

Anthropology 385.01
Economic Anthropology
Department of Anthropology and Archaeology
Winter 2017

Location: ENG 230

Instructor: Dr Chris Holdsworth

E-Mail: choldwor@ucalgary.ca

Office: ES 710B

Office Hours: MWF 2:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m.
or by appointment

Times: MWF 1:00-1:50 pm

TA: Amy K. Rudkoski

Email: akrudkos@ucalgary.ca

Office: ES 720

Office Hours: Th 9-10 am.
or by appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Economic anthropology critically 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 debates 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. This includes understanding: how 'value' is defined, and the various factors shaping individual and collective decision making regarding how and why resources such as land, labour, capital, social networks etc. are allocated and used. Attention then turns to how individuals and communities around the world are responding to contemporary economic processes, economic development, sustainability, consumption, 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

Through lectures, course readings, and class discussions students, by the end of the course, should be able to:

1. Critically evaluate the strengths and limits of the main concepts, analytical perspectives, and theories of Economic Anthropology;
2. Demonstrate the diversity of systems of production, distribution, and consumption found throughout the world;
3. Demonstrate an understanding of the ways in which 'economic' behaviours relate to socio-cultural, political, and ecological factors
4. Provide theoretical bases for anthropological thinking about the implications of economic practices and policies.

5. Provide richly detailed cross-cultural examples of economic practices and their socio-cultural ramifications.

REQUIRED TEXTS:

Texts

1. Mintz, Sidney 1985. *Sweetness and Power: The Place of Sugar in Modern History*. Penguin Books; ISBN-13: 978-0140092332

Additional Readings

- Additional readings will be made available through D2L.

In addition to the required readings, students may find the following books useful.

- Wilk, Richard R. and Lisa C. Cliggett. 2007. *Economies and Cultures: Foundations of Economic Anthropology*. Westview Press: Cambridge, MA.
- Carrier, James G. (ed.). 2005. *A Handbook of Economic Anthropology*. Edward Elgar Publishing: Cheltenham.
- Hann, Chris and Keith Hart. 2011. *Economic Anthropology: History, Ethnography, Critique*. Polity Press: Cambridge.

COURSE POLICIES

Desire to Learn (D2L): All course materials and information, as well as unofficial grades, will be posted on D2L.

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 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 Policy

Cell phones must be turned off during the class except when in use for Top Hat (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.

TopHat

- Students are required to set up a Top Hat (TH) account. TH will be used to assess participation and comprehension which are grade components (see below) for the course. The university has a site license for the application and accounts can be set up at <https://app.tophat.com/register/student/>

The TH URL for the course is: <https://app-ca.tophat.com/e/191652>

- The password for the course is: Economic (Case sensitive)

ASSESSMENT

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

1. Midterm Exam 1

Date: Friday Feb 10

Percent of grade: 25%

The Midterm exam will consist of 20 multiple choice questions plus 5 short answer questions out of a choice of 8.

2. Midterm Exam 2

Date: Friday March 10

Percent of grade: 25%

The Midterm exam will consist of 20 multiple choice questions plus 5 short answer questions out of a choice of 8.

3. Participation (Top Hat)

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 D2L

Date: April 12 exam provided

April 21 exam due back

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

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

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/access/accommodations/policy>

Students needing an Accommodation because of a Disability or medical condition should communicate this need to Student Accessibility Services in accordance with the Procedure for Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

Students needing an Accommodation based on a Protected Ground other than Disability, should communicate this need, preferably in writing, to "(Instructor) (Associate Dean) (Department Head) (other designated person)"

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Academic integrity is essential to the pursuit of learning and scholarship in a university, and to ensuring that a degree from the University of Calgary is a strong signal of each student's individual academic achievements. As a result, the University treats cases of cheating and plagiarism very seriously. For detailed information on what constitutes academic misconduct, please refer to the following link: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k-2-1.html> All suspected cases of academic dishonesty will be investigated following procedures outlined in the University Calendar. If you have questions or concerns about what constitutes appropriate academic behavior or appropriate research and citation methods, you are expected to seek out additional information on academic integrity from your instructor or from other institutional resources.

TEACHING EVALUATIONS / USRI (Universal Student Ratings of Instruction)

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. **Your responses make a difference, please participate!** Website: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/usri/>

Writing Across the Curriculum: Writing skills are not exclusive to English courses and, in fact, should cross all disciplines. The University supports the belief that throughout their University careers, students should be taught how to write well so that when they graduate their writing abilities will be far above the minimal standards required at entrance. Consistent with this belief, students are expected to do a substantial amount of writing in their University courses and, where appropriate, instructors can and may use writing and the grading thereof as a factor in the evaluation of student work. The services provided by the Writing Centre in the Effective Writing Office can be utilized by all undergraduate and graduate students who feel they require further assistance.

