Economic Anthropology

ANT 4266/ANG 5266
Section 10676
Fall 2018

Tuesdays 4th period, Thursdays 4th-5th periods
Turlington 2346

Instructor: Dr. Peter Collings
Office: B-135 Turlington Hall
Phone: 392-2253x239
Email: pcollings@ufl.edu

Office Hours: Tuesdays 11:30-1 & by appointment

Course Overview and Objectives

Economic Anthropology explores the models and methods anthropologists use to study economic behavior – the production, distribution, and consumption of goods and services – in both subsistence and market economies. This course examines the contributions of neo-classical economics, political economy, and development theory to the study of economic behavior and how anthropologists’ understanding of economy differs from that of economics. We will explore case studies from the ethnographic literature and, debate different theoretical views about economic behavior, and discuss current trends in the world economy and discuss their effects on peoples in peasant and tribal societies.

The objectives of this course include the following:

- Discussing basic terms and concepts associated with how anthropologists examine economics and the relationship between economy and culture.
- Examining and analyzing the differences between Economics and Economic Anthropology.
- Developing skills in the research methods commonly employed in Economic Anthropology.
- Improving abilities in communication through written, oral, and visual methods.
- Applying lessons from the study of economic anthropology to contemporary economic problems.

Textbooks and Required Reading

There are three required textbooks for the course:


Additional reading will be distributed as .pdf files via Elearning

Exams and Grading

There are two exams for this course – a mid-term and a final. Both exams will be in essay format, with questions distributed one week prior and essays submitted electronically. Each exam will be worth 100 points.
Students are also required to write a term paper during the semester. For undergraduates: the paper is expected to be between 14-16 pages, typed and double-spaced, on a topic of your choice but approved ahead of time. Detailed directions are available on ELearning. To facilitate your paper writing, students are expected to submit a brief proposal, outlining the paper topic and key sources, by September 13. For graduate students, plan on a paper of manuscript length, which is approximately 8000 words, not including the bibliography. The term paper is worth 100 points. Graduate students will also present their papers, conference style, during the last three class meetings. Details and schedule TBA.

Because of the discussion-oriented nature of the class, students will be graded on the quality of class participation. Participation is a constructive activity, which means that you must not only have interesting and useful things to contribute to the discussion but also remain sensitive to others in the classroom. Being disrespectful of other opinions or hogging the spotlight are just as bad as not saying anything. Your participation grade is worth 50 points. You should note that 50 points is more than enough to make for a whole letter grade in this class, so this is not a trivial component of the course.

In summary, the grade breakdown for the course looks like the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mid Term Exam</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Term Paper</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Totals</td>
<td>350</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Points correspond to grades as follows:

A=315+, A-=308, B+=301, B=280, B-=273, C+=266, C=245, C-=238, D=210, E=<210

**There is no extra credit offered for this course.**

**Course Policies**

**Electronics.** Cell phones must be turned off during class. If you insist on a laptop (not entirely necessary, as I will post any power points I might use), social media sites must be off. There is a significant body of research demonstrating that students who use laptops during class do significantly worse than students who do not.

**Academic Honesty.** Unless it is specifically connected to assigned collaborative work, all work should be individual. Evidence of collusion (working with someone not connected to the class or assignment), plagiarism (use of someone else’s published or unpublished words or design without acknowledgment) or multiple submissions (submitting the same work for different courses) will lead to the Department’s and the University’s procedures for dealing with academic dishonesty. All students are expected to honor their commitment to the [University’s Honor Code](#).

**Accommodation for Students with Disabilities.** Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Disability Resource Center. The DRC will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the Instructor when requesting accommodation. **Requests must be made by August 31.**

**UF Counseling Services.** Resources are available on-campus for students having personal problems or lacking clear career and academic goals that interfere with their academic performance. These resources include:

1. [University Counseling and Wellness Center](#), 3190 Radio Road, 392-1575. Personal, career, and emergency counseling
2. [Career Resource Center](#), Reitz Union, 392-1601, Career development assistance and counseling
3. [Writing Studio](#), 302 Tigert Hall, 846-1138. Writing assistance, study skills, test preparation
**Course Evaluations.** Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing online evaluations. Evaluations are typically open during the last 2-3 weeks of the semester, but students will be notified of specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are also available to students.

**Course Outline**

The following course outline is approximate. We may spend more (or less) time on specific topics as class interest dictates. Due dates, however, will occur as scheduled and are not subject to change.

**Important Dates:**
- September 13: Term Paper Proposals due
- October 9: First Exam due
- November 22: Term Paper due
- December 13: Second Exam due

**August 28-30:** Introduction and Orientation to Economic Anthropology.
  - Readings: Wilk & Cligget 1&2, Sahlins 1988, Polanyi 1957

**September 4-6:** Hunter-Gatherers

**September 11-13:** Pastoralists and Horticulturalists.

**Paper Proposals Due September 13**

**September 18-20:** Exchange Systems.
  - Readings: Mauss (all), Wilk & Cligget, ch. 6

**September 25-27:** Pre-Capitalist Markets.

**October 2-4:** Social, Moral, or Political Economies
  - Readings: Wilk & Cligget Chs. 3,4,5

**First Exam Due October 9**

**October 9-11:** Capitalism: What is it?
  - Readings: Roseberry 1978; Marx 1959, Littlefield 1978

**First Exam Due October 9**

**October 16-18:** Marx and Anthropology

**October 23-25:** Industrial Revolution
  - Readings: Mintz (all)

**October 30-November 1:** Commodities and Labor
  - Readings: Vasquez-Leon 2010, Roseberry 1996, Reichman 2018

**November 6-8:** Industrial Agriculture
November 13-15: Women, Economy, Informal Economy

November 27-29, December 4: Student Conference Presentations

Second Exam Due December 13

List of Readings in .pdf format:


