

DEPARTMENT OF ANTHROPOLOGY, SIUE

Dr. Cory Willmott

Rm. 0231 Peck Hall

650-2748 (see "Policies" below)

E-mail: Through Blackboard "Messages"; or cwillmo@siue.edu

Office Hours: Tues. 3:30 – 5:00 pm and Thurs. 12:30 – 1:30 pm, or by appointment

ANTH 170 FR2- AMERICA AS A FOREIGN CULTURE - FALL 2008

COURSE CONTENT:

This section of ANTH 111 FR: Freshman Seminar will use ethnographic methods to make the familiar strange, and the strange familiar. With a general emphasis on cultural anthropological perspectives, students will study American culture and university culture through the eyes of professional anthropologists, foreigners viewing American culture for the first time, and through portrayals in popular films. Students will also be introduced to cultural and academic resources around the SIUE campus.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

1. To assist new freshmen in making the transition to college level work and expectations.
2. To orient students to the resources and culture of the University.
3. To engage students in an intellectual community of students and faculty.

NOTE:

This course involves a term-long original research project conducted in groups, but graded largely individually. This assignment will require students' time outside of class throughout the term. Also, there will be a mandatory Guest Lecture on Dec. 3rd at 7:30 pm in Dunham Theater.

REQUIREMENTS AND EVALUATION:

#1)	5%	25 pts.	Narrative (2 – 3 pages): Story of coming to SIUE
#2)	10%	50 pts.	Raw Data: Group Project - Dependent upon role in group
#3)	15%	75 pts.	Discursive Essay (4 - 5 pages): Group Project - History of SIUE
#4)	10%	50 pts.	Oral Presentation: Group Project (including Powerpoint)
#5)	15%	75 pts.	Textbook Homework
#6)	15%	75 pts.	Mid-term Exam (30 multiple choice @ 2.5 pts. each)
#7)	20%	100 pts.	Final Exam (40 multiple choice @ 2.5 each; 10 cumulative)
#8)	10%	50 pts.	Participation (attendance; preparedness for class; in-class exercises; contributions to discussions; communications with the instructor; accessing Blackboard course materials)
#9)	5%	25 pts.	Bonus points (5 - FTC photo; 15 - paper submission format; 5 – special lecture/events)
Total:	105%	525 pts.	(Bonus points are over and above the 100% out of which your final grade is calculated.)

REQUIRED TEXTS:

- 1) “MFY”: Nathan, Rebecca. 2006. My Freshman Year: What a Professor Learned by Becoming a Student. New York: Penguin Books.
- 2) “AFC”: De Vita, and James Armstrong, eds. 2002. Distant Mirrors: America as a Foreign Culture, 3rd Edition. Stanford, CT: Wadsworth, Thompson Learning Inc.
- 3) “ROA”: Boulanger, Clare L., ed. 2008. Reflecting on America: Anthropological Views of U.S. Culture. New York: Pearson Education Inc.

COURSE FORMAT and EXPECTATIONS:

The course will employ a combination of lectures, class discussions and small-group exercises. Students are expected to: 1) **read the syllabus in full** and consult it regularly for directions on scheduling, readings, assignments and policies; 2) **come prepared to class** by having read the assigned readings (always bring the assigned reading to class even if you haven’t read it); 3) **take notes during class** on lectures and discussions; and 4) **regularly utilize the resources provided on Blackboard**. Success in the course depends upon meeting these expectations – failure to do so will result in inadequate preparation for assignments and exams, and hence lower grades. **You will be tested on ALL of the assigned readings and videos.**

Blackboard:

This course is supplemented with Blackboard. In order to log-on, click on “Blackboard” under the “Current Students” tab of the SIUE homepage. Enter your SIUE UserID and password (the same as for your e-mail), then select ANTH 111 FR2.

- Textbook Homework will be posted on the site. It must be completed online before the class of the assigned reading, after which it will no longer be available. **Print a copy of the Textbook Homework before you submit your answers. Bring the hard copy to class, and keep it for study purposes. It will NOT be available after the day of the assigned reading.**
- Study tools may be posted on the site. Take full advantage of these!
- All announcements will be posted on this site. All email messages will be sent through this site. **Check announcements and messages at least once a week!**
- Grades will be posted on this site as soon as they are available. You can access your own grades at any time.
- Opinion Surveys will be posted on the site. Although these are not mandatory, doing the surveys will help towards your participation grade.
- I check to see how often and which features you use on Blackboard to calculate your participation grade.

POLICIES:**Grading:**

The evaluative scale to be used in this course is as follows:

90-100 = A; 80-89 = B; 70-79 = C; 60-69 = D; 0 – 59 = F

A = excellent; B = good to very good; C = satisfactory; D = less than satisfactory; F = failing.

Enrolment:

Students who fail to come to the first class will lose their place in this section of the course. Students who fail to come to class four consecutive times during the first ten weeks will be withdrawn from the course by the instructor. **Friday October 31st is the last day to withdraw from the course without authorizing signatures and without any affect on your GPA.**

Late Assignments:

Extensions may be granted provided: 1) the request is made before the due date; and 2) the student can provide evidence of due cause (e.g. a doctor's note). Except in cases of extreme and documented emergencies, all other late papers will be **docked 5 points per day, including weekends.** To shorten late penalties, **submit late papers via email attachments.**

ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT

Academic misconduct, including plagiarism and cheating, is described on p. 1 of the SIUE Student Academic Code (<http://www.siu.edu/policies/3c2.shtml>). Academic Misconduct on an assignment, paper, test or exam will result in an F in the course. Please also familiarize yourself with the University policy on penalties outlined in the Code. The Faculty reserves the right to submit student work that is suspected of being plagiarized to internet sites designed to detect plagiarism.

