

Cultural Anthropology

UNDERSTANDING
OURSELVES &
OTHERS

FOURTH EDITION



RICHLEY H. CRAPO

BUILT-IN STUDY
GUIDE

Cultural Anthropology

UNDERSTANDING

OURSELVES &

OTHERS

FOURTH EDITION

RICHLEY H. CRAPO

UTAH STATE UNIVERSITY



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Cover design *Victoria Barth*
Research by *Pamela Carley*

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Library of Congress Catalog Card Number: 95-83212

ISBN 1-56134-447-8

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Printed in the United States of America

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3

PREFACE

Anthropology, like its study, humankind, is a tremendously diverse subject that provides a richness of information and an excitement in learning for students. The challenge is to present to students a coherent and meaningful introduction. While no text is likely to fulfill the hopes and needs of all instructors, I believe *Cultural Anthropology: Understanding Ourselves and Others*, Fourth Edition, will provide the basic insights into the field that a thoughtful student ought to have as part of a contemporary liberal education. These include not only facts and theories but, most importantly, the anthropological attitude of a commitment to understanding and appreciating cultural diversity. Less than this will not prepare students for life in a culturally diverse and increasingly interdependent world.

Content and Organization

In *Cultural Anthropology: Understanding Ourselves and Others*, Fourth Edition, I have made numerous changes to the text to accommodate the needs of the majority of instructors and to keep the text accessible to students and current in a rapidly changing world.

- The major revisions include the following:
- The sequence of chapters has been substantially reordered to provide a more logical organization.
- The chapter on American culture in previous editions has been integrated throughout the text, so students can appreciate their own culture as part of the world's cultural diversity.
- A new Student Study Guide has been incorporated into the text. It contains the chapter outline, chapter objectives, a series of questions with space available for students to write their answers, and a matching test based primarily on the glossed terms in the text.
- New material has been added on careers in anthropology to provide students with a practical view of the field.
- Many ethnographical examples have been updated to provide the current status of societies in a world that is rapidly changing.
- New ethnographical examples have been included that illustrate how various cultures

adapt to the modern world or how they strive to maintain their own identity.

- Timely information on the relationships between race, cultural ability, intelligence, and I.Q. has been added.
- The discussion of language has been expanded to consider language and nationalism, bilingual education, language extinction, and recent attempts to characterize language macrofamilies.
- The religion chapter has been expanded to include material on religious change, syncretism, and evidence of religion from the archaeological record.
- The illustrations have been carefully revised so that the historical record of many cultures remains, but photographs of cultures adapting to a technological modern world provide students with a balanced approach to the field of anthropology and the diversity of cultures.

Part I, The Science of Culture

The book begins with a succinct discussion of the often confusing subject of anthropology itself: the breadth of its content, its holistic perspective, its history and contemporary forms, its methods, and its ethics. This chapter has been carefully reorganized so that historical concepts are discussed early in the chapter. The section on humanistic and scientific approaches to explaining culture have been moved here from Chapter 2 to provide a more coherent definition of anthropology. Chapter 2 introduces the concept of culture, including discussions of both ideology and technology, as well as issues of cultural diversity and how different cultures respond to and influence each other. Chapter 3 outlines the concept of social organization and discusses the relationships between biology and social statuses, race as a social status, and racism as an element of social organization. The complex issue of racially defined social roles is discussed, and students begin to realize how intelligence and intelligence testing must be understood within a cultural context. Chapter 4 examines the way in which changes in social status are organized by

each society into a distinctive life cycle. Finally, chapter 5 takes a detailed look at gender statuses and gender roles in social life and in the relationships between gender and social institutions such as economics, politics, and religion.

Part II, Adaptation, Cultural Change and Cultural Diversity

Building on the basic concepts of culture and social organization, the next two chapters focus on aspects of human survival, adaptation to the physical and social environments, and the infrastructural components of human social life. Chapter 6 discusses the physical environments in which societies are found, the concept of adaptation, and how human societies organize their subsistence customs in various environments. Chapter 7 presents the general principles of cultural change, discusses the demise of the world's technologically simple societies, and analyzes the plight of the peasant cultures of the developing world and of the contemporary world's indigenous and refugee peoples.

