

Department of Anthropology and Archaeology
Anthropology 385.01
Economic Anthropology
Winter 2018

Location: EDC 388

Instructor: Dr Chris Holdsworth

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Office: ES 710B

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

Times: TuTh 12:30PM - 1:45PM

TA: Pedrom Nasiri

Email: pnasiri@ucalgary.ca

Office:

Office Hours:
or by appointment

Prerequisite – ANTH 203

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.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

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

1. Trace the historical development of economic anthropology.
2. Associate key authors with theoretical approaches in economic anthropology.
3. Critically evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of the main concepts, analytical perspectives, and theories of economic anthropology.
4. Demonstrate how kinship, gender, religion, identity, etc. differences influence systems of production, distribution, exchange, and consumption.

5. Discuss from an anthropological perspective how individuals and communities around the world are responding to contemporary economic processes of development, sustainability, consumption, and globalization.
6. 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
2. Wilk, Richard and Lisa Cliggett. 2007. *Economies and Cultures: Foundations of Economic Anthropology* (2nd edn.)

Additional Readings

- Additional readings will be made available through D2L.

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. 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 periodically to assess participation and comprehension. Top Hat is not a grade component 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/140528>

- 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: Tuesday Feb 13

Percent of grade: 30%

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: Tuesday March 13

Percent of grade: 30%

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

3. 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 10 exam provided

April 20 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

TENTATIVE 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

Date	Topic	Readings
Tues Jan 9	Introduction	Surowiecki (2005)
Thursday Jan 12	Defining Economic Anthropology	Wilk and Cliggett (W&C) Ch 2
Tues Jan 16	History of Economic Anthropology	W&C Ch. 1 Hart Gregory
Thurs Jan 18	Econ. Anth. & Human Nature Classical economics & Neoclassic Microeconomics	W&C 49-72 W&C pp 72-79
Tues Jan 23	Social & Political Economy, Marxist economic	W&C pp94-113 Meillassoux,

Thurs Jan 25	functionalist approaches	W&C pp. 112-114 Malinowski
Tues Jan 30	Formalist Substantivist debate	Polanyi Maucourant & Plociniczak
Thurs Feb 1	Theoretical issues in Economic Anthropology	Dalton Granovetter
Tues Feb 6	Cultural Economics	W&C ch. 5
Thurs Feb 8	Theoretical Perspectives Summary	W&C ch 7
Tues Feb 13	MIDTERM EXAM 1	
Thurs Feb 15	Gift Economies & Exchange	W&C ch. 6 Mauss Sahlins Parry
Tues Feb 20	No Class Reading Week	
Thurs Feb 22	No Class Reading Week	
Tues Feb 27	Spheres of Exchange	Bohannan Piot
Thurs Mar 1	Commodities, Money	Surowiecki 2012 Maurer Kopytoff Scheper-Hughes Wilk
Tues Mar 6	Peasants and barter	Fanselow Alexander & Alexander
Thurs Mar 8	Markets	
Tues Mar 13	MIDTERM EXAM 2	
Thurs Mar 15	Sugar - production Sugar - consumption	Mintz chs 1-2 Mintz ch 3
Tues Mar 20	Sugar-power and meaning	Mintz Ch. 4 and 5
Thurs Mar 22	Sugar	Wilk
Tues Mar 27	Consumption and Identity	McCracken

Thurs Mar 29	Consumption and Identity	Miller
Tues Apr 3	Gender and economy	Moghadan Safia
Thurs Apr 5	Gender and economy	Ong
Tues Apr 10	Economic Anthropology, globalization & development	Watson Cross and Street Lyon
Thurs Apr 12	Economic Anthropology, globalization & development Exam Handed out	Hamilton et al Nigh
Fri- Apr 20	Final Exam Due	

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 Department of Anthropology and Archaeology’s policy on intellectual honesty

DEFERRED EXAMS:

A student who is absent from a test for legitimate reasons must discuss an alternative course of action with the instructor. The instructor at their discretion may transfer the percentage weight for the test to the final examination, if there is a final examination in the course, set another test, etc. An instructor will normally make this decision on the basis of verbal information provided by the student. In the event that an instructor feels that they cannot judge the veracity of the information provided, Students must be aware that they are responsible for payment of any charge associated with the medical assessment and documentation as this service falls outside the realm of services provided by the Provincial Health Care Plan. Deferral of the registrar scheduled 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 the instructor of this course.

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. Non-academic integrity also constitutes an important component of this program.

For detailed information on what constitutes academic and non-academic misconduct, please refer to the following link: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k-2-1.html>

All suspected cases of academic and non-academic misconduct 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.

Where there is a criminal act involved in plagiarism, cheating or other academic misconduct, e.g., theft (taking another student's paper from their possession, or from the possession of a faculty member without permission), breaking and entering (forcibly entering an office to gain access to papers, grades or records), forgery, personation and conspiracy (impersonating another student by agreement and writing their paper) and other such offences under the Criminal Code of Canada, the University may take legal advice on the appropriate response and, where appropriate, refer the matter to the police, in addition to or in substitution for any action taken under these regulations by the University

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, members of faculty can and should use writing and the grading thereof as a factor in the evaluation of student work. The services provided by the Writing Support, part of the Student Success Centre, 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

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

Ombudsman`s office: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/ombuds/>