Syllabus

Anthropology 309: Peoples of Africa

Spring 2015, LA 201, MWF 10-10:50 AM

Douglas Hume, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Anthropology
Northern Kentucky University, Sociology, Anthropology, and Philosophy Department
Landrum Academic Center, Room 228, Highland Heights, KY 41099
humed1@nku.edu (859) 572-5702 http://anthroniche.com/
Office Hours in LA 228 MW 9-9:50 AM

Catalog Description

ANT 306 Culture Theory (3 credits; prerequisite, ANT 100 or 201) Survey and cross-cultural comparisons of the peoples Sub-Saharan Africa. Emphasis on the impacts of colonialism, ecological adaptation, social and family life, as well as contemporary issues in African society (NKU Undergraduate Catalog).

Student Learning Outcomes

After successfully completing the course requirements, students will:

1. comprehend the anthropological concepts used to describe indigenous peoples;
2. demonstrate the comparative method on the foragers, pastoralists and horticulturalists in Sub-Saharan Africa;
3. understand the cultural diversity of the peoples of Sub-Saharan Africa; and
4. identify the impacts of colonialism, ecological adaptation, social and family life, as well as contemporary issues in African society.

Course Objectives

This course introduces students to an anthropology of the peoples of Africa. Students learn about anthropological methods and the theory as well as the indigenous and current cultures of Africa through engaging in readings, documentary movies, discussions, and writing. Coverage of this class includes, but is not limited to, the following: (1) African foragers; (2) African pastoralists; (3) African horticulturalists; and (4) contemporary issues in Africa (i.e., health, environment, and the effects of neoliberalism). In sum, after successfully completing the course requirements, students will demonstrate an understanding of the anthropology of Africa.

Course Format

This is a blended course, which includes in-class (i.e., mini-lectures and reading discussions), out-of-class (i.e., culture paper portfolio and reading assignments), and online (i.e., course materials) components. Failure to attend class will likely result in failure of the course; the information provided in class is not available elsewhere. The in-class materials will not be available to students outside of class and it is the student’s responsibility to gather any missed materials from fellow students.

Critical Pedagogy

In this, and most of Dr. Hume's other upper division courses, he adopts a critical pedagogical approach, as inspired by Paulo Freire's seminal work, The Pedagogy of the Oppressed (2005 [1970]). Critical pedagogy is based upon the notions that:
learning... is to constitute an act of knowing [where] the learners must assume from the beginning the role of creative subjects. It is not a matter of memorizing and repeating... but rather, reflecting critically on the process. (Freire 1985, 50)

The aim of a critical pedagogy is to adopt:

habits of thought, reading, writing, and speaking which go beneath surface meaning, first impressions, dominant myths, official pronouncements, traditional clichés, received wisdom, and mere opinions, to understand the deep meaning, root causes, social context, ideology, and personal consequences of any action, event, object, process, organization, experience, text, subject matter, policy, mass media, or discourse. (Shor 2012, 129)

In this course, students will be challenged to critically read primary literature (not a standard textbook that synthesizes ideas that then the student is required to memorize), critically write about what they experience (not simply regurgitate facts or copy direct quotations), and critically discuss what they read and write (not by being lectured at and being told what to know).

Contacting the Professor

The professor's office hours are Monday and Wednesday from 9:00 to 9:50 AM in Landrum Academic Center 228 and by appointment. Occasionally other commitments may take the professor away from the office during these times, so for important matters it is best to make an appointment in advance: https://hume.youcanbook.me/. If necessary, the professor will meet with students other than scheduled office hours at a time convenient to both the professor and student. Other than office hours, the best way to contact the professor is through email at humed1@nku.edu, followed by telephone and voice mail at (859) 572-5702.

Blackboard Requirements

Blackboard (https://learnonline.nku.edu/) is an integral component of this course. Most of the course materials (i.e., syllabus, schedule, readings, and movies) are only available on Blackboard. If you have any questions or problems with the Blackboard site, bring it to the professor's attention as soon as possible. To ensure that students are able to view and use the course materials on Blackboard, the following are required:

1. a high-speed internet connection (DSL/Cable or faster);
2. a Blackboard compliant browser (click the "Test your Browser" button at https://learnonline.nku.edu/ and make sure that your browser meets all of the "Required Components"); and
3. the latest version of Adobe Flash (available for free at http://get.adobe.com/flashplayer/)

If you need access to MicroSoft Word, Excel, and Powerpoint as well as Adobe Acrobat Pro and SPSS off campus, you may access NKU software and network drives from anywhere using NKU Virtual Desktop (VMWare View).