Part III, Social Institutions

The next four chapters examine the institutions of economics, marriage and the family, kinship and descent, and politics. Chapter 8 defines the universal characteristics of economic systems and emphasizes the roles of culture, symbols, and values in the economic customs of the world's societies. Chapter 9 discusses the varieties of marriage that have been recognized in human societies and surveys some of the customs and family forms that arise from these marriages. Chapter 10 discusses the human concept of descent and how it has developed into various kinship systems. Chapter 11 considers how humans solve the practical problems of social life, utilizing the various mechanisms that form the political system of each society, and outlines the basic types of political systems that have existed in the world's societies.

Part IV, Ideology and Symbolism

The final section of the text moves to the superstructure of culture, the realm of symbolism, communication, religion, the role of culture in human personality, and aesthetics. Chapter 12 begins with a consideration of the human ca-

capacity for endowing things with meaning and then examines the unique role of language as a system of meaningful symbols with which humans communicate and create their cultural order. Chapter 13 takes an in-depth look at religion, an abstract and creatively varied use of the human ability to symbolize. This chapter not only demonstrates the varieties of human religious ideology, but also points out the role religious thought plays in social organization. Chapter 14 discusses the role of culture in shaping personality, creating altered states of consciousness, and defining culture-specific psychological disorders. Chapter 15 examines the nature of expressive culture such as play, recreation, and art with consideration given both to the universal human capacity for aesthetic experience and to the cultural variables in aesthetic evaluations.

Learning Aids

A variety of learning aids has been systematically incorporated into the text. A list of chapter objectives informs students of the skills they will acquire from their study of each chapter. This is followed by an outline to aid students in recognizing the main concepts that are covered in the chapter and in understanding how they will be organized. To facilitate students' learning of the basic concepts of each chapter, all *terms* are defined in context and *boldfaced* for easy recognition. A formal definition of each term is also provided on the page where it occurs. These technical terms are also defined in an alphabetized *glossary* at the end of the book. Since learning the subject matter of a new field also involves acquiring a new vocabulary, students should be encouraged to use these glossaries as a valuable learning review. By testing their knowledge of the meaning of each term, they can readily determine which parts of each chapter need further study in preparation for tests. Each chapter ends with a summary to help students review the basic concepts that have been introduced. Each chapter also contains an annotated list of readings to guide students in further readings concerning individual topics that have been covered.

Major concepts are often illustrated by *extended narrative examples*. These provide concrete, down-to-earth examples of the material under discussion. For instance, chapter 1 introduces students to Ruth Benedict's *Patterns of*

Culture in a discussion of cultural differences in the expression of feelings, and several extended narratives about the Kwakiutl, Zuni, and Dobuans in chapter 2 are used to illustrate these concepts and at the same time update the current lifestyles of these groups. Through the use of narrative examples drawn from the ethnographic record, students can gain a greater respect for cultural diversity as well as an insight into the underlying unity of humanity within that diversity. In so doing, they will also learn that we can better understand ourselves through an understanding of others. These narrative examples are clearly marked in the table of contents and are identified within the text by a boxed structure.

Unfamiliar cultures to which students are introduced in the extended narratives are located geographically on maps in the narrative. All references cited within the body of the text have been compiled into a single bibliography placed immediately before the index.

Ancillaries

This edition of *Cultural Anthropology: Understanding Ourselves & Others* is accompanied by an instructor's resource guide, *Teaching and Testing with Cultural Anthropology: Understanding Ourselves & Others*, Fourth Edition, prepared by myself and Lisa Clyde Nielsen. Each chapter of the instructor's resource guide contains a chapter outline, chapter objectives, glossary, chapter overview, a lecture outline, discussion questions, a set of activities for in-class use or as outside assignments, and an annotated list of suggested readings and films.

