

Montclair State University
Department of Anthropology

ANTH 140: Nonwestern Contributions to the Western World**Spring 2006**

Richard W. Franke

Professor of Anthropology

Section 01 WF 10:00–11:15 DI-286

Section 02 W 11:30–12:45 in DI-286 and F 11:30–12:45 DI-181

This course was developed as the 1995–96 University Distinguished Professor Course

The course syllabus is on line at: <http://chss.montclair.edu/anthro/ANTH140spring2006.htm>

Suggested supplementary readings – all are optional – for this course are listed on line at:

<http://chss.montclair.edu/anthro/ANTH140supplementaryreadings.htm>

Suggested website links relevant to most topics in the course are available on line at:

<http://chss.montclair.edu/anthro/ANTH140links.htm>

This course fulfills both the **Nonwestern Cultural Perspectives Requirement and Multicultural Awareness Requirement**

Why This Course?

I have been thinking about this subject for many years. As an undergraduate, I was struck by the essay by anthropologist Ralph Linton, “One Hundred Percent American,” in which he surveys the daily routine of a middle class American who uses products invented from around the world without ever recognizing whence they came. Over the years, I have gradually accumulated a longer list of the non-US and Nonwestern elements in our lives and culture. I would like to introduce students to these many contributions. Today, a sufficient literature exists to survey the field.

The Concept of “Nonwestern”

In anthropology, nonwestern cultures have traditionally been defined as belonging to people who speak a language outside the Indo-European family. For this course, I propose to expand the definition to the common folk-belief in US culture that it refers to cultures outside the main Judeo-Christian-Greek-European historical sequence. Thus, for purposes of this course, Arabic and Islamic cultures will be considered nonwestern along with those so defined by anthropology.

Assigned Readings—all should be purchased unless otherwise noted

Linton, Ralph. 1936. One hundred percent American. Appears in several readers. [On e-reserve at Sprague Library.](#)

Franke, Richard W. 1987. Power, class and traditional knowledge in Sahel food production. In I. L. Markovitz, ed. *Studies in Power and Class in Africa*. New York: Oxford University Press. Pages 257–285. [On e-reserve at Sprague Library.](#)

**The Temple,
Weatherford,
and
Zaslavsky
books must
be
purchased.**

Temple, Robert. 2002. *The Genius of China: 3,000 Years of Science, Discovery and Invention*. London: Prion.

Weatherford, Jack. 1988. *Indian Givers: How the Indians of the Americas Transformed the World*. New York: Fawcett Columbine.

Zaslavsky, Claudia. 1990. *Africa Counts: Number and Pattern in African Culture*. Brooklyn, New York: Lawrence Hill Books.

Course Requirements and Grading Policy

Grades will be based on 3 exams, class attendance, and participation.

Attendance and participation	20 points
Midterm 1 February 17	25
Midterm 2 March 31	25
Final Exam (Tuesday May 9)	30
Total	100

Course points total and letter grades are shown in the column to the right →

94–100	A
90–93	A-
87–89	B+
83–86	B
80–82	B-
77–79	C+
73–76	C
70–72	C-
67–69	D+
64–66	D
60–63	D-
59 and below	F

The 3 exams include 2 midterms each worth 25 points and a final worth 30 points. The final will include questions from the last section of the course and some extra credit questions from all sections of the course. Some points on the exams may be given out as writing assignments in class or between classes.

Office Hours:

Come and discuss issues in the course or any materials you do not understand. My office is Dickson Hall 128, ext. 4133. Email: franker@mail.montclair.edu. You can reach me:

Wednesday 9:15–10:00 am
Thursday 4:30–5:30 pm
Friday 9:15–10:00 am

...or other times at your request. I am on campus many hours and can be available beyond the official office times listed at left.

TOPICS AND READING ASSIGNMENTS

Date	Topic
Jan 18	Introduction: Why This Course? The Concepts of Western and Nonwestern
Jan 20	Ethnocentrism—What It Is and Why Anthropologists Reject It. READING: Linton. One Hundred Percent American. On e-reserve. Racism—the Genetic Version of Ethnocentrism and Why Anthropologists Reject It Optional Readings: A list of optional readings for all topics in this course are available on line at: http://chss.montclair.edu/anthro/ANTH140supplementaryreadings.htm
Jan 25 Economy	Indian Silver and Gold on the World Market: How Native Americans Fueled the Modern READING: Weatherford, chapters 1–2, pages 1–38.
Jan 27	Indian Contributions to Industrial Development READING: Weatherford, chapter 3, pages 39-58.
Feb 1	The Foods Native Americans Gave Us READING: Weatherford, chapters 4 and 6, pages 59–78 and 99–116.
Each exam will include multiple choice and essay questions. Some essays will be given out as advance study questions. You must write all essays in the blue examination books.	Feb 3 VIDEO— <i>The Columbian Exchange</i> [Sprague Library #2324, Part 6]
	Feb 8 Farming Technology from the Indians READING: Weatherford, chapter 5, pages 79–98.
	Feb 10 Native American Medicines That Still Save Our Lives or Ease Our Pain READING: Weatherford, chapters 10 and 11, pages 175–216.
	Feb 15 The Native American Contribution to American Democracy: a Debate READING: Weatherford, chapters 7–9, pages 117–174.
Feb 17	FIRST EXAMINATION
Feb 22	Peru and the Incas—Mathematical and Scientific Achievements

READING: Weatherford, chapters 12–14, pages 217–255.

Feb 24 VIDEO—*Irrigation in Ancient Peru*
SLIDES—Inca Technology

March 1 Pre-Inca Achievements; The Lines at Nazca;
Maya Astronomy and Mathematics

March 3 The Non-European Origins of Writing

March 8 Egypt: The Geographical and Historical Background
Video: *Ancient Egypt* [Sprague Video No. 5267]

March 10 Scientific and Architectural, and Mathematical Achievements of Ancient Egypt
The Pyramids—Real Ancient Mysteries

READING: Zaslavsky, chapters 1–2, pages 1–28

March 13 to 17 SPRING VACATION

March 22 Egyptian Contributions? The Black Athena Debate
VIDEO: *Black Athena* [Sprague Library #2389]

March 24 The Black Athena Debate—Continued

March 29 VIDEO: *The Lost City of Zimbabwe* [Sprague Library #3034]

March 31 SECOND EXAMINATION

April 5 Serer Ecology—How to Preserve the Environment
Fulani Medicine and the Origins of Vaccination
Scientific knowledge and political organization in the West African empires of Ghana, Songhay, and Mali.

READING: Franke, Richard W. 1987. Power, class and traditional knowledge. In Sahel food production. In I. L. Markovitz, ed. *Studies in Power and Class in Africa*. New York: Oxford University Press. Pages 257–85. [On e-reserve.](#)

April 7 African Influences on American English

April 12 African Gifts to Western Music:

TAPE: Hear Africa's sounds in Debussy, Dvořák, Blues, and Rock

April 14 Good Friday – NO CLASS

April 19 African Mathematics: Some of the Earliest Known Human Number Systems

READING: Zaslavsky, chapters 3–12, pages 29–151

April 19 African Architecture and Design

READING: Zaslavsky, chapters 13–14, pages 155–196

Powerpoint Presentation: Black Rice – How Africans Taught European Settlers in North America to grow the first plantation crop.

April 21 Powerpoint Presentation: Coffee: An Afro-Arab Contribution to the World

April 26 VIDEO: *Rise of the Dragon: The Genius That Was China* [#2282, Part 1]

Chinese Agricultural, Engineering, and Industrial Achievements

READING: Temple, Introduction and Parts 1, 2, and 3; pages 6–13, 15–73.

April 28 Chinese Mathematical Achievements and Household Inventions

READING: Temple, Parts 4 and 6; pages 75–121 and 139–147.

May 2 Chinese Medicine, Transportation, and Military Technology

READING: Temple, Parts 5, 9, and 11: pages 123–137, 173–198, and 215–248

Note that May 2 is a Tuesday. This particular Tuesday has been designated by the University as a Friday class day. Tuesday, May 2, is the last class day for Anth140 in spring 2004.

May 9 Final Examinations

Section 01 [10:00–11:15] has exam at 10:15 am–12:15 pm in DI-286

Section 02 [11:30–12:45] has exam at 1:00pm–3:00 pm in DI-286

Classroom Courtesy
Professor Richard W. Franke

By observing the following rules you will help me—the instructor—to provide a better and more interesting course. You will also help yourself and your fellow students to achieve better concentration and therefore to get better grades. I do not curve, so the more you concentrate, the more you learn, and the better your grade, no matter how other students do. So, **please**—

1. Be in your seat with your notebook open and your pen or pencil ready when the class starts.
2. Do not start packing your materials until class is actually over.
3. **Do not eat or drink during class.**
4. **Turn off all cell phones and pagers.**
5. Do not leave the room during class unless you plan to stay out for the period. Use the toilet and the drinking fountain before or after class.
6. Do not whisper, rattle papers, or otherwise distract your fellow students during class, especially during videos or films. If you have seen the film previously and are bored, either try to see something new in it, or leave.
7. Do not ask to discuss your grade or other matters at the beginning of class unless you feel your concerns are relevant to the entire class. In that case, please tell me you feel a public discussion is needed. Otherwise, use my office hours or make an appointment to see me privately.
8. Let me know if special circumstances make it hard for you to follow any of these rules.

If you wish to read my advice about how to study more effectively, or wish to see examples of the kinds of questions typically found on exams for this course, take a look at:

Franke, Richard W. 1998. *The Anthropology Student Guide to Better Grades*. Department of Anthropology. Third edition. [<http://chss2.montclair.edu/anthropology/bettergrades.htm>]

To access e-reserves at Sprague: <http://library.montclair.edu>

1. Click on the electronic reserves page at the top of the page. This takes you to: <http://ereserves.montclair.edu/eres/>
2. Select the course by course number/name, by department, or by instructor
3. Click on the course number and click “accept” on the copyright button.
4. Enter the password: franker
5. Select the electronic document you wish to view.