Expect the unexpected. Power outages, computer crashes, Internet interruptions, and otherwise unavoidable problems will happen. You must take steps to ensure you can complete your work on time. Do not wait until the last possible moment to complete assignments. Have a back-up plan (e.g., a second computer with an Internet connection from a friend, local public library, or college library).

All technology problems must be addressed directly to the NKU IT Help Desk, http://oit.nku.edu/help.html.

Required Course Materials

In addition to the materials available on the course schedule, the following text is required:
Analysis

The rubrics on the right show the components of the course grade and grade point scale (100-93% A, 90%> A-, 87%> B+, 83%> B, 80%> B-, 77%> C+, 73%> C, 70%> C-, 67%> D+, 60%> D, and 59-0% F).

### Components of Course Grade

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Worth</th>
<th>Point Range</th>
<th>Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reading/Movie Assignments</td>
<td>400 Points</td>
<td>1000-930 points</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Culture Paper</td>
<td>400 Points</td>
<td>929-900 points</td>
<td>A-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mid-term Exam</td>
<td>100 Points</td>
<td>899-870 points</td>
<td>B+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>100 Points</td>
<td>869-830 points</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Course Grade Scale


Assessment

The rubrics on the right show the components of the course grade and grade point scale (100-93% A, 90%> A-, 87%> B+, 83%> B, 80%> B-, 77%> C+, 73%> C, 70%> C-, 67%> D+, 60%> D, and 59-0% F).

### Reading/Movie Assignments

The 42 reading/movie assignments (10 points each) constitute up to 400 points of the final course grade. The assignments involve students answering essay questions to prepare them for class discussion. Assignments are due in class on the day they are discussed except when noted on the course schedule.

Reading/movie assignments require thoughtful, articulate, and formal writing that demonstrate critical thinking and reflection on the materials assigned. Answers must be written in the students' own words, not quoted or plagiarized (see Academic Misconduct, Plagiarism).

Reading/movie assignments will be graded using the Assignment Grading Rubric and must be formatted per the Reading Assignment Example. Each answer must be at least 50 words in length to be eligible for full credit.

### Culture Paper

The culture paper constitutes 400 points of the final course grade. The due dates for the paper assignments may be found on the course schedule:

1. Culture Choice  
2. Bibliography (40 points)  
3. Kinship, Marriage, and Family (40 points)  
4. Subsistence and Economy (40 points)  
5. Sociopolitical Organization (40 points)  
6. Religion and Expressive Culture (40 points)  
7. Final Paper (200 points)

Except for the Culture Choice and Bibliography assignments, culture paper assignments will not be graded unless they have been submitted electronically (submitted on Blackboard, Word Format (doc or docx), file name written as last name, underscore, and assignment [e.g. "hume_kinship_marriage_and_family.docx"]).

The final paper must be turned in on clean printed paper at the beginning of the final exam period and submitted electronically (submitted on Blackboard, Word Format (doc or docx), file name written as last name, underscore, and assignment [e.g. "hume_final_paper.docx"]).
Exams

There are two exams in this course, each of which constitute 100 points of the final course grade. The exams each consist of two essay questions selected by the professor from essay topics, as posted on the course schedule.

The answers must be written during the exam period by hand. It is expected that each essay question will require approximately two to three written pages (single-spaced; two to three full sides of an 8.5" x 11" test booklet; handwritten). The professor will provide a test booklet. The professor prefers that students use blue or black ink. It is essential that students prepare for each of the questions in advance.

Extra Credit

Students may earn up to 25 points (five points each) towards their final grade (extra credit may change student's grade a maximum of one grade [e.g., C to C+ or A- to A]) by attending anthropological events (e.g., Anthropology Museum events and Anthropology Careers Day), as announced on the NKU's Anthropology Mailing List. Only previously announced (on the mailing list) events may count towards extra credit. Students must supply evidence of attendance (e.g., program, ticket stub, or photograph) and between a three-quarters and one full-page summary (one-inch margins, Times New Roman, 11 pt, single-spaced) of their participation in the event no later than two weeks after the event has occurred to be eligible for extra-credit. All extra credit anthropological event documents must be printed on clean paper (email documents will not be accepted). Students cannot use the same event for more than one class (e.g., a student who is enrolled in two classes with Dr. Hume cannot earn extra credit from attending one event for two different classes). Extra credit may be turned in anytime before the end of the final exam period.