As with previous editions, questions have been prepared to provide a comprehensive test bank. This edition contains an average of 100 items per chapter or 1500 items in all. In addition to multiple-choice, true/false, and essay questions, it also includes short-answer questions. The entire test bank is available on MicroTest III, a computerized test generator.

Acknowledgments

I deeply appreciate the insightful suggestions made by the reviewers of all four editions. The publisher and I wish to thank them for their constructive criticism and expert advice.

Arthur L. Alt, College of Great Falls

Elvio Angeloni, Pasadena City College
 Jeffery A. Behm, University of Wisconsin
 Anne Belisari, Wright State University
 Jim Bell, Linn-Benton Community College
 Purnima M. Bhatt, Hood College
 Anne Briton, University of Miami
 William B. Brunton, North Dakota State University
 James Conrad, Essex Community College
 Matthew Cooper, McMaster University
 John Cottier, Auburn University
 Douglas Dalton, Longwood College
 Mary S. de Grys, Winthrop College
 James Eder, Arizona State University
 Jack David Eller, University of Colorado-Denver; Teikyo Loretta Height University
 Mark S. Fleisher, Washington State University
 Bonita Freeman-Witthoft, West Chester University
 Robert R. Gradie, University of Connecticut
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 Robert C. Harman, California State University, Long Beach
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 Vernon Jantzi, Eastern Mennonite College
 Donna Jones, Drury College
 Ruth M. Krulfeld, George Washington University
 Diane Lichtenstein, Baldwin-Wallace College
 Christine Loveland, Shippensburg University
 Mary McCutcheon, George Mason University
 Toby Morantz, McGill University
 Reka Ferencz Mosteller, SUNY Albany
 Marjorie Tallant Nam, Tallahassee Community College
 Donald K. Pollack, SUNY Buffalo
 Ted Presley, Abilene Christian University
 Harald E. L. Prins, Kansas State University
 Robert A. Randall, University of Houston
 John Rushford, College of Charleston
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 James M. Sebring, University of New Mexico
 Wesley Shumar, Shippensburg University
 Jay Sokolovsky, University of Maryland, Baltimore
 Dorice M. Tentchoff, Oregon State University
 Alaka Wali, University of Maryland
 James M. Tim Wallace, North Carolina State University

Linda M. Whiteford, University of South
Florida
Guy H. Wolf II, Towson State University
Newell Wright, Valdosta State College

Special thanks are also due to M. Marcuss
Oslander who skillfully edited this and the two
previous editions and whose insightful sugges-
tions have greatly contributed to the matura-
tion of this text, to Pamela Carley and Wendy

Connal for finding the right pictures, and to Bill
Ferneau for bringing the publisher and me to-
gether. I wish also to thank my wife Sharon for
her patient support of my writing efforts and
for her useful criticisms of the manuscript as it
has evolved.

Richley H. Crapo

PART ONE

The Science of Culture

CHAPTER ONE ANTHROPOLOGY: A DEFINITION

Fieldwork and participant observation are unique methods of studying cultures employed by anthropologists. As with any discipline, the field of anthropology has evolved. The prescientific view saw all non-Western cultures as degenerated forms of an earlier divine creation. This

gave way to cultural evolutionism, empiricism, and eventually to the current period of specialization in which many subfields of anthropology exist, studying many different aspects of both ancient and modern societies.

CHAPTER TWO CULTURE

The tendency of humans to share their ideas and emotions about their own natures and to develop survival strategies that they pass on to future generations as customs is the basis of culture. Various subsistence technologies derive from a so-

ciety's pattern of culture and its adjustment to the environment in which it survives. Cultural relativism is the method of trying to understand another culture within its own context.

CHAPTER THREE SOCIAL ORGANIZATION, BIOLOGY, AND CULTURE

Our status in each group with which we are affiliated is ranked by the power and prestige others expect us to have. Sometimes our statuses are achieved by effort, sometimes they are assigned to us based

partly on our culture's ideas about biology. Each status requires us to know and play a variety of roles that, as they change, are often celebrated by rituals.

CHAPTER FOUR THE LIFE CYCLE

Each culture identifies rites of passage in its own unique way. Most cultures acknowledge pregnancy, childbirth, marriage, parent-

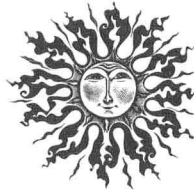
hood, and death as stages in the cycle of life that determine one's status in society as well as one's relationship to others.

CHAPTER FIVE GENDER AND CULTURE

The roles that males and females play in society are based not only on a society's perception of sex and gender, but also on its socialization values. Feminist anthropologists have studied the relationship

among social power, honor, and gender, and have concluded that status is generally a measure of economic power and varies from culture to culture.

CONTENTS IN BRIEF



PART ONE THE SCIENCE OF CULTURE

<i>Chapter 1: Anthropology: A Definition.....</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>Chapter 2: Culture.....</i>	<i>37</i>
<i>Chapter 3: Social Organization, Biology, and Culture.....</i>	<i>61</i>
<i>Chapter 4: The Life Cycle.....</i>	<i>83</i>
<i>Chapter 5: Gender and Culture.....</i>	<i>107</i>

PART TWO ADAPTATION, CULTURAL CHANGE, AND CULTURAL DIVERSITY

<i>Chapter 6: Environment, Adaptation, and Subsistence.....</i>	<i>133</i>
<i>Chapter 7: Cultural Evolution and the Contemporary World.....</i>	<i>159</i>

PART THREE SOCIAL INSTITUTIONS

<i>Chapter 8: Economics.....</i>	<i>193</i>
<i>Chapter 9: Marriage and the Family.....</i>	<i>219</i>
<i>Chapter 10: Kinship and Descent.....</i>	<i>243</i>
<i>Chapter 11: Politics and Culture.....</i>	<i>261</i>

PART FOUR IDEOLOGY AND SYMBOLISM

<i>Chapter 12: Language and Culture.....</i>	<i>293</i>
<i>Chapter 13: Religion and Culture.....</i>	<i>321</i>
<i>Chapter 14: Culture, Personality, and Psychological Process.....</i>	<i>357</i>
<i>Chapter 15: Aesthetics and Culture.....</i>	<i>385</i>

TABLE OF CONTENTS

<i>Preface</i>	<i>v</i>	Kinds of Anthropology	17	Culture	38
<i>World Map</i>	<i>xx</i>	<i>Academic Anthropology</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>Where Suburban Tribes</i>	
PART ONE				<i>Gather for Sand and Surf</i>	<i>39</i>
THE SCIENCE OF CULTURE		<i>Recreating Stone Tools to</i>		Ideology	40
<i>Chapter 1: Anthropology:</i>		<i>Learn the Ancient Makers'</i>		<i>Ideological</i>	
<i>A Definition</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>Ways</i> ..	<i>18</i>	<i>Communication</i>	<i>41</i>
The Breadth of		<i>Applied and Practicing</i>		<i>Beliefs</i>	<i>42</i>
Anthropology	4	<i>Anthropology</i>	<i>20</i>	<i>Feelings</i>	<i>43</i>
<i>The Holistic</i>					
<i>Perspective</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>Steven Sims,</i>		<i>The Kwakiutl, Zuñi, and</i>	
<i>Breadth in Time</i>		<i>Archaeologist</i>	<i>21</i>	<i>Doubans Today</i>	<i>45</i>
<i>and Space</i>	<i>5</i>	Anthropological Approaches		<i>Cultural Change</i>	<i>48</i>
History of Anthropology	5	to Explaining		<i>Ideal and Real Culture</i>	
<i>The Prescientific Period</i> ...	<i>5</i>	Culture	22	<i>among the Traditional Zuñi</i> ...	<i>49</i>
<i>The Evolutionary Period</i> ..	<i>6</i>	<i>Anthropology as</i>		Cultural Differences	50
<i>The Empiricist Period</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>Humanistic</i>		<i>Intercultural Influences</i> ..	<i>50</i>
<i>The Functionalist Period</i> ..	<i>8</i>	<i>Interpretation</i>	<i>22</i>	<i>Ethnocentrism</i>	<i>50</i>
<i>The Period of</i>				<i>Cultural Relativism</i>	<i>51</i>
<i>Specialization</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>Trish Clay, Practicing</i>			
Methods of Anthropological		<i>Anthropologist</i> ..	<i>23</i>	<i>The Kwakiutl Potlatch:</i>	
Research	10			<i>A Reaction to European</i>	
<i>Fieldwork</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>Anthropology as Scientific</i>		<i>Contact?</i>	<i>52</i>
<i>Participant</i>		<i>Explanation</i>	<i>27</i>	Viewpoints about Culture	55
<i>Observation</i>	<i>11</i>			<i>Diversity in</i>	
		<i>Practical Reasons for</i>		<i>Conceptualizing</i>	
<i>The Fieldwork Experience:</i>		<i>Dobuan Paranoia</i>	<i>32</i>	<i>Culture</i>	<i>55</i>
<i>A Case Study</i> ...13		<i>Chapter Summary</i>	<i>34</i>		
		<i>Annotated Readings</i>	<i>34</i>		
Cross-Cultural					
Comparison	15	<i>Chapter 2: Culture</i>	<i>37</i>		

