hat. Top Hat (TH), for those unfamiliar with it, is a web-based participation and comprehension tool similar to clickers, although much more versatile. During most classes (but not all) questions will be posted some time during the class using TH and based on that day's readings or the class material. Questions are answered using your cell phone, laptop, or tablet. This is a grade component for the course so you need to set up a Top Hat account. The University has a site license for the application and accounts can be set up for free at <https://app.tophat.com/register/student/>
- The TH course code is: 512424
- **The password for the course is: Economic** (may be case sensitive)
- The TH URL is: <https://app-ca.tophat.com/e/512424>
- Please ensure you verify your phone when you set up your account. Once you have filled in your details and you click on the verify button Top Hat will text you a four-digit code for you to enter. Once you have done this your phone is verified and you are set to go.
- During most classes (but not all) questions will be posted some time during the class using TH and based on that day's readings or the class material.
- Questions are answered using your cell phone, laptop, or tablet. Note: there will only be a 1-2 minute window in which to answer the questions.
- ½ a point is allotted for answering the question, and ½ a point for answering it correctly
- At the end of the course the points achieved out of the total possible (e.g. 15) will be used to calculate a mark out of 10. For example if you get 12 out of 15 you will get a mark of 10/10.
- Students can track their progress in TH.
- THM will also be used for other participation and comprehension purposes during the class with no marks attached.

### Additional Readings

Additional readings will be made available through Blackboard.

### COURSE POLICIES

**Blackboard:** All course materials and information, as well as unofficial grades, will be posted on the U of C Blackboard. All assignments must be submitted electronically using Blackboard

### **Email Policy**

In any email correspondence please begin with the course code (anth385) in the subject line along with the subject of your message. Most of the time, you can expect a reply to an email within 24 hours. Please do NOT expect an immediate reply. You should also know that I will only rarely reply to emails on the weekends. Also I will not reply to emails that are not signed at least with your first name.

### **Cell phone and Laptop/Tablet Policy**

Cell phones must be turned off during the class except when in use for Top Hat Monocle (see below). Laptops and tablets should be used only for taking notes. Since the screens can be distracting to students sitting behind, if you wish to use your laptop or tablet please sit toward the back of the class.

### **ASSESSMENT**

The grade in the course will be determined on the basis of the following:

#### **1. Midterm Exam 1**

**Date:** Wednesday February 5

**Percent of grade: 25%**

The Midterm exam will consist of 20 multiple choice questions and 5 short answer questions with choice

#### **2. Midterm Exam 2**

**Date:** Monday March 10

**Percent of grade: 25%**

The Midterm exam will consist of 20 multiple choice questions and 5 short answer questions with choice

#### **3. Participation**

**Date:** Ongoing

**Percent of grade: 10%**

#### **4. Final Exam**

**Percent of grade: 40%**

The final exam will be a take-home essay style exam and will consist of two essays out of a choice of 5 or 6.

Completed final exams are to be uploaded to Blackboard

**Date: April 14 exam provided**

**April 21 exam due back**

Additional information about the exams will be provided the first class.

## **PLAGIARISM AND CHEATING**

Plagiarism: "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 will 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>

## **GRADING SYSTEM:**

Each item of course work will be weighted as above and a final mark out of 100 calculated. This will then be converted to a letter grade as follows:

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

## **DEFERRED EXAMS:**

Deferral of a mid-term exam must be cleared with the instructor. Deferral will be granted only in cases of personal injury, illness, or immediate family emergency. An official note or other documentation explaining the reason for the absence is required. Deferral of the final exam requires Registrar approval.

## **ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATIONS**

It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodations. If you are a student with a documented disability who July require academic accommodation and have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre, please contact their office at 220-8237. Students who have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre are not eligible for formal academic accommodation. You are also required to discuss your needs with your instructor no later than fourteen (14) days after the start of this course.

## **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 Professional Faculties Food Court and the secondary assembly point shall be the Education Block 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](http://www.ucalgary.ca/usri)). Your responses make a difference - please participate in USRI Surveys.

## SCHEDULE OF CLASSES

Please note that this schedule is tentative. Some topics may require more attention than others, and we will take more time with them. An up-to-date schedule of relevant readings will be provided the first day of class.

Date	Topic	Readings
Wed Jan 8	Introduction	Surowiecki (2005)
Fri Jan 10	Defining Economic Anthropology	Wilk and Cliggett (W&C) Ch 2
Mon Jan 13	Theoretical Perspectives, History of Economic Anthropology	W&C Ch. 1 Hart Gregory
Wed Jan 15	Econ. Anth. & Human Nature? Neoclassic Microeconomics	W&C 49-72
Fri Jan 17	Critique of Classical economics	W&C pp 72-79
Mon Jan 20	Film	
Wed Jan 22	Social & Political Economy, Marxist economic	W&C pp94-113 Meillassoux,
Fri Jan 24	functionalist approaches	W&C pp. 112-114 Malinowski
Mon Jan 27	Formalist Substantivist debate	Polanyi/Johnson
Wed Jan 29	Theoretical issues in Economic Anthropology	Dalton Granovetter
Fri Jan 31	Cultural Economics	W&C ch. 5
Mon Feb 3	Theoretical Perspectives Summary	W&C ch 7
Wed Feb 5	<b>MIDTERM EXAM 1</b>	
Fri Feb 7	Gift Economies & Exchange	Mauss
Mon Feb 10	Gift Economies & Exchange	W&C ch. 6 Sahlins
Wed Feb 12	The spirit of the gift	Parry
Fri Feb 14		
Mon Feb 17	<b>No Class Reading Week</b>	
Wed Feb 19	<b>No Class Reading Week</b>	
Fri Feb 21	<b>No Class Reading Week</b>	

Mon Feb 24	Persons and Things	
Wed Feb 26		
Fri Feb 28	Spheres of Exchange	Bohannan, Piot

Mon Mar 3	Commodities, Money	Kopytoff, Scheper-Hughes
Wed Mar 5	Peasants and barter	Fanselow
Fri Mar 7	Markets	Alexander & Alexander Suroweicki (2012)

Mon Mar 10	<b>MIDTERM EXAM 2</b>	
Wed Mar 12	Sugar - production	Mintz chs 1-2
Fri Mar 14	Sugar - consumption	Mintz chs 3

Mon Mar 17	Sugar-power and meaning	Mintz Ch. 4 and 5 Wilk
Wed Mar 19	Consumption and Identity	McCracken
Fri Mar 21	Gender and economy	Ong

Mon Mar 24		Safia
Wed Mar 26		
Fri Mar 28		

Mon Mar 31	Globalization	Watson
Wed Apr 2		
Fri Apr 4		

Mon Apr 7	Economic Anthropology & development	Cross & Street, Lyon
Wed Apr 9		Hamilton et al
Fri Apr 11		Nigh

Mon Apr 14	<b>Last Class –Final Exam handed out</b>	
Mon Apr 21	<b>Final Exam Due</b>	