Credit Hour Policy Statement

In accordance with federal policy (34 CFR § 600.2), NKU defines a credit hour as the amount of work represented in the achievement of student learning outcomes (verified by evidence of student achievement) that reasonably approximates one hour (50 minutes) of classroom instruction and a minimum of two hours of out-of-class student work. For every course credit hour, a typical student should expect to spend at least three hours per week of concentrated attention on course-related work including, but not limited to, class meeting time, reading, reviewing, organizing notes, studying and completing assignments. At least an equivalent amount of time is expected for other academic activities such as online courses, laboratory work, internships, practica, studio work and other academic work leading to the award of credit hours.

This is a three-credit course that meets three times per week for 50 minutes each class period for 15 weeks plus a final class period in week 16. Estimates of the time required for a typical student to complete these course expectations are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Component</th>
<th>Estimated Time Requirement</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Email Announcements and Correspondence with Dr. Hume</td>
<td>0.5 Hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In-Class: 3 days x 50 minutes x 15 weeks &amp; final exam</td>
<td>39.5 Hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Readings: 42 readings x 1 hour each</td>
<td>42 hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Readings Assignments: 42 assignments x 0.5 hours each</td>
<td>21 hours</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Course Component | Estimated Time Requirement
--- | ---
Culture Paper Assignments: 6 assignments x 4 hours each | 24 hours
Mid-term and Final Exam Preparation: 2 exams x 4 hours each | 8 hours
Total | 135 hours

**Makeup Policy Statement**

Regardless of the *ingenuity of the excuse*, the makeup policy is as follows:

- In the cases of emergencies (e.g., severe illness requiring medical attention or death of a family member)
  - Written documentation of the emergency is required before a makeup (without penalty) will be arranged.
- In cases of non-emergencies (e.g., forgetting to complete work or come to class, undocumented illnesses, power outages, computer crashes, forgetting to update your NKU password, or Internet interruptions):
  - Make ups may be made by arrangement with the professor. For every class meeting that make up is late, it will suffer a ten percent reduction. Non-emergency make ups will not be accepted after the end of the course (the end of the final exam period).
- If Blackboard is down (verified by the professor through NKU's Office of Information Technology) shortly before an online assignment or test is due, the due date will be extended for all students (without penalty).
- Make ups will not be accepted after the end of the course (the end of the session, as determined by the date and time of the end of the last test), unless written documentation of an emergency is presented to the professor.

**Incomplete Policy Statement**

The grade of "I" (incomplete) may be assigned at the request of the student where a portion of the assigned or required class work, or the final examination, has not been completed because of a documented serious illness and/or extreme personal circumstance not caused by the student’s own negligence.

An incomplete will only be issued when the following conditions are met:

1. the quality of work is satisfactory (passing), but some essential requirement has not been completed;
2. documentation of a serious illness and/or extreme personal circumstance not caused by the student’s own negligence has been presented to the professor;
3. any work undertaken to make up the incomplete grade is limited to the completion of the missed work due to the documented serious illness and/or extreme personal circumstance; and
4. the student has developed and signed a contract with the professor outlining the requirements and specific deadlines for completion of the missed work.

An incomplete grade must be made up by the middle of the next regular semester in which the student is enrolled. The grade for any course not completed by this deadline will be converted to the grade of "F".

**Electronic Equipment Policy**
Unless otherwise indicated, use of electronic equipment (i.e., cellular phones as well as laptop, notebook, and tablet computers) is discouraged in this course. Cellular phones must be silenced and packed away during class, except by permission of the professor due to an emergency (e.g., a family member in the hospital). While students are allowed to use their computer in class, its use must be limited to purposes related to this course. Students should be aware that their Internet surfing, gaming, and chatting bother other students and will negatively effect their grade (see recent research by Campbell and Pargas, Fried, Lauricella and Kay, and Sana, Weston, and Cepeda). The professor encourages peer discipline (e.g. tell the person sitting next to you if it bothers you).