<i>The Unity and Diversity of Cultures</i> 56	Chapter Summary.....81	Chapter 5: Gender and Culture107
<i>Culture Shock</i> 56	Annotated Readings.....81	Sex and Gender108
<hr/>	<hr/>	<i>Sexual Differences</i>108
<i>Doing Fieldwork among the Yanomamö</i>57	Chapter 4: The Life Cycle83	<i>Gender</i>109
<hr/>	The Life Cycle.....84	Diversity in Male and Female Roles.....109
Chapter Summary..... 58	<i>Rites of Passage</i>84	<i>Socialization of Gender Differences</i>109
Annotated Readings..... 59	<hr/>	<hr/>
<hr/>	Conception without Sex in the Trobriand Islanders' Ideology 86	Male and Female Roles in Iran..... 110
Chapter 3: Social Organization, Biology, and Culture 61	<hr/>	<hr/>
Organizational Patterns..... 62	<i>Nisa's First Labor</i> 90	Common Patterns in Division of Labor..... 111
Groups..... 62	<hr/>	Gender Roles and Subsistence112
Statuses and Roles 63	Roman Catholic Baptism 91	Third and Fourth Genders.... 113
Division of Labor 64	<hr/>	<i>The Berdache</i>113
Rank 64	Enculturation, Childhood, and Adolescence92	<i>The Hijra</i>114
Contextual Cues..... 65	<hr/>	<i>The Transvestite</i>114
<hr/>	France Fights Female Genital Mutilation by African Immigrants96	Gender, Power, and Honor...114
Caste in India.....66	<hr/>	<i>Gender Stratification</i>115
<hr/>	Courtship in Samoa 97	<i>Gender in Patrilineal Societies</i>116
Master Statuses 67	<hr/>	<hr/>
<hr/>	Courtship and Marriage 98	Women and Law in the Victorian United States... 117
An American Master Status..... 68	Parenthood100	<hr/>
<hr/>	Divorce101	Sexual Equality in Vanatinai Society 118
Biological Traits and Social Statuses 69	Old Age.....101	<hr/>
<i>Biology and Socially Learned Roles</i> 69	Death101	Male Dominance118
<hr/>	<hr/>	Gender in Matrilineal Societies119
<i>At the Racial Dividing Line</i> 72	The Mapuche Death and Burial Ritual ... 103	Matrifocality119
<hr/>	<hr/>	
Race, Cultural Ability, and Intelligence..... 76	Chapter Summary..... 104	
<hr/>	Annotated Readings..... 105	
<hr/>	<hr/>	
<i>The Ellis Island Project: A Study in the Misuse of Intelligence Tests</i> 78		
<hr/>		