Emergency Evacuation Assembly Points: In the event of an emergency that requires evacuation, please refer to the following link to become familiar with the assembly points for the class: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints>

Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act: Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act

The University of Calgary is committed to protecting the privacy of individuals who work and

study at the University or who otherwise interact with the University in accordance with the standards set out in the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act. Please refer to the following link for detailed information:

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/legalservices/foip>

The Department of Anthropology and Archaeology's FOIP (Freedom of Information and Privacy) policy requires all reports/examinations to be returned to students during class time or the instructor's office hours. Any term work not picked up will be placed in the Anthropology and Archaeology Office (ES620) for distribution. Any student not wishing to have their work placed in the office must make alternative arrangements with the course instructor early in the term.

Safewalk Information: Campus Security, in partnership with the Students' Union, provides the Safewalk service, 24 hours a day to any location on Campus including the LRT, parking lots, bus zones and University residences. Contact Campus Security at (403) 220-5333 or use a help phone, and Safewalkers or a Campus Security Officer will accompany you to your campus destination.

Faculty of Arts Program Advising and Student Information Resources: Have a question, but not sure where to start? Arts Students' Centre
The Faculty of Arts Students' Centre is the overall headquarters for undergraduate programs in the Faculty of Arts. The key objective of this office is to connect students with whatever academic assistance that they require.

In addition to housing the Associate Dean, Undergraduate Programs and Student Affairs and the Associate Dean for Teaching and Learning, the Arts Students' Centre is the specific home to:

- program advising
- the Faculty's Co-operative Education Program
- the Arts and Science Honours Academy
- the Faculty's Interdisciplinary Programs
- a Student Help Desk

Location: Social Sciences Room 102

Phone: 403.220.3580

Email: ascarts@ucalgary.ca

Website: arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate/

For registration (add/drop/swap), paying fees and assistance with your Student Centre, contact Enrolment Services at (403) 210-ROCK [7625] or visit them at the MacKimmie Library Block.

Contacts for Students Union Representatives for the Faculty of Arts:

- arts1@su.ucalgary.ca
- arts2@su.ucalgary.ca
- arts3@su.ucalgary.ca
- arts4@su.ucalgary.ca

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. Bulleted points refer to the readings

Tues Jan 9 to Friday, Jan 13 Introduction

Introduction to Economic Anthropology

- Surowiecki (2005)

History of Economic Anthropology

- Hart
- Gregory

Monday Jan 16 to Friday Jan 20

Econ. Anth. & Human Nature

Classic economics

Neoclassic Microeconomics

Monday Jan 23 to Friday Jan 27

Social & Political Economy, Marxist economic anthropology.

- Meillassoux

functionalist approaches

- Malinowski

Monday Jan 30 to Friday Feb 3

Formalist Substantivist debate

- Polanyi
- Maucourant & Plociniczak

Theoretical issues in Economic Anthropology

- Dalton
- Granovetter

Monday Feb 6 to Wed Feb 8

Cultural Economics

Theoretical Perspectives Summary

Friday Feb 10

Midterm Exam 1

Monday Feb 13 Wednesday Feb 17

Gift Economies & Exchange

- Mauss
- Sahlins
- Parry

Monday Feb 20- Friday Feb 24

Spheres of Exchange

- Bohannan
- Piot

Reading Week – No Classes

Monday Feb 27 to Friday Mar 3

Commodities, Money

- Surowiecki 2012
- Maurer
- Kopytoff

- Scheper-Hughes
- Wilk

Peasants and barter

- Fanselow

Monday March 6- Wednesday Mar 8

Markets

- Alexander & Alexander

Friday Mar 10

Midterm Exam 2

Monday Mar 13 to Friday March 17

Sugar - production

- Mintz chs 1-2

Sugar - consumption

- Mintz chs 3

Monday March 20 to Friday Mar 24

Sugar-power and meaning

- Mintz Ch. 4 and 5

Monday Mar 27 to Friday Mar 31

Consumption and Identity

- McCracken
- Miller

Monday Apr 3 to Friday Apr 7

Gender and economy

- Moghadan
- Safia
- Ong

Economic Anthropology, globalization & development

Cross & Street, Lyon

- Watson
- Cross and Street
- Lyon

Monday Apr 10 to Wed Apr 12 (last day of classes)

Economic Anthropology, globalization & development

- Hamilton et al
- Nigh

Friday April 21 exam due back