

**ANT 3131**  
**Economic Anthropology (3cr.)**

Professor: Fatemeh Givechian  
Tuesday: 10:00-11:30  
Thursday: 08:30-10:00  
Classroom: MRT 250  
Tel: 613-562-5800, extension 1484  
Email: fgivechian@yahoo.com

Winter: 2008  
Office: DMS 8120  
Office hours:  
Thursday: 12:00-14:00  
and by appointment

**Official course description:** Analysis of economic systems in such societies as hunting and gathering, pastoral, horticultural and agricultural ones. Ecological factors which influence subsistence activities in human societies. Relations between economic and social systems.

**Objectives:** Throughout history, economy has been a fundamental human enterprise, socially constructed through complex organizations, power, cultural beliefs and values, the wage system, production, distribution, consumption, management ideologies, and technology. As a result of multi-dimensional aspects of “economy,” various issues will be discussed in the course. In addition to the objectives stated in the official course description, the course is also aimed to help students to identify terminology, trends, categories, and structures related to economic anthropology, and to apply ideas and concepts of this sub-discipline of socio-cultural anthropology into everyday experiences.

**Required readings will include a textbook and some articles:**

The following text is available for purchase from Benjamin Books, 122 Osgoode Street, Tel.: 613-232-7495.

Fredric L. Pryor. 2005. *Economic Systems of Foraging, Agricultural, and Industrial Societies*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. (Hereafter Pryor)

There are also some articles on reserve at the Morisset Library, University of Ottawa. Please read those articles based on the course schedule.

**Student Responsibilities and Evaluation**

To complete the course, students have the following responsibilities:

- |   |        |
|---|--------|
| (1) Participation in the class and quizzes    | (15 %) |
| (2) Research project, due April 3, 2008       | (20 %) |
| (3) Mid-term examination, February 12, 2008   | (25 %) |
| (4) Final examination, during the exam period | (40 %) |

- There are two choices for the research project. The student can choose to do fieldwork and study one (or two) aspect (s) related to economic anthropology based on his/her choice. Methodology and details of the research will be discussed in the class (note the course content, week 2). Or the student can choose to do a critical review of two supplementary texts (written by different authors) on

one aspect related to economic anthropology. The critical review contains a short description of each text, comparing similarities and differences in theories and methodologies of the texts, in addition to pointing out positive and negative aspects of each study. The fieldwork report or the critical review must be 7-10 pages, typed (double-spaced) with the spelling and grammar checked. It should also include the bibliography.

- The examinations will cover various concepts from the lectures and materials in the assigned readings, as well as highlights from discussions and movies.
- The criteria for the evaluation of answers to examination questions and the research project are the relevance of the topic to “economic anthropology”, quality of the argument and analysis, coherence and clarity of the content, and quality of the presentation. The due date for submitting the research project is April 3rd, 2008. Late papers will be penalized by 1% of the marks for the research project for each working day. Please note that the submission of papers through e-mail is not accepted.

### Course Schedule

#### Week 1 (January 8 & 10) **Orientation and introduction**

Anthropology, socio-cultural anthropology, economic anthropology  
Definition of basic concepts

#### Week 2 (January 15 & 17) **Methodology, basic approaches in economic anthropology**

##### **Formalist-substantivist debate**

Pryor, “Introduction”, pp. 3-25.

Walter C. Neale and Anne Mayhew. 1983. “Polanyi, institutional economics, and economic anthropology”. In *Economic Anthropology: Topics and Theories*.

Monographs in Economic Anthropology, No.1. Sutti Ortiz (Ed.). Lanham: University Press of America. PP. 11-20.

#### Week 3 (January 22 & 24) **Foraging societies; ecological anthropology**

##### **January 22: movie: “The Hunting Ape” (Audiovisual VH 00882)**

Pryor, pp. 29-57.

Julian Steward. 2006. “The concept and method of cultural ecology”. In *The Environment in Anthropology*. Nora Haenn and Richard R. Wilk (Eds.). New

York: New York University Press. PP. 5-9.

#### Week 4 (January 29 & 31) **From foraging to horticulture and agriculture**

##### **January 29: movie: “The Magic Lantern” (Audiovisual VH 00985)**

Pryor, pp. 58-91.

#### Week 5 (February 5 & 7) **Agricultural societies; gender relations**

Pryor, pp. 95-125.

H.L. Moore. 1992. “Households and gender relations: The modeling of the economy”. In *Understanding economic Process*. Monographs in Economic Anthropology, No.

10. Sutti Ortiz and Susan Lees (Eds.). PP. 131-148.

Week 6 (February 12 & 14)

**February 12: Mid- term examination**

No reading is required

Week 7 (February 19 & 21), **Study break/reading week**

Week 8 (February 26 & 28) **From agriculture to industry; peasant studies**

Pryor, pp. 126-155.

Week 9 (March 4 & 6), **Industrial/service societies; advanced market systems**

Pryor, pp. 159-191.

Week 10 (March 11 & 13) **Systemic changes in advanced market economies**

**March 11: movie: “Age of Uncertainty” (Audiovisual VH 03918)**

Pryor, pp. 192-223.

Week 11 (March 18 & 20) **Marxist economic systems; development anthropology**

Pryor, pp.224-263.

Jane Collins. 1992. “Marxism confronts the environment: Labor, ecology and environmental change”. In *Understanding economic Process*. Monographs in Economic Anthropology, No 10. Sutti Ortiz and Susan Lees (Eds.). PP. 179- 188.

Week 12 (March 25 & 27) **Change, postindustrial societies**

**March 25: movie “Alvin Toffler: The Third Wave” (Audiovisual VH 00323)**

John Bodley. 2004. “The price of progress”. In *Classic Readings in Cultural Anthropology*. Gary Ferraro (Ed.) United States: Thomson\* Wadsworth. PP.109-119.

Week 13 (April 1 & 3) **Economic anthropology and 21<sup>st</sup> century**

**April 1st: movie: “Alvin Toffler: The Third Wave” (continued) (Audiovisual VH 00323)**

**April 3, due date for research project**

Pryor, pp. 267-281.

Eric R. Wolf. 2006 (1982). “Introduction [Europe and the People Without History]”. In *Readings for a History of Anthropological Theory*. Paul A. Erickson and Liam D. Murphy (Eds.). Canada: Broadview Press. PP/ 370-386.

Week 14 (April 8 &10), **Final remarks and review**

**Suggested Bibliography:** The textbook contains a very good section entitled “bibliography.” This section must be taken seriously and used as a model for references in the research project. You can also consult the following sources:

Attwood, Donald. 1992. *Raising Cane: The Political Economy of Sugar in Western India*. Boulder: Westview Press.

Barlett, Peggy. 1993. *American Dreams, rural Realities: Family Farms in Crisis*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press.

Cancian, Frank. 1992. *The Decline of Community In Zinacantan: Economy, Public Life, and Social Stratification, 1960-1987*. Stanford: Stanford University Press.

Ehlers, Tracy. 1990. *Silent Looms: Women and Production in a Guatemalan Town*. Boulder: Westview Press.

Givechian, Fatemeh. 1990. *Work in Retirement: The Persistence of an American Collective Representation*. Lanham, MD: the University Press of America.

Leinder, Robin. 1993. *Fast Food, Fast Talk: Service Work and the Routinization of Everyday Life*. Berkeley: Univ. of Calif. Press.

Ouellet, Lawrence J. 1994. *Pedal to the Metal: The Work Lives of the Truckers*. Philadelphia: Temple University Press.

Wilk, Richard R. 1996. *Economies and Cultures: Foundations of Economic Anthropology*. Boulder: West view Press.

Wolf, Diane. 1992. *Factory Daughters*. Berkeley: University of California Press.

### **Suggested Anthropological Journals:**

American Anthropologist  
American Ethnologist  
Annual Review of Anthropology  
Anthropological Quarterly  
Current Anthropology  
Economic Development and Cultural Change  
Economy and Society  
Industrial and Labour Relations Review  
Journal of Employment and Counseling  
Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute  
Labour Force Survey  
Quarterly Journal of Economics  
Theory, Culture, and Society  
Work and Occupations  
Workforce

### **Suggested Documentary Movies:**

Alternative agriculture (Audiovisual VH 08125)  
Diet of souls (DVD 00949)  
The double shift (Audiovisual VH 03904)  
From womb to Tomb (Audiovisual VH 02199)  
The global assembly line (Audiovisual VH 03845)  
Good morning *Pekin* (DVD 01240)  
The internal city (VH 01240)  
Internet for educators (Audiovisual VH 03469)  
Modern times (Audiovisual VH 04459)  
*Le Perou, pays de la tourmente* (Audiovisuel VH03569)  
Swedish Pow-Wow (DVD 01012)  
The vanishing housewife (Audiovisual VH 05608)  
Working for equality (Audiovisual VH 01421)