<i>The Causes of Gender Inequality.....</i>	120
Gender and Religion	122
<i>Gender Symbolism</i>	<i>122</i>
<i>Gender in the Religious Institution.....</i>	<i>123</i>
<i>Sex-Based Persecution as a Basis for Asylum in the United States ...</i>	<i>124</i>
Women's Rights as Human Rights.....	124
<i>Announcement of Peace Prize... </i>	<i>125</i>
<i>Economic Exploitation</i>	<i>125</i>
<i>What's in a Name?</i>	<i>126</i>
<i>Equality in Family Law</i>	<i>126</i>
<i>Reproductive Rights.....</i>	<i>127</i>
<i>Violence.....</i>	<i>128</i>
<i>Political Rights.....</i>	<i>128</i>
<i>Chapter Summary.....</i>	<i>128</i>
<i>Annotated Readings.....</i>	<i>129</i>
 PART TWO	
ADAPTATION, CULTURAL CHANGE, AND CULTURAL DIVERSITY	
<i>Chapter 6: Environment, Adaptation, and Subsistence</i>	<i>133</i>
Environmental Diversity	134

<i>Cultural and Natural Areas</i>	<i>134</i>
<i>Natural Environments</i>	<i>134</i>
<i>Carrying Capacity</i>	<i>137</i>
Biological and Cultural Adaptation.....	137
Subsistence Adaptations and the Environment ...	138
<i>Foraging</i>	<i>138</i>
<i>Pygmy Net and Archery Hunting in the Ituri Forest</i>	<i>140</i>
<i>Optimal Foraging Theory</i>	<i>143</i>
<i>Food Production</i>	<i>144</i>
<i>Optimal Foraging, American Subsistence, and Culture</i>	<i>145</i>
<i>The Trend toward Food Domestication</i>	<i>146</i>
<i>The Shuara of Ecuador and Peru ...</i>	<i>148</i>
<i>The Northern Tungus Reindeer Herders of Siberia</i>	<i>151</i>
<i>Farming Lessons from Prehistory</i>	<i>153</i>
<i>Chapter Summary.....</i>	<i>156</i>
<i>Annotated Readings.....</i>	<i>157</i>

<i>Chapter 7: Cultural Evolution and the Contemporary World.....</i>	<i>159</i>
The Process of Change.....	160
<i>Cultural Dynamics.....</i>	<i>160</i>
<i>Interrelationships among Technology, Social Organization, and Ideology</i>	<i>162</i>
Cultural Evolutionary Theory	164
<i>Specific and General Evolution.....</i>	<i>164</i>
<i>Stabilization vs. Evolutionary Potential</i>	<i>165</i>
<i>Leapfrogging.....</i>	<i>165</i>
<i>Progress?</i>	<i>166</i>
<i>Western Shoshone Land Rights in the United States</i>	<i>168</i>
The Vanishing of Nonstate Societies.....	168
<i>Indigenous Peoples</i>	<i>168</i>
<i>Extinction.....</i>	<i>170</i>
The Effects of Industrialization	171
<i>Indigenous Peoples Today</i>	<i>171</i>
<i>Developed and Underdeveloped Societies</i>	<i>172</i>
<i>The Yqnomamö Today ...</i>	<i>173</i>