Classroom Behavior:

- 1) Turn cell phone ringers OFF before entering class.
- 2) Arrive on time. Do not leave before the end of class without prior permission.
- 3) Do not hold private conversations (either oral or written). Do not speak during lectures unless called upon; listen and speak respectfully to your fellow students.
- 4) Do not read extraneous materials during lectures.
- 5) Do not fall asleep in class.

Failure to obey the above rules will result in deductions from your participation grade.

Disability Support Services:

Students with disabilities are welcome in this course. Academic accommodations you may require must be arranged through the SIUE Disability Support Services office in Room 1218 Rendleman Hall (650-3726) and brought to my attention at the beginning of the term.

Contacting me:

I welcome all your comments and questions via telephone, e-mail and in person during my office hours or by appointment at (almost) any time. Please note, however, that I might not receive your message unless you contact me via **e-mail, Blackboard "messages" AND telephone** (don't forget to leave a message with your return phone number). Please do not assume that I have received your message(s) unless you receive a reply.

COURSE OUTLINE:

Part One: My Freshman Year: Real Life and the Movies

Week One: Orientation: “Welcome to ‘AnyU’”

Aug. 26: Introduction to the course

Aug. 28: **Reading:** MFY: Ch. 1 (Textbook Homework #1)
 FTC photos (5 bonus points)

Week Two: “Life in the Dorms”

Sept. 2: **Reading:** MFY: Ch. 2 (Textbook Homework #2)

Sept. 4: Exercises introducing ethnographic narrative and descriptive writing

Week Three: “Community and Diversity”

Sept. 9: **Reading:** MFY: Ch. 3 (Textbook Homework #3)

Sept. 11: Lecture and Exercise on Ethnographic Observation of Space
**Assignment #1 Due: Narrative Essay*

Week Four: “As Others See Us”

Sept. 16: **Reading:** MFY: Ch. 4 (Textbook Homework #4)

Sept. 18: Guest Panel: SIUE International Students

Week Five: “Academically Speaking...”

Sept. 23: **Reading:** MFY: Ch. 5 (Textbook Homework #5)

- Class held in computer lab: TBA

Sept. 25: excerpts from feature length films on college life

Week Six: “The Art of College Management”

Sept. 30: **Reading:** MFY: Ch. 6 (Textbook Homework #6)

**Assignment #2 Due: Raw Data for Photo Archives and Background Materials*

Oct. 2: Guest Instructors: Lydia Jackson, Librarian; Dr. Steven Kerber, Archivist; Matt Schmitz, Faculty Technology Center

- Class held in the Library Instructional Lab

Week Seven: “Lessons From My Year as a Freshman”

Oct. 7: **Reading:** MFY: Ch. 7 (Textbook Homework #7)

Oct. 9: *Midterm Exam*

Part Two: American Culture Seen Through Anthropological Lenses

Week Eight: “The American Cultural Configuration”

Oct. 14: **Reading:** AFC: Ch. 2 (Textbook Homework #8)

Oct. 16: Lecture and Exercise on Interviewing

Week Nine: “Nuf and E-Nuf Among the Nacerima”Oct. 21: *Video: Mickey Mouse Monopoly*Oct. 23: *Video: The Merchants of Cool*Week Ten: “Mickey, Nicky and Barbie: Kinderculture in America”Oct. 28: **Reading:** ROA: Ch. 15 pp.175-184 (Textbook Homework #9)Oct. 30: **Reading:** ROA: Ch. 14 (Textbook Homework #10)Week Eleven: “Mining History: Small Town Histories and Celebrations Among the Nacerima”Nov. 4: **Reading:** ROA: Ch.3 pp.28-35 (Textbook Homework #11)

Nov. 6: Exercise on Local History Writing

Assignment #2 Due: Raw Data for Interviews, Spatial Observation Photos and Alestle article research*Week Twelve: “Paradise is for Pussies: *Star Trek* and the Myth of the Bad Mother”Nov. 11: **Reading: ROA: Ch. 5 pp.55-63 (Textbook Homework #12)*Video: Star Trek Excerpts*

Nov. 13: Guest Lecture: Speech Center presentation on Oral Presentations

Week Thirteen: “Pais de mis Sueños: Reflections on Ethnic Labels, Dichotomies, and Ritual Interactions”Nov. 18: **Reading:** AFC: Ch. 13 (Textbook Homework #13)Nov. 20: *Video: Biculturalism and American Latinos***THANKSGIVING BREAK**Week Fourteen: “Being vs. Doing in International Sports”Dec. 2: **Reading:** ROA: Ch. 6 pp. 64-75 (Textbook Homework #14)*Video: Olympics 2008 Excerpts**Assignment #3 Due: Research Essays***Dec. 3rd: Guest Lecture: Jacqueline Dace, MHS – “Katherine Dunham: Beyond the Dance”**

Dunham Hall Theater, 7:30 pm (Free Admission and Refreshments)

Dec. 4: Group Project work time

- Class held in the Library Instructional Lab

Week Fifteen: Presentations and “Consuming America”Dec. 9: **Reading:** ROA: Ch. 7 pp. 79-84 (Textbook Homework #15)*Assignment #4: Group Presentations*

- Class held in the Library Instructional Lab

Dec. 11: *Assignment #4: Group Presentations*

- Class held in the Library Instructional Lab

FINAL EXAM: Tuesday December 16th, 10:00 – 11:40 am