

This is an accelerated, asynchronous FOUR-WEEK course.

Anthropology 263g: Exploring Culture through Film

Summer 2021

Lecture 052-10608R

M/T/W/Th 9:30-12:40AM

Online Instruction

Professor: Lanita Jacobs

Office: Virtual

Email: jacobshu@usc.edu

Office Hours: T/TH 4:00PM - 5:00PM; also by appointment. You can also contact me Monday-Friday via email.

Course Website: ANTH 263 course materials are accessible through Blackboard.

Required Texts:

1. ANTH 263 Reader (Available in Blackboard under Course Resources; some articles may be available via Ares Electronic Reserves)
2. Hall, Stuart, Jessica Evans, and Sean Nixon (Eds.). 2013. Representation: Cultural Representations and Signifying Practices. New York: Sage. [Note: This text is referenced as Hall in the Reading and Exam Schedule.]
3. Mead, Margaret. 1988 [1973]. Coming of Age in Samoa: A Psychological Study of Primitive Youth for Western Civilization. New York: William Morrow & Co. [Note: This text is referenced as Mead in the Reading and Exam Schedule].
4. Schultz, Emily A. and Robert H. Lavenda. 2018. Cultural Anthropology: A Perspective on the Human Condition. Tenth Edition. Oxford: Oxford University Press. [Note: This text is referenced as Schultz & Lavenda in the Reading and Exam Schedule].

Highly Recommended Texts

5. Jacobs-Huey, Lanita. 2006. From the Kitchen to the Parlor: Language and Becoming in African American Women's Hair Care. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
6. Zinsser, William. 2001. On Writing Well. Sixth Edition. New York: HarperCollins Publishers.

NOTE: All texts are on reserve at Leavey Library.

Course Description: This course explores key anthropological concepts through an analysis of visual and written representations of societies throughout the world. More specifically, we will probe issues around identity, language, culture change, and power and resistance through a critical synthesis of ethnographic, theoretical, and popular films/videos and texts. As a primer in cultural anthropological theory, this course will also analyze various visual mediums (e.g., film, video, photography) as both a research tool and medium in the analysis and representation of culture(s). We will ask such questions as: *What does it mean to be an anthropologist?*, *How do we define culture(s)/Culture?*, *How should we observe and represent culture(s)?*, and *What are Western anthropologists' past and present traditions in this respect?* Moreover, we will consider the political implications of writing and/or visually portraying our own or other cultures.

Grading: Ten percent (10%) of your grade will be determined by your participation in virtual lecture and discussion sections. In addition, thirty percent (30%) of your grade will be determined by your performance on a discussion section assignment that will be devised and evaluated by your T.A. Finally, there will be a midterm exam and a final exam covering assigned readings and/or films. Your score on the midterm will constitute 30% of your grade and your score on the final exam will constitute the remaining 30%. Each of the two exams will include short-answer and essay questions and will be "non-cumulative." Each exam will also include a 2-point BONUS question based upon optional readings; these bonus questions allow you to earn up to four (4) extra-credit points throughout the term. The grading scale is as follows:

94-100 = A	87-89 = B+	77-79 = C+	67-69 = D+	≥ 59 = F
90-93 = A-	84-86 = B	74-76 = C	64-66 = D	
	80-83 = B-	70-73 = C-	60-63 = D-	

GRADE BASIS

Participation: 10%
Discussion Section: 30%
Midterm: 30%
Final Exam: 30%

An Official Note on Examinations: Make-up exams will only be given under extraordinary circumstances and will require documentation from your doctor. The content and form of any make-up exam will be at my discretion. In any case, do inform me via email or phone prior to missing an exam. If you feel you must reschedule an exam on account of having (a) two additional exams scheduled at the same time or (b) three exams in a 24-hour period, do inform me at least two weeks prior to our scheduled mid-term. The final exam, however, **must** be taken at the time noted below.