<i>Economic Change</i> 174	<i>The Cultural Definition of Commodity</i>194	<i>Consumption</i>213
<i>Urbanization</i> 175		<i>Subsistence Economies</i> ..213
<i>World Population</i>	<i>Seaweed Farming</i> 195	<i>Status Income</i>213
<i>Growth</i> 176		Social Agents of Economic Control213
<i>Industrialization and the Quality of Life</i> 176	<i>The Cultural Definition of Value</i>196	
Peasant Cultures 177	<i>Kwakiutl Bartering: Bidding up the Price</i> 197	<i>The Impact of AIDS on Africa's Economy</i>214
<i>Feudal Peasantries</i> 177		
<i>Colonial Peasantries</i> 178	Production: The Control and Use of Resources ... 197	<i>Community Control of Production</i>214
<i>Contemporary Peasantries</i> 179	<i>Use Rights</i>197	<i>Kin Control of Production</i>215
<i>Refugees</i> 182	<i>Ownership</i>198	<i>Association Control of Production</i>215
<i>Applied Anthropology and Cultural Change</i> 183	<i>Division of Labor</i>198	<i>Social Class</i>216
		<i>Social Class and Production in the United States</i>216
<i>Cuban Refugee Camps at the U.S. Naval Base at Guantanamo</i>184	<i>Shoshone vs. Pioneer Concepts of Land in the Great Basin</i>199	<i>The Changing Context of Economics</i>216
		<i>Chapter Summary</i>216
The Future of the Peasant World 185	<i>Brazilian Women Find New Opportunities as Avon Saleswomen!</i>201	<i>Annotated Readings</i>217
<i>The Green Revolution</i> .. 185	Distribution 203	
<i>Population Control in Developing Nations</i> 185	<i>Reciprocity</i>203	
<i>Home, Home on the Range, in Brazil's Heartland</i> 186	<i>The Kula Ring</i> ...206	<i>Chapter 9: Marriage and the Family</i>219
<i>Chapter Summary</i> 188	<i>Redistribution</i>207	Marriage220
<i>Annotated Readings</i> 189		<i>Functions of Marriage</i> ..220
	<i>Big Women in the Trobriand Islands</i> ..209	
	<i>Markets</i>210	<i>Sex and Reproduction among the Nayar of India</i> 221
PART THREE		<i>Types of Marriage</i>222
SOCIAL INSTITUTIONS	<i>Yapese Stone Money</i> 211	
<i>Chapter 8: Economics</i> 193	<i>The Productive Base of the U.S. Economy</i> ...212	<i>Polyandrous and Group Marriages among the Toda</i> 225
Definition of Economic Systems 194		

<i>Atypical Marriages</i> 225	<i>Annotated Readings</i> 241	<i>Chapter 11: Politics and</i>
<i>Co-Marriage among the</i>		<i>Culture</i> 261
<i>Inuit of North Alaska</i> 226		Types of Political Orders ... 262
<i>Ghost Marriage among the</i>	<i>Chapter 10: Kinship</i>	<i>Bands: Government by</i>
<i>Nuer of the Sudan</i> 228	<i>and Descent</i> 243	<i>Community</i>262
<i>Nuer Woman Marriage</i> 229	Kinship 244	<i>The Great Basin Shoshone:</i>
Marriage Choice 231	Descent Rules 244	<i>A Band Society</i> 263
<i>Incest Taboo</i> 231	<i>Bilateral Descent</i>244	<i>Tribes: Government by</i>
<i>Exogamy Rules</i> 233	<i>Ambilineal Descent</i>245	<i>Families and</i>
<i>Endogamy Rules</i> 233	<i>Unilineal Descent</i>246	<i>Associations</i>264
Negotiating Marriage 234	Descent Groups 247	<i>The Toda:</i>
<i>Wedding Showers in the</i>	<i>Lineal Descent Groups</i> .247	<i>A Tribal Society</i> 265
<i>United States</i> ...235	<i>How a Person Can Be His</i>	<i>Chiefdoms: Government</i>
<i>Bridewealth</i> 235	<i>Own Grandfather</i> 249	<i>by Officials</i>266
<i>Bride Service</i> 236	<i>Navajo Clans</i>250	<i>The Rwala Bedouins: A</i>
<i>Dowry</i> 236	<i>Bilateral Descent</i>	<i>Pastoral Chiefdom</i> 268
<i>Gift Exchange</i> 237	<i>Groups</i>251	<i>States: The Official</i>
Postmarital Residence 238	<i>The Evolution of Descent</i>	<i>Monopoly of Law</i>269
<i>Virilocality</i> 238	<i>Groups</i>252	Gender and Politics 271
<i>Uxorilocality</i> 238	Kinship Terminology 253	<i>Matrifocal Societies</i>271
<i>Bilocality</i> 238	<i>Hawaiian</i> 253	Indigenous Peoples and
<i>Neolocality</i> 238	<i>Eskimo</i> 254	Politics 272
<i>Avunculocality</i> 238	<i>Omaha</i> 254	<i>Legal Gambling on Indian</i>
<i>The Samoan Extended</i>	<i>Crow</i> 255	<i>Reservations</i>275
<i>Family and Household</i> .. 239	<i>Iroquois</i>255	Social Control:
Family 239	<i>Sudanese</i>256	The Imposition
<i>Family in the United</i>	<i>Godparenthood among the</i>	of Order 276
<i>States</i> 239	<i>Chan Kom Maya</i> 257	<i>Socialization</i>276
<i>Chapter Summary</i> 240	Fictive Kinship 257	<i>Religion and Social</i>
	<i>Chapter Summary</i> 259	<i>Control</i>277
	<i>Annotated Readings</i> 259	<i>Rewards</i>278

