



Economic Anthropology 620.15

Mondays and Wednesdays, 11:30-1:18
 BO 0318

Jeffrey H. Cohen

Office Hours: Mondays and Wednesday 2:00-3:00, Tuesday and Thursday 1:30-2:30 and by appointment

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This course explores the principles and history of economic analysis in anthropology. In particular we examine systems of production, consumption, and distribution in contemporary and prehistoric society. Included in the course are discussions of economic theory, political economy, world systems theory, and development. The class also includes a field work experiment in which you will follow friends as they shop to test assumptions concerning consumption in American society.

Texts:

1. Gracia Clark. 2003. Gender at Work in Economic Life. AltaMira Press.
2. Richard Wilk, 1996. Economies and Cultures: Foundations of Economic Anthropology. Westview press. Or the recently published 2nd edition.
3. Readings available on Carmen and listed in the schedule below.

Assignments:

1. You are expected to have readings done on time and be prepared to discuss issues in class.
2. There are two quizzes and a final in this course. The quizzes will consist of essays and short answer questions covering course materials. A final exam on Thursday, March 15th is cumulative.
3. You will write a paper that documents your test of Daniel Miller's theory of shopping (to be explained).
4. You will design a web site/poster for a culture group/subject in economic anthropology.

Grades:

2 Quizzes (50 points each)	100 points
Paper on Shopping	25 points
Final Poster	25 points
Final exam	100 points
Total	250 points

Grading follows a standard scale: A=95% of points and above, A-=90%-94.9%, B+=87.9-89.9%, etc.

Class attendance is a responsibility of you the student and a necessary part of your education. The only valid reason for missing class is illness, personal/family emergencies, religious holidays and University-sanctioned activities. You should recognize that excessive absenteeism, even due

to valid reasons, can negatively impact your performance in class and your final grade (specifically, your final letter grade will be reduced if you miss more than two class sessions).

Handouts: Handouts used in this course are copyrighted. Handouts are all materials generated for this class which include but are not limited to syllabi, web pages, quizzes, exams, in class materials and review sheets. These materials are copyrighted and you do not have the right to copy them unless I grant you permission.

Plagiarism: As commonly defined, plagiarism consists of passing off as one's own the ideas, words, writings, etc., which belong to another. In accordance with this definition, you are committing plagiarism if you copy the work of another person and turn it in as your own, even if you should have the permission of that person. Plagiarism is one of the worst academic sins, for the plagiarist destroys the trust among colleagues without which research cannot be safely communicated.

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact Disability Services at 292-3307.

	Date	Topic	Readings	Assignments
1	1/3	What is economic anthropology	Wilk ch 1	
2	1/8-10	Human nature and political economy	Wilk ch 2-3	
3	1/17	Production and consumption	Wilk ch 4-6	Turn in topic for final paper, pass out assignment on shopping
4	1/22-24	“Stone Age” Economics	Sahlins (Carmen)	Quiz #1
5	1/29-31	Shopping	Shechter (Carmen)	
6	2/5-7	Reciprocity and exchange	Bohannon (Carmen)	Discussion of shopping projects
7	2/12-14	Modernity	Blim (Carmen)	Quiz #2
8	2/19-21	Gender and Economics	Clark-pts I & II	Projects on Shopping due
9	2/26-28	Gender and Economics	Clark-pts III & IV	
10	3/5-7	Poster presentations		Posters due for in class discussion

Final Exam-Thursday, March 15th 11:30-1:18

Graduate requirements:

There are two graduate requirements in addition to the regular requirements for this course.

1. You will do a series of reviews (see below).
2. You will complete a research paper (aprox. 20 pages) on a subject in economic anthropology. Your paper should relate to your poster for class. We can work out subjects etc as necessary.

REVIEWS:

Reviews of sections 1 & 2 are due with Quiz #1 in class.

Reviews of sections 3 & 4 are due with Quiz #2 in class.

Reviews of sections 5 & 6 are due in the last week of class.