Student Honor Code

The Student Honor Code [the "Honor Code"] is a commitment by students of Northern Kentucky University, through their matriculation or continued enrollment at the University, to adhere to the highest degree of ethical integrity in academic conduct. It is a commitment individually and collectively that the students of Northern Kentucky University will not lie, cheat, or plagiarize to gain an academic advantage over fellow students or avoid academic requirements.

The purpose of the Honor Code is to establish standards of academic conduct for students at Northern Kentucky University and to provide a procedure that offers basic assurances of fundamental fairness to any person accused of violations of these rules. Each Northern Kentucky University student is bound by the provisions of the Honor Code and is presumed to be familiar with all of its provisions. Students also should aspire to conduct themselves in a manner that is consistent with the highest degree of ethical integrity in all matters, whether covered in the Honor Code or not. The success of this commitment begins in the diligence with which students uphold the letter and the spirit of the Honor Code. Students may view the complete honor code at http://deanofstudents.nku.edu/policies/student-rights.html#policies.

Disability Disclosure

The University is committed to making reasonable efforts to assist individuals with disabilities in their efforts to avail themselves of services and programs offered by the University. To this end, Northern Kentucky University will provide reasonable accommodations for persons with documented qualifying disabilities. If you have a disability and feel you need accommodations in this course, you must present a letter to me from the Disability Programs and Services Office (SU 303), indicating the existence of a disability and the suggested accommodations. More information can be found at http://disability.nku.edu/.

Non-attendance Policy

Beginning fall 2014, NKU students are expected to attend the first scheduled class session of each course for which they are enrolled. If a student does not attend the first day of class, the student will be dropped for non-attendance. Students who know they will be absent must contact their instructor(s) prior to the first class meeting to explain their absence and request to remain enrolled in the course.

All faculty are required to report students for attendance/non-attendance. To qualify for Title IV Federal Financial Aid Programs, institutions must maintain a policy that indicates if a student has begun attending class. While a time limit is not indicated by the U. S. Department of Education, our current policy allows us to drop students for non-attendance during the first few days of the session.

Instructor and Course Evaluations

Northern Kentucky University takes Instructor and Course Evaluations very seriously. It is an important responsibility of NKU students as citizens of the University to participate in the
instructor and course evaluation process. Prior to the end of intersession classes, you will be asked to reflect upon what you have learned in this course, the extent to which you have invested the necessary effort to maximize your learning, and the role your instructor has played in the learning process. It is very important that you complete the online evaluations with thoughtfully written comments.

The students who complete an evaluation for a particular course (or opt out of doing so in the evaluation) will be rewarded for their participation by having access to their course grade as soon as that grade is submitted by the instructor. On the other hand, any student who does not complete the course evaluation (or opt out of doing so in the evaluation) should expect to incur a two-week delay in access to his or her course grade beyond the university's official date for grade availability.

To complete online evaluations go to http://eval.nku.edu. Click on "student login" and use the same username and password as used on campus.

In addition, you should be aware of:

- Evaluations can affect changes in courses. Evaluations without comments are less valuable and less credible than those filled out thoughtfully. Comments that are expressed well are more effective than those that are not.
- Positive feedback is just as important as criticism. Moreover, negative evaluations without any explanation and specifics are not especially useful.
- Once grades are submitted, all evaluations are read not only by the instructor, but also by the instructor’s department chairperson.
- Evaluations not only provide feedback to your instructor, but also provide information to the department chair for use in performance evaluations. This information affects reappointments, promotions, salaries, and teaching assignments.

Inclement Weather Policy

If NKU is open, we will have class. For information on NKU closings, you may:

- sign-up for Norse Alert (http://norsealert.nku.edu/);
- call the university/weather closings hotline (859) 572-6165 or 6166;
- check the Northern Kentucky University web site (http://www.nku.edu/); and/or
- listen to local media (WNKU 89.7 FM will have the most complete and timely announcements about the University's status during questionable weather conditions although information will be provided to all area radio and television stations).

Changes to Syllabus

The course syllabus and schedule are subject to change as announced through Blackboard.

Last updated: 02/11/2015 07:40:48