<i>Gossip and Community</i>	<i>Nonverbal Signs</i> 297	<i>Prestige Dialects</i> 316
<i>Pressure</i> 278	<i>Culturally Patterned</i>	<i>Language and</i>
<i>Law</i> 278	<i>Nonverbal Symbols</i> . 297	<i>Nationalism</i> 317
<i>Case Study:</i>	<i>Proxemics</i> 298	
<i>U.S. Politics</i> 278	<i>Kinesics</i> 299	<i>Bilingual Education in the</i>
The Resolution of External	Language 300	<i>United States</i> 318
Conflict 280	<i>Language vs. Speech</i> 301	<i>Chapter Summary</i> 318
<i>Peaceful Conflict</i>	<i>The Biological Basis of</i>	<i>Annotated Readings</i> 319
<i>Resolution</i> 280	<i>Language</i> 301	
<i>Inuit Song Duels</i> 282	<i>Communication in Nonhuman</i>	<i>Chapter 13: Religion and</i>
	<i>Primates</i> 302	<i>Culture</i> 321
<i>Violent Conflict</i>		The Definition of Religion . 322
<i>Resolution</i> 283	<i>The Origin of</i>	<i>Belief in the</i>
The Resolution of Internal	<i>Language</i> 305	<i>Supernatural</i> 322
Conflict 286	The Structure of Language 306	<i>Symbolic Expression of</i>
<i>Crime</i> 286	<i>Phonology</i> 306	<i>Feelings</i> 323
<i>Rebellion and</i>	<i>Grammar</i> 307	<i>Ritual Behaviors</i> 324
<i>Revolution</i> 288	Linguistic Relativity 308	
<i>Chapter Summary</i> 288	<i>Effects of Morphology</i> .. 308	<i>India's Sacred Cow</i> 325
<i>Annotated Readings</i> 289	<i>Effects of Syntax</i> 309	
	Language Change 310	Ideology in Religion 326
	<i>Changes over Time</i> 310	<i>Diversity of Beliefs</i> 326
PART FOUR	<i>Processes of Change</i> 311	<i>The Adaptive Basis of</i>
IDEOLOGY AND SYMBOLISM	<i>Dialects</i> 311	<i>Religious Beliefs</i> 327
<i>Chapter 12: Language and</i>		
<i>Culture</i> 293	<i>Black English Vernacular</i> ... 312	<i>The Holiness Church</i> 330
Human Communication 294		
<i>Signs and Symbols</i> 294	<i>Basic Vocabulary</i> 312	<i>Religious Feelings</i> 332
	Language Families 313	Ritual in Religion 332
<i>Human Communication with</i>	<i>Glottochronology</i> 314	<i>Ritual as Communitas</i> .. 332
<i>and without Symbols: Helen</i>	<i>Language</i>	<i>Ritual as Portrayal</i> 333
<i>Keller</i> 295	<i>Macrofamilies</i> 315	<i>Ritual as Influence</i> 333
	<