Review #1-Defining economic systems and economic anthropology, review five the items below

1. M. Nash, 1966. The meaning and scope of economic anthropology. In, *Primitive and Peasant Economic Systems*. San Francisco, Chandler Pub. Co. [HC59.7 .N3](#)
2. G. Dalton, Primitive Money, *American Anthropologist*, vol. 67, #1 (1965): 44-65
3. S. Cook, 1973. Economic anthropology: problems in theory, method and analysis. In, *Handbook of Social and Cultural Anthropology*. Chicago, Rand McNally and Company [GN4 .H65](#)
4. H. Schneider, 1975. *Economic Man: the anthropology of economics*. New York, Free Press. [GN489 .S36](#) (read chapter 1)
5. R. Frankenburg, 1967. Economic anthropology: one anthropologist's view. In, *Themes in Economic anthropology*. London, Tavistock Publications [GN489 .T5](#)
6. T. Earle, 2000. Archaeology, property, and prehistory. *Annual Review of Anthropology* Volume 29, Page 39-60 (N1 .A57)
7. J.I. Prattis, 1987. Alternative views of economy in economic anthropology. In, *Beyond the New Economic Anthropology*. Basingstoke : Macmillan. [GN448 .B49 1987](#)

Review #2-Marxism, read Wolf and three of the following:

1. E. Wolf, 1982. *Europe and the people without history*. Berkeley: University of California Press. chapter 1. [GN25 .C37 1992](#)

2. S. Plattner, 1989. Marxism. In, *Economic Anthropology*. Stanford: Stanford University Press. [GN448.2 .F67](#)
3. A chapter from Littlefield and Gates, 1991. Marxist approaches in economic anthropology. Lanham: University Press of America [GN448 .M38 1991](#)
4. K. Hart. 1983. The Contributions of Marxism to Economic Anthropology. In, *Economic Anthropology, Topics and Theories*. Lanham: University Press of America.
5. W. Roseberry. 1997. Marx and Anthropology. *Annual Review of Anthropology*, volume 26: 25-46. GN1 .A57

Review #3-Exchange theory, read Mauss/Godelier and then pick three more to review.

1. B. Malinowski, 1967. Kula. In, *Tribal and peasant economies; readings in economic anthropology*. Garden City, N.Y., American Museum of Natural History. [GN489 .D3](#)
2. M. Sahlins. 1972, *Stone Age Economics*, Chicago, Aldine-Atherton. chapter 5. [GN489 .S24](#)
3. M. Mauss, 1990. *The Gift* (Translated by Halls). New York: W.W. Norton [GT3040 .M381 1990 B](#). Then read M. Godelier, 2004. What Mauss did not say: Things you give, things you sell, and things that must be kept. In, *Values and Valuables: From the Sacred to the Symbolic*. Walnut Creek: Altamira Press. [GN448 .V35 2004](#)
4. A. Smart, 1993. Gifts, Bribes and Guanzi. In *Cultural Anthropology*, vol. 8(#3): 388-408.
5. R. Beals, 1970. Gifting, Reciprocity, Savings and Credit in Peasant Oaxaca. *Southwestern Journal of Anthropology*, vol. 26 (#3):231-241.
6. M. Smith. 2004. The Archaeology of Ancient State Economies. *Annual Review of Anthropology*. Volume 33, Page 73-102

Review #4-Markets, Review *Markets and Marketing* chapters and chose 2 in addition.

1. S. Plattner, 1989, Economic behavior in markets. In, *Economic Anthropology*
2. P. Bohannon, 1959. The impact of money on an African subsistence economy. In, *Tribal and Peasant Economies*.
3. C. Smith, 1976. Regional economic systems. In, *Regional Analysis*. New York: Academic Press [HF1413 .R428](#)

4. M. Saul, 1987. The organization of a West African grain market. *American Anthropologist*, vol 89 (#1): 74-95.
5. From the 1985 Society for Economic Anthropology volume *Markets and Marketing*, edited by S. Plattner, pick two of the following chapters: Skinner, Acheson, Dannhaeuser, Trager, Berdan, Blanton. [GN448 .S63 1984](#)

Review #5-households and the economy-read two of the following selections.

1. Two articles from Netting, Wilk and Arnould, 1983, *Households : comparative and historical studies of the domestic group*. Berkeley: University of California Press [HQ7 .H68 1984](#)
2. Chapter 2 from R. Netting, 1993. *Smallholders, householders: farm families and the ecology of intensive, sustainable agriculture*. Stanford: Stanford University Press. [GN407.4 .N48 1993](#)
3. J. Hendon. 1996. Archaeological approaches to the organization of domestic labor. *Annual Review of Anthropology*. Volume 25, Page 45-61.

Review #6, find three additional articles on your own and that interest you, check titles with me please. These articles ideally will relate to your final paper and poster.