Attendance: Consistent and punctual attendance in lecture and discussion section(s) is strongly encouraged as I expect it will increase your understanding of course materials. Your record of attendance may also be considered in determining your discussion section grade, as well as in the case of borderline grades. Do note that it is ultimately *your* responsibility to be aware of what has transpired in class. Should sickness, family emergencies, or other events necessitate your absence from class, I recommend that you consult your student colleagues for copies of their lecture notes.

Discussion Sections: As this is a condensed four-week course, the discussion sections for this course will convene virtually on Tuesday and Thursday at 8-8:50AM (an amendment from the times noted in the online Schedule of Classes). Your Teaching Assistant is Nicole Richards (ndrichar@usc.edu).

Statement for Students with Disabilities: Students requesting academic accommodations based on a disability should register with Disability Services and Programs (DSP) each semester. A letter of verification for approved accommodations can be obtained from DSP when necessary documentation is filed. Please be sure the letter is delivered to me as early in the semester as possible, preferably by or before fifth week. DSP is located in Student Union (STU) 201 and is open from 8:30AM-5PM, Monday through Friday. Their contact information is as follows: 213-740-0776 (Phone), 213-740-6948 (TDD Only), 213-740-8216 (Fax); Email: ability@usc.edu; Webpage: http://sait.usc.edu/academicsupport/centerprograms/dsp/home_index.html

Statement on Academic Conduct: Plagiarism – presenting someone else’s ideas as your own, either verbatim or recast in your own words – is a serious academic offense with serious consequences. Please familiarize yourself with the discussion of plagiarism in SCampus in Part B, Section 11, “Behavior Violating University Standards” policy.usc.edu/scampus-part-b. Other forms of academic dishonesty are equally unacceptable. See additional information in SCampus and university policies on scientific misconduct, policy.usc.edu/scientific-misconduct.

Pertinent University Policy Regarding the Sharing of Course Materials outside of the Learning Environment: USC policy prohibits sharing of any synchronous and asynchronous course content outside of the learning environment: SCampus Section 11.12(B): Distribution or use of notes or recordings based on university classes or lectures without the express permission of the instructor for purposes other than individual or group study is a violation of the USC Student Conduct Code. This includes, but is not limited to, providing materials for distribution by services publishing class notes. This restriction on unauthorized use also applies to all information, which had been distributed to students or in any way had been displayed for use in relationship to the class, whether obtained in class, via email, on the Internet or via any other media. ([See Section C.1 Class Notes Policy](#)).

Emergency Preparedness/Course Continuity in Crisis: In case of emergency (**including the current covid-19 pandemic**), when travel to campus is difficult, if not impossible, USC executive leadership will announce a digital way for instructors to teach students in their residence halls or homes using a combination of the Blackboard LMS (Learning Management System), teleconferencing, and other technologies. Instructors should be prepared to assign students a “Plan B” project that can be completed ‘at a distance.’ For additional information about maintaining your classes in an emergency, please access: <http://cst.usc.edu/services/emergencyprep.html>

Support Systems: It's a stressful time for many of us. Please know that there are various support systems in place to help us all. Here are some resources offered at USC and beyond:

USC Campus Support and Intervention - (213) 821-4710; campussupport.usc.edu

Assists students and families in resolving complex personal, financial, and academic issues adversely affecting their success as a student. Specific covid-19 related support systems are noted below:

The **Office for Student Basic Needs** has emergency funding for students (<https://studentbasicneeds.usc.edu/>). In addition to the programs they have for food insecurity, housing insecurity, and financial insecurity, they have added resources specifically for COVID-19 insecurities. Students interested in applying for the Student Basic Needs Emergency Grant are encouraged to email the Basic Needs Team at basicneeds@usc.edu. The team will evaluate the request and, if needed, schedule a one-on-one consultation to learn more about the student's situation. The **Office for Student Basic Needs** fund can assist with housing expenses, food insecurity, emergency travel, income loss related to closed workplaces, technology upgrades required for remote instruction, and other unforeseen needs stemming from the current crisis.

The **COVID-19 Emergency Assistance fund (CARES)** helps currently enrolled students with extraordinary one-time costs that have arisen as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. This is the funding that has come from the U.S. federal government, and this fund is managed by the USC Financial Aid office. Funds are limited, so you are encouraged to apply now if in need. Up to \$3,000 in one-time financial assistance is available. Please contact our 24/7 COVID-19 hotline at [213-740-6291](tel:213-740-6291) or email covid19@usc.edu.

Counseling and Mental Health - (213) 740-9355 – 24/7 on call; studenthealth.usc.edu/counseling

Free and confidential mental health treatment for students, including short-term psychotherapy, group counseling, stress fitness workshops, and crisis intervention.

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline - 1 (800) 273-8255 – 24/7 on call; suicidepreventionlifeline.org

Free and confidential emotional support to people in suicidal crisis or emotional distress 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Relationship and Sexual Violence Prevention Services (RSVP) - (213) 740-9355(WELL), press "0" after hours – 24/7 on call; studenthealth.usc.edu/sexual-assault

Free and confidential therapy services, workshops, and training for situations related to gender-based harm.

Office of Equity and Diversity (OED) - (213) 740-5086 | Title IX – (213) 821-8298;

equity.usc.edu, titleix.usc.edu

Information about how to get help or help someone affected by harassment or discrimination, rights of protected classes, reporting options, and additional resources for students, faculty, staff, visitors, and applicants.

Reporting Incidents of Bias or Harassment - (213) 740-5086 or (213) 821-8298

usc-advocate.symplicity.com/care_report

Avenue to report incidents of bias, hate crimes, and microaggressions to the Office of Equity and Diversity |Title IX for appropriate investigation, supportive measures, and response.

Diversity at USC - (213) 740-2101; diversity.usc.edu

Information on events, programs and training, the Provost's Diversity and Inclusion Council, Diversity Liaisons for each academic school, chronology, participation, and various resources for students.

USC Emergency - UPC: (213) 740-4321, ***HSC:*** (323) 442-1000 – 24/7 on call

dps.usc.edu, emergency.usc.edu

Emergency assistance and avenue to report a crime. Latest updates regarding safety, including ways in which instruction will be continued if an officially declared emergency precludes travel to campus.

Support Systems (continued):

USC Department of Public Safety - UPC: (213) 740-6000, HSC: (323) 442-120 – 24/7 on call
dps.usc.edu

Non-emergency assistance or information.

Office of the Ombuds - (213) 821-9556 (UPC) / (323-442-0382 (HSC); ombuds.usc.edu

A safe and confidential place to share your USC-related issues with a University Ombuds who will work with you to explore options or paths to manage your concern.

READING & EXAM SCHEDULE (subject to modification)

WHAT IS ANTHROPOLOGY? WHAT DO ANTHROPOLOGISTS DO?

Week 1: COURSE INTRODUCTION, ANTHROPOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVES ON CULTURE

- W 5/19
- Schultz & Lavenda: Chapter 1
 - Film: *The Captivating and Curious* Careers of Anthropology* (2020; 18 mins.)

Th 5/20 **ANTHROPOLOGICAL METHODS I**

- Schultz & Lavenda: Chapter 3
- Agar: Who are you to do this? [in RDR]
- Asch: The Ethics of Ethnographic Filmmaking [in RDR]
- Miner: Body Ritual among the Nacirema [optional; in RDR]
- Robertson: Reflexivity Redux: A Pithy Polemic on “Positionality” [optional; in RDR]
- Film/Clips: *To Be Announced (TBA)*

“in RDR” means “in Reader.” You can find articles alphabetized according to author’s last name in Blackboard under “Content” – then click on “Course Resources” folder and, finally, “Course Reader” folder

HOW HAS THE PRACTICE OF ANTHROPOLOGY EVOLVED OVER TIME?

Week 2: ANTHROPOLOGICAL METHODS II

- M 5/24
- Abu-Lughod: Writing Against Culture [optional; in RDR]
 - Freeman: Introduction and Chapter 15 [in RDR]
 - Freeman: Afterward (optional) [in RDR]
 - Geertz: Thick Description [in RDR]
 - Mead: Formal Sex Relations (Chapter 7) [optional; in RDR]
 - Park: The Gendered Subjectivity of Anthropologists ... [optional; in RDR]
 - Schultz & Lavenda: Chapter 2
 - Film: *Strangers Abroad: Margaret Mead, Coming of Age* (1986; 53 mins.); *Margaret Mead and Samoa* (1988; 52 mins.)

T 5/25 **ANTHROPOLOGY AND ITS HISTORICAL CONTEXT**

- Hall: Chapter 3 – The Poetics and Politics of Exhibiting Other Cultures (optional)
- Kuehnast: Visual Imperialism and the Export of Prejudice [in RDR]
- Schultz & Lavenda: Chapter 4
- Film: *The Life and Times of Sara Baartman: The Hottentot Venus* (1998; 53 mins.); *Bootyful World* (2006; 24 mins.)

W 5/26 **ETHNOGRAPHY AND THE POLITICS OF REPRESENTATION**

- Faris: Anthropological Transparency: Film, Representation, and Politics [in RDR]
- Kent: Fieldwork that Failed [optional; in RDR]
- Jacobs-Huey: The Natives are Gazing and Talking Back [in RDR]
- Zinsser: Writing About Places [in RDR]
- Film: *Papua New Guinea: Anthropology on Trial* (1983; 53 mins.)

Th 5/27 **MIDTERM (in Blackboard)**

ANTHROPOLOGICAL STUDIES OF EVERYDAY LIFE

Week 3: NO CLASS – MEMORIAL DAY

M 5/31

T 6/1 **LANGUAGE, IDENTITY, AND CULTURE**

- Jacobs-Huey: Introduction [in FKTP]
- Jacobs-Huey: Gender, Authenticity, and Hair in African American Standup Comedy [in FKTP]
- Schultz & Lavenda: Chapter 5 (optional)
- Film/Clips: [Why We Laugh: Black Comedians and Black Comedy](#) (2009; 86 mins.)

ANTHROPOLOGICAL STUDIES OF EVERYDAY LIFE (*continued*)

W 6/2 **NICOLE RICHARDS' LECTURE**

- Readings/Films: TBA

Th 6/3 **NO CLASS – WELLNESS DAY**

- Catch up on class readings and/or practice some form of self-care

Week 4: READING FILM/READING CULTURE

M 6/7

- Lutkehaus: "Excuse Me, Everything Is Not Alright" [in RDR]
- Crawford: Film as Discourse: The Invention of Anthropological Realities [optional]; in RDR]
- Silverman: Cannibalizing, Commodifying, or Creating Culture? [in RDR]
- Film: [Cannibal Tours](#) (1988; 70 mins.)

EXPLORING IDENTITY, REFLEXIVITY, & ETHNOGRAPHY IN/THROUGH FILM

T 6/8 **EXPLORING IDENTITY & "AUTHENTICITY" IN POPULAR CULTURE**

- Hall: Chapter 4 – The Spectacle of the Other
- Jacobs-Huey: Moralizing Whiteness in *Joan of Arcadia* [in RDR]
- Tuan: "I'm American with a Japanese Look" [in RDR]
- Waters: The Costs of a Costless Community [in RDR]
- Film/Clips: excerpts from Margaret Cho's (2001) *I'm the One I Want* and CBS's *Joan of Arcadia* (2003-2005)

W 6/9 **WHAT IS "ETHNOGRAPHIC" ABOUT ETHNOGRAPHIC FILM?**

- Collier & Collier: Ethnographic Film and its Relationship to Film for Research [optional]; in RDR]
- MacDougall: Beyond Observational Cinema [in RDR]
- Ruby: Exposing Yourself: Reflexivity, Anthropology, and Film [in RDR]
- Salzman: On Reflexivity [optional; in RDR]
- Film: [N!ai: The Story of a !Kung Woman](#) (1980; 59 mins.)

Th 6/10 **SUBJECTIVITY/REFLEXIVITY IN FILM**

- Cole: The Multiple Meanings of Stories [in RDR]
- Rosaldo: Subjectivity and Social Analysis [in RDR]
- Film: *In Her Own Time: The Final Fieldwork of Barbara Myerhoff* (1985; 58 mins.)

Week 5: CAN "THICK DESCRIPTIONS" BE FOUND IN FILM?

M 6/14

- MacDougall: Visual Anthropology and Ways of Knowing [in RDR]
- Film: [The Kalahari Part I: A Far Country](#) (2000; 87 mins.)

T 6/15 **NO CLASS – WELLNESS DAY**

Catch up on class readings and/or practice some form of self-care

W 6/16 **FINAL EXAMINATION (9:30-12:40PM PST – in Blackboard)**

ANTHRO 263 READER BIBLIOGRAPHY: Exploring Culture through Film

(NOTE: Articles and select book chapters are available as PDF files in Blackboard (Course Reader))

- Abu-Lughod, Lila. 1991. Writing Against Culture. *In* R. Fox (ed.) *Recapturing Anthropology: Working in the Present* (137-162). Santa Fe, NM: School of American Research Press.
- Agar, Michael. 1996. Who Are You To Do This? *In* *The Professional Stranger: An Informal Introduction to Ethnography*, 2nd Edition (91-111). New York: Academic Press.
- Asch, Timothy. 1992. The Ethics of Ethnographic Film-making. *In* P.I. Crawford and D. Turton (eds.) *Film as Ethnography* (196-204). New York: Manchester University Press.
- Cole, Thomas R. 2007. Introduction: The Multiple Meaning of Stories: Scholarship, Self-Knowledge, Cultural Transmission, Public Service, and the Sacred. *In* M. Kaminsky, M. Weiss, D. Metzger (Eds.) *Stories as Equipment for Living: Last Talks and Tales of Barbara Myerhoff* (1-14). Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press.
- Collier, Jr., John and Malcolm Collier. 1986. Ethnographic Film and Its Relationship to Film for Research. *In* *Visual Anthropology: Photography as a Research Method* (150-160). Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press.
- Collier, Jr., John and Malcolm Collier. 1986. Risks to Rapport in Photographic Probing. *In* *Visual Anthropology: Photography as a Research Method* (133-137). Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press.
- Crawford, Peter Ian. 1992. Film as Discourse: The Invention of Anthropological Realities. *In* P.I. Crawford and D. Turton (eds.) *Film as Ethnography* (66-82). New York: Manchester University Press.
- Faris, James C. 1992. Anthropological Transparency: Film, Representation, and Politics. *In* P.I. Crawford and D. Turton (eds.) *Film as Ethnography* (171-182). New York: Manchester University Press.
- Freeman, Derek. 1999. Introduction. *The Fateful Hoaxing of Margaret Mead: A Historical Analysis of Her Samoan Research* (1-15). Boulder, CO: Westview Press.
- Freeman, Derek. 1999. The Mythic Process. *In* *The Fateful Hoaxing of Margaret Mead: A Historical Analysis of Her Samoan Research* (191-202). Boulder, CO: Westview Press.
- Freeman, Derek. 1999. Afterward. *The Fateful Hoaxing of Margaret Mead: A Historical Analysis of Her Samoan Research* (203-217). Boulder, CO: Westview Press.
- Geertz, Clifford. 1971. Thick Description: Toward an Interpretive Theory of Culture. *In* *The Interpretation of Culture* (3-30). New York: Basic Books.
- Ginsburg, Faye. 1995. Mediating Culture: Indigenous Media, Ethnographic Film, and The Production of Identity. *In* L. Devereaux and R. Hillman (eds.) *Fields of Vision: Essays in Film Studies, Visual Anthropology, and Photography* (256-291). Los Angeles: University of California Press.
- Jacobs-Huey, Lanita. 2002. The Natives are Gazing and Talking Back: Reviewing the Problematics of Positionality, Voice, and Accountability among "Native" Anthropologists. *American Anthropologist* 104(3): 791-804.
- Jacobs-Huey, Lanita. 2006. Introduction. *In* *From the Kitchen to the Parlor: Language and Becoming in African American Women's Hair Care* (3-15). Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Jacobs-Huey, Lanita. 2006. Gender, Authenticity, and Hair in African American Standup Comedy. *In* *From the Kitchen to the Parlor: Language and Becoming in African American Women's Hair Care* (71-88). Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Jacobs-Huey, Lanita. 2009. Moralizing Whiteness in Joan of Arcadia. *In* Diane Winston (ed.) *Small Screen Big Picture: Television and Lived Religion* (233-258). Waco, TX: Baylor University Press.
- Kent, Linda L. 1992. Fieldwork that Failed. *In* P.R. DeVita (ed.) *The Naked Anthropologist: Tales from Around the World* (17-25). Belmont, CA: Wadsworth.

- Kuehnast, Kathleen. 1992. Visual Imperialism and the Export of Prejudice: An Exploration of Ethnographic Film. *In* P.I. Crawford and D. Turton (eds.) *Film as Ethnography (183-195)*. New York: Manchester University Press.
- Lutkehaus, Nancy Christine. 1989. "Excuse Me, Everything Is Not All Right": On Ethnography, Film, and Representation: An Interview with Filmmaker Dennis O'Rourke. *Cultural Anthropology* 4(4): 422-437.
- MacDougall, David. 1998. Beyond Observational Cinema. *In* L. Taylor (ed.) *Transcultural Cinema (125-139)*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.
- MacDougall, David. 1998. Visual Anthropology and Ways of Knowing. *In* L. Taylor (ed.) *Transcultural Cinema (61-92)*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.
- Mead, Margaret. 1988 [1973]. *Coming of Age in Samoa: A Psychological Study of Primitive Youth for Western Civilization*. New York: William Morrow & Co. [Note: This text is referenced as Mead in the Reading and Exam Schedule).
- Miner, Horace. 1956. Body Ritual among the Nacirema. *American Anthropologist* 58: 503-507.
- Park, So Jin. 2008. Gendered Production of Anthropological Knowledge in the Production and Consumption of Anthropological Knowledge.
- Robertson, Jennifer. 2002. Reflexivity Redux: A Pithy Polemic on 'Positionality'. *Anthropological Quarterly*. 75(4): 785-792.
- Rosaldo, Renato. 1993. Subjectivity and Social Analysis. *In* *Culture and Truth: The Remaking of Social Analysis (168-195)*. Boston: Beacon Press.
- Ruby, Jay. 2000. Exposing Yourself: Reflexivity, Anthropology, and Film. *In* *Picturing Culture: Explorations of Film and Anthropology (151-180)*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
- Salzman, Philip Carl. 2002. On Reflexivity. *American Anthropologist* 104(3): 805-811.
- Silverman, Eric Kline. 2004. Cannibalizing, Commodifying, or Creating Culture? Power and Art in Sepik River Tourism. *In* *Globalization and Culture Change in the Pacific Islands*. V. S. Lockwood, ed. pp. 339-357. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson Prentice Hall.
- Tuan, Mia. 1999. "I'm an American with a Japanese Look": Emerging Identities and Practices (127-151). *In* *Forever Foreigners or Honorary Whites: The Asian Ethnic Experience Today*. London: Rutgers University Press.
- Waters, Mary C. 1990. The Costs of a Costless Community. *In* *Ethnic Options (147-168)*. Los Angeles: University of California Press.
- Zinsser, William. 2004. Writing About Places. *In* *Writing About Your Life: A Journey into the Past (63-79)*. New York: Marlowe & Company.