

**American University – Central Asia**  
**DEPARTMENT OF ANTHROPOLOGY COURSE SYLLABUS**

**ECONOMIC ANTHROPOLOGY**  
**ANTH-390/02506**

**Welcome to Spring 2011 !**  
**T/TH 10:50 a. m. – 12:05 p.m.**

**Instructor:** Zemfira Inogamova  
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**Phone:** 0(312) 663309 \*299

**Office hours:** By appointment.

**COURSE DESCRIPTION & OBJECTIVES:**

In this course we will study the means by which goods are produced, distributed, and consumed in the context of the total culture of particular societies. During the course, we will also look at theoretical principles that were derived from the study of capitalist market economies that have limited applicability to economic systems in societies that are not industrialized and where people do not produce and exchange goods for private profit. Moreover we will discuss some examples of non-state societies, where economic sphere of behavior is not separate from the social, religious, or political spheres.

**EVALUATION:**

Your scores and grades will be posted on your E-course but I will not indicate your names so please refer to your ID numbers.

**Evaluation will be based on your following activities during the course:**

**1). Attendance/Participation during the classes (20%):**

Participation does not mean your attendance during the classes. Participation means your active participation during the class discussions, which will play an important role in your final grade for the whole course. Please note that it is 20% out of your total 100%. During the class your participation will be evaluated in points and later summed up into percentages.

**2). Reflection papers (30%)-each 10%:**

During your course you will write 3 reflection papers. Your reflection papers will be written on an assigned piece of reading, assigned questions, a lecture or an experience, such as participant observation. Reflection paper cites your reactions, feelings and analysis of an experience in a more personal way than in a formal research or analytical essay. (Please see handouts on how to write your reflection paper, please note that reflection paper is not a summary of your reading). Your reflection papers can be minimum 4 pages long and maximum 6, double spaced.

**3). Ethnographic projects (EP) (30%):**

In the framework of this particular course, you will be given an opportunity to conduct ethnographic research work/participant observation to study and research certain issue or topic. As for the topics for your ethnographic projects, you will be given list of topics that you can choose from. You can also choose your own topic.

**4). Final Exam (20%):**

For your Final Exam you will be given the list of essay and concept questions that will be based on the themes/readings/movies that we had throughout the course. Grading of your Final Exam will be equal to 20% out of 100%.

**Grading scale:**

A=100%-95%

A-=94%-90%

B+=89%-87%

B=86%-83%

B-=82%-80%

C+=79%-77%

C=76%-73%

C-=72%-70%

D+=69%-67%

D=66%-63%

D-=62%-60%

F=59% and less, plagiarism, cheating, self-plagiarism, copying the works of your course mates

**Deadlines**

Dear participants of the course, please submit your written assignments/reflection papers to the office manager of the Anthropology Department before the deadline. The time of your submission will be recorded by Jumagul Beketaeva and confirmed by your signature. The latest possible time of submission is before the beginning of the class. If you were late to submit your assignment then your final grade for the assignment will be reduced for 10 points. (For example, if your assignment equals to 20% then 10 points out of 20 % will be reduced to 10%. Deadlines can only be extended upon prior permission request due to medical reasons. Only those late papers with valid or legitimate confirming documents/reasons will be accepted although please note that it will influence to your final grade for the assignment.

Also we will use AUCA Electronic Course System offered by AUCA Information Resources & Technology for your convenience.

**ACADEMIC HONESTY & PLAGIARISM:**

I expect you to do your own work in accordance with the Code of Conduct/Academic Honesty of AUCA. It should go without saying that cheating, copying the works of your course mates, plagiarism and self-plagiarism cannot be tolerated in any form in your scholarly work, but it will be stated for your information that any exam, assignment or paper that contains plagiarized material or cheating will receive a grade of zero, and may possibly be grounds for flunking the class. Cheating is the use of unauthorized sources during exams such as books, student’s notes, cellular phones, computers, notes, pieces of paper with written information on it, etc. If several students will have identical written works or identical paragraphs, then all of them will fail an assignment. Please be sure you understand what constitutes plagiarism and what are acceptable forms of citing published (and unpublished) material. For an explanation of how to properly cite sources see: (MLA format of citing the sources, should you have any questions on how to use MLA format please attempt to meet the tutors from the AUCA Writing Center. Please refer to your handouts about AUCA Writing Center).

**COURTESY IN CLASS & RITUALS:**

Please refrain from being late to classes because this is distracting and disrespectful to all.

## **Attendance**

Please note that attendance is required. Attendance will be checked in the beginning of each class period. If you are late it will disturb class and your course mates. Please **REFRAIN** from being late! Also please use the toilets before you come to the class and be ready to fully participate in the class.

If you got sick, you have to notify an instructor or Jumagul Beketaeva in advance (before the class), and later submit an official medical document (“spravka”) from a physician, especially if you are scheduled to make a class presentation. If you fail to submit medical document it will be equal to missing the class. **Five unexcused absences** will result in “X” for the whole course.

**Cell phones/wireless connection:** While I recognize that cell phone technology has become a particularly important social resource in our everyday lives, I am requested that if you carry a cell phone (or beeper), PLEASE keep the ringer/buzzer “off” while you are in class. No wireless web connections during the class, please.

## **Food:**

You are welcome to bring something to drink or eat into the classroom, but please,

## **CLEAN UP AFTER YOURSELF!**

## **Missing an assignment:**

Please always make careful backups of your computer work. Technical problems are not a sufficient excuse for missing an assignment or failing to meet the deadlines. Make use of the server storage space that AUCA provides you or you can simply email backup copies to yourself via an extra email account such as Gmail or Yahoo.

## **Reduce, reuse, and recycle:**

Feel free to double-side or re-use one side on any of your written assignments to save paper. Please note that it is your responsibility to submit your printed work. Thank you.

## **Office hours:**

-A sign up sheet with designated times (for those of you who plan ahead and/or want to reserve a longer time slot with me).

-Drop by times for shorter inquiries and conversations. I am also always available right after class for questions. Please only use email for emergencies or quick clarifications and come to my office hours for any substantive questions.

## **COURSE MATERIALS:**

Assigned articles and book chapters will be copied for you. Electronic articles, documentaries and other materials can also be downloaded using the electronic library resources at AUCA.

**The main reader: “Economic Anthropology”, reader comprised by Ruslan Rahimov.**

(You will also be given hand outs of the articles outside of the class reader as well)

## **ARTICLES:**

- James G. Carrier, ***A Handbook of Economic Anthropology***, Published by Edward Elgar Publishing Limited, UK
- Malinowski, B. 1922. ***Argonauts of the Western Pacific***. London: Routledge & Kegan Paul.
- Mauss, M. 1990 (1925). ***The gift: the form and reason for exchange in archaic societies***. London: Routledge.
- Polanyi, K. 1944. ***The great transformation: the political and economic origins of our time***. New York: Holt, Rinehart & Winston.
- Sahlins, M. 1972. ***Stone age economics***. Chicago: Aldine-Atherton, Inc.

### **Week 1**

- What is economic anthropology?
- Bronislaw Malinowski - "Exchange, The Essentials of Kula in Trobriand islands".
- Documentaries (reproduction) film on the topic.

### **Week 2**

- The place of Gift in economic anthropology
- Marcel Mauss- "The gift and especially the obligation to return it"/ "Potlatch"
- Documentaries on the topic.

### **Week 3**

- Marshall Sahlins - *Stone age economics*
- Scott Cook – "A critical review of Marshall Sahlins's Stone Age Economics"

### **Week 4**

- Economics & Development/Holistic Economics/Holistic perspective in Anthropology
- Manfred Max-Neef – "Human Scale Development"
- Documentaries – personal interviews with Manfred Max-Neef.
- Case study – Development mini-project "My Prosperous Farm" (Maintaining Resilience)

### **Week 5**

- Formalist Approach in Economic Anthropology
- Raymond Firth – "The Study of Primitive Economics"
- Documentary – personal interview with Raymond Firth

### **Week 6**

- Substantivist Approach in Economic Anthropology
- Karl Polanyi, "The great transformation"
- Barry L. Isaac – "Karl Polanyi"

### **Week 7**

- Guest Lecture by Ruslan Rahimov
- Economies of ethnicities: "Pastoral production in Kyrgyzstan and Niger"

### **Week 8**

- Culturalist Approach in Economic Anthropology
- Stephen Gudeman – Anthropology Today

### **Week 9**

- Critics of Formalism, Substantivism & Culturalism
- Class discussions/class presentation

### **Week 10**

- Economic Systems
- Haviland, Prins, Walrath, McBride – “Cultural Anthropology, The Human Challenge, 2008”

### **Week 11**

- “Customary Economics in Amanbaev village among farmers as a part of bean planting culture, Kyrgyzstan”
- Holistic Research Approach

### **Week 12**

- Holistic Economics / Transformative Development
- Benjamin Hanbury (MSc)

### **Week 13**

- GIZ-German International Cooperation
- Jonathon Hornbrook-Program Director of Support to Regional Economic Cooperation in Central Asia

### **Week 14**

- UNDP - United Nations Development Program
- Daniele Gelz-Project Manager-Poverty Reduction Practice

### **Week 15**

- Energy Efficiency Research Project
- David Gullette-University of Central Asia

#### **FINAL COMMENTS:**

If you run into problems during the semester that affect your attendance or coursework, please be sure to let me know – exceptions can always be made for illness and emergencies. It is very important to notify me in advance if at all possible – I will be less sympathetic to excuses made after the fact. Feel free to call to Anthropology Department or e-mail me at any time, and talk to me before or after class, or during my office hours.

This syllabus dynamic: It may be updated at any time during the course. Please check it occasionally to see that you have a current version. Students are responsible for keeping current with the syllabus and the class.