ANT 612: Applied Nutritional Anthropology
Spring Term 2011
Tuesday 1-3:30pm, tH21

Instructor: Elizabeth Elliott Cooper, PhD, MPH
Office: 16 ten Hoor
Office hours: Tuesday 4-5pm, Wednesday 10-noon or by appointment
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Email: eecooper@ua.edu

Contact Instructions:
Email is the preferred form of communication for the class, both for its convenience and accuracy. To minimize the possibility of miscommunication, students are encouraged to maintain copies of all correspondence and the instructor will do the same. Please communicate with me directly at eecooper@ua.edu rather than using the e-Learning email function. This is easier for me and ensures you a prompt response.

Course Description:
The ultimate aim of this course is to address select, contemporary nutritional issues from the perspective of applied anthropology. Recognizing the conflicting models connected with the applied approach, the initial focus will be a critical appraisal of the history and definition(s) of applied anthropology, its connections to theory and academia, and special questions of ethics and advocacy. Attention then shifts to the basics of nutritional anthropology and its underlying biocultural theory before uniting the two themes with a review of case studies in applied nutritional anthropology. The final five weeks of the course will be devoted to topics of special interest, including: the global food crisis, food insecurity, food deserts, food assistance strategies, and the meaning and symbolic value of food. ANT 612 is designed as a reading- and writing-intensive seminar and will require extensive preparation and in-class participation.

Student Learning Objectives:
By the end of this course, you will be able to:
- Create and apply your own operational definition of applied anthropology
- Intelligently discuss major milestones in the development of nutritional anthropology and applied anthropology
- Defend or reject advocacy work as an anthropological endeavor
- Explain the methods and techniques used in various specialty areas (e.g., food insecurity, food deserts)

Course Readings:
There is no set text for this course. Instead, students will be supplied with electronic copies of articles and book chapters via e-Learning (https://elearning.ua.edu). These readings are outlined in the accompanying class schedule and reference list. There is no need for you to purchase books for this course. However, if you are interested in adding to your personal reference library, the following works are either classics or will be significantly sampled over the course of the semester, making them good options:
Course Requirements and Grading

It is essential that you attend and participate in class. This represents 15% of your final grade, and more importantly, it is a key component of the course’s intellectual objectives. Keep in mind that this class meets only once per week – missing a single class is therefore the equivalent of missing an entire week of classes. Attendance will be taken, and three unexcused absences will result in a loss of credit for this grading component. In addition to your presence and active participation, you will be expected to submit a set of 3-5 discussion questions based on the assigned readings no later than 5pm on Fridays prior to class meetings for Weeks 3-15. Questions should be typed and emailed to the class as a whole – an email list will be created for this purpose in Week 2 following the drop/add period. The aim here is to generate questions that are short (no more than 3-4 sentences) but challenging. This is your opportunity to prompt debate, seek clarification, and tailor class discussions to your particular research interests. No rhetorical questions! You should only submit questions for which you are genuinely interested in the answer. Question submissions will be marked as present or absent – although I will apply a minimum quality standard – and will be factored into your overall participation grade.

In addition to weekly participation, you will answer up to 8 of your classmates’ question submissions with short, cogent written responses of no more than 2-3 pages. I am looking for quality rather than quantity, but it is unlikely that you will be able to fully address the topic in less than two full pages. If you find that this is not the case, this is a good indication that you ought to select a different question. Although you may submit up to 8 responses, your grade will be determined by the average of your top 5 submissions. Response papers are due by noon the day after the questions are discussed in class. This deadline is intended to give you time to incorporate any new information or post-discussion changes in perspective, although it is expected that you will have a high-quality working draft of your response competed prior to class. You may submit your responses in hardcopy or email them to me directly at eecooper@ua.edu. Question responses will be graded holistically with an emphasis on content and account for 35% of your final grade. While responses are relatively informal, I expect proofreading and attention to detail at the graduate level and will not accept papers with more than 3 careless mistakes per page.

The third component of your course grade (20%) is the Great Case Paper and Handout due at the start of class on 22-Feb. For this assignment, you will select an article, chapter, book, monograph or other text-based example that represents the best of applied anthropology. Drawing on your course resources, you will demonstrate that your case is (1) applied anthropology and (2) good. In doing so, it is important for you develop your own explicit list of criteria for inclusion and greatness. You will write: (1) a concise paper (4 pages) in which you briefly summarize your case and then evaluate its merits as exemplary applied anthropology and (2) a class handout consisting of the bibliographic reference, an abstract, and your criteria for great applied anthropology.

The fourth and final grading component (30%) will be a 10-page paper on a topic of your choice, related to the existing course readings. Topics should be formulated and approved no later than 1-March. Paper submission may occur at any point in the semester with an absolute deadline of 26-April. Students
will be asked to take the lead in facilitating class discussion on the date that coincides with their chosen topic. While not required, you are strongly encouraged to prepare a draft of your paper for review during this class session.

There are no examinations. To reiterate, the final course grade will be computed as follows:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage of Final Grade</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Class Participation and Question Submission</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Response Paper Set</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Great Case Paper (due 22-Feb)</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Writing Assignment</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>100</td>
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Incomplete grades (I) are granted when, due to circumstances beyond the control of the student, only a small portion of the required work remains undone and the student is otherwise passing the course. An “I” is not simply an extension, and students seeking an “I” grade will be required to sign a contract, specifying the work to be completed and the deadline for completion. Arrangements must be made prior to the last week of class and are completely at the discretion of the instructor.

Course Policies

1. **Accommodations:** Any student who feels s/he may need an accommodation because of a disability should contact me privately during the first week of class to discuss specific needs. Each such student must bring a current letter from the Office of Disability Services (ODS). This is a prerequisite for receiving accommodations (for student responsibilities, see [http://www.ods.ua.edu/students/student%20responsibilities.htm](http://www.ods.ua.edu/students/student%20responsibilities.htm)).

2. **Bad Behavior:** Students are required to read the university’s academic dishonesty policy in the catalog or on the Web at [http://catalogs.ua.edu/catalog08/502000.html#100350](http://catalogs.ua.edu/catalog08/502000.html#100350). This policy will be honored and your enrollment in the course assumes agreement with said policy and the academic honor code. Cheating will not be tolerated. This includes plagiarism, misrepresentation, and falsification. Students suspected of these activities will be reported to the divisional academic misconduct monitor as outlined in the Academic Misconduct Disciplinary Policy in the Student Affairs Handbook. Be advised that I will push for the maximum penalty – indefinite suspension from the university.

3. **Late Work:** You will lose a letter grade for each week a paper is late unless you have a documented medical or legal emergency. This applies to the Great Case Paper and Final Writing assignment. Response papers will not be accepted after the fact for any reason.

4. **Unclaimed Graded Papers:** These will be kept for the remainder of the academic year and then recycled. These papers can be returned either in person or by mail if a stamped, self-addressed envelope large enough for the paper is provided. Grades will not be discussed over the phone.
Course Reference List:


