Course Description: This course offers a comparative approach to the concept of culture and an analysis of how culture structures the worlds in which we live. It examines human societies from their beginnings to the postindustrial age, and considers the development of various forms of social organization and their significance for family and kinship, economics, politics, and religion.

Required Readings: The following books have been ordered through the Wellesley College bookstore:


Evaluation and Grading: Class sessions will entail a lecture component combined with discussion of assigned readings. Regular attendance is expected of all participants; absences will be excused (or extensions granted) only in special circumstance, judged in conformity with College practice. Assigned readings must be completed prior to class-time, and each student should prepare notes and questions for discussion. Course grades will be based on the following criteria:

- Participation = 15%
- 3 Short Papers (~5-7 pages each) = 20% each
- a series of in-class Quizzes = 25%

Details regarding assessment exercises will be announced at appropriate junctures of the course.

Please Note: Students with disabilities who are taking this course and who need disability-related accommodations are encouraged to work with Barbara Boger, the Director of Programs of the Pforzheimer Learning and Teaching Center (if you have learning or attention disabilities), and Jim Wice, the Director of Disability Services (if you have a physical disability or are uncertain) to arrange these accommodations. Their offices are located in the Pforzheimer Learning and Teaching Center in Clapp Library.
Recommended Resources:
This course does not employ a formal introductory ‘textbook,’ although students are encouraged
to consult such texts on their own initiative throughout the semester as a supplement to lectures
and discussion. Moreover, there are now a large number of anthropologically-related websites
accessible on the internet. NB: Not all sites are created equal; some contain accurate data, but
others may not; browse sensibly.

Here are a few suggested starting places for those looking to learn more:

- The American Anthropological Association (AAA) offers a number of useful links to web-based
  resources: http://www.aaanet.org/resinet.htm

- McGraw-Hill publishers maintains an on-line learning center based on Conrad Kottack’s
  introductory textbook, Cultural Anthropology: http://highered.mcgraw-hill.com/sites/0072500506/student_view0/

- The University of Manitoba offers an
  web-based tutorial on kinship systems:
  http://www.umanitoba.ca/anthropology/kintitle.html

- Dennis O’Neil of Palomar College offers several helpful on-line tutorials for students of
  anthropology: http://anthro.palomar.edu/tutorials/. For his suggested anthropology links, see:
  http://www.palomar.edu/anthropology/#Anthropology%20Web%20Links


- Arizona State University’s Institute for Human Origins http://www.becominghuman.org/

- Smithsonian Institution’s Museum of Natural History website on Human Origins
  http://www.mnh.si.edu/anthro/humanorigins/

- University of California at Berkeley’s Museum of Paleontology http://www.ucmp.berkeley.edu/

- Harvard University’s Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology
  http://www.peabody.harvard.edu/

- Prehistoric (including Paleolithic and Neolithic) Art:
  http://witcombe.sbc.edu/ARTHprehistoric.html

- Alan Petersen’s Stone Age art images:
  http://www.coco.cc.az.us/apetersen/_ART201/stoneage.htm

- National Geographic’s Hominid Family Photo Album:
PART I: Culture and Evolution

Week 1
Monday, Jan. 30 – Introducing Anthropology: The Ethnographic Looking-Glass
Read:

Thursday, Feb. 2 – What Makes Us Human?
Read:
• Klein and Edgar, “Dawn at Twilight Cave” & “Nature or Nurture Before the Dawn” (in The Dawn of Human Culture), pp. 11-27 & 257-277
• Endicott & Welsch, Issue 9 (Science)
Recommended:
• Chauvet Pont-D’Arc (France): http://www.culture.gouv.fr/culture/arcnat/chauvet/en/

Week 2
Monday, Feb. 6 – Evolutionary Theory
Read:
• Endicott & Welsch, Issue 1 (Race)
Recommended:

Thursday, Feb. 9 – Early Human Origins
Read:
• Endicott & Welsch, Issue 2 (Violence)
Recommended:

Week 3
Monday, Feb 13 – Dispersal & Proliferation
Read:
• Endicott & Welsch, Issue 3 (Neandertals)
Recommended:
Flores Man Special -- http://www.nature.com/news/specials/flores/index.html
National Geographic website on Flores finds:

Thursday, Feb 16 – Anatomy, Language, & Consciousness
Read:
Endicott & Welsch, Issue 8 (Cognition)
Recommended:

Week 4
Monday, Feb 20 – No Classes – Presidents’ Day
Thursday, Feb 23 – Culture, 'Human Nature,’ & Primate Behavior
Read:
Endicott & Welsch, Issue 7 (Apes)
Recommended:

PART II: Culture and Society
Week 5
Monday, Feb 27 – Human Communities of the Late Pleistocene -- Paper 1 DUE
Read:
Mithen, 2004, After the Ice: A Global Human History, 20,000-5000 BC, Cambridge: Harvard, Chs. 2 (pp. 8-16); 3-6 (pp. 20-54); 25 (pp. 229-235); 37 (pp. 337-347)
Endicott & Welsch, Issue 4 (New World)
Recommended:

Thursday, Mar 2 – Neolithic Revolutions
Read:
Mithen, After the Ice, Chs. 7-9 (pp. 56-79); 30 (pp. 274-285); 39 (pp. 359-369); 51-52 (pp. 490-503)
Endicott & Welsch, Issue 6 (Cannibalism)
Recommended:

**Week 6**

**Monday, Mar 6** – **Field Orientations & Paradigmatic Perspectives**
Read:
- Lee, Chs. 1-2
- Murphy & Murphy, Ch. 3
- Endicott & Welsch, Issue 10 (Samoa)

**Thursday, Mar 9** -- **Ecology & Subsistence**
Read:
- Lee, Chs. 3-4
- Murphy & Murphy, Chs. 1-2
- Wolf, Chs. 1-2
- Endicott & Welsch, Issue 13 (San)

**Week 7**

**Monday, Mar 13** – **Exchange & Reciprocity**
Read:
- Lee, Appendix A: "Eating Christmas in the Kalahari" (orig. *Natural History* December 1969 [JSTOR])

Recommended:

**Thursday, Mar 16** -- **Film**: <N!ai – Story of a !Kung Woman>
Recommended:

* SPRING BREAK * [Sat 3/18 thru Sun 3/26]

**Week 8**

**Monday, Mar 27** – **Kinship & Descent**
Read:
- Lee, Ch. 5
- Murphy & Murphy, Ch. 4
- Endicott & Welsch, Issue 12 (Adoption)

**Thursday, Mar 30** – **Residency & Domestic Groups**
Read:
- Murphy & Murphy, Ch. 6
- Wolf, Chs. 3-4

Recommended:
Week 9

Monday, Apr 3 -- **Marriage & Affinity I**
Read:
- Lee, Ch. 6
- Murphy & Murphy, Ch. 7

Thursday, Apr 6 – **Marriage & Affinity II**
Read:
- Wolf, Chs. 6-10
Recommended:

Week 10

Monday, Apr 10 – **Family, Gender, & Personhood**
Read:
- Lee, Ch. 7
- Murphy & Murphy, Ch. 9
- Wolf, Chs. 11-12
Recommended:

Thursday, Apr 13 -- **Film**: < Small Happiness >

Week 11

Monday, Apr 17 -- NO CLASSES PATRIOTS DAY
Tuesday, Apr 18 -- **MONDAY SCHEDULE** -- **Political Organization**
Read:
- Lee, Ch. 8
- Endicott & Welsch, Issue 5 (Matriarchy)
Recommended:

Thursday, Apr 20 – **Film**: < The Feast &/or The Ax Fight > – **Paper 2 DUE**
Recommended:
- There are numerous websites with information pertaining to the Yanomami of lowland South America. For a relevant site with an anthropological tutorial case-study, visit http://www.umanitoba.ca/anthropology/tutor/case_studies/yanomamo/; See also 'Understanding the Ax Fight' http://www.anth.ucsb.edu/projects/axfight/
Week 12

Monday, Apr 24 – **Symbolism, Ritual, & Myth**
Read:
- Murphy & Murphy, Ch. 5

**Recommended**:

Thursday, Apr 27 – **Religion and Magic**
Read:
- Lee, Chs. 9
- Endicott & Welsch, Issue 14 (Illness)

Week 13

Monday, May 1 -- **Development, Global Capitalism, and Environmental Change**
Read:
- Lee, Chs. 10-12
- Murphy & Murphy, Ch. 8

**Recommended**:

Thursday, May 4 -- **Race, Ethnicity, and Nationalism**
Read:
- Lee Ch. 13
- Endicott & Welsch, Issues 11 (Tradition) and 15 (Ethnic Conflict)

Week 14

Monday, May 8 -- **Concluding Discussion: Modern World System**
Read:
- Mintz, *Sweetness & Power*, Chs. 3-5
- Endicott & Welsch, Issues 16-18 (Ethics)

**Paper 3 DUE – Wednesday, 10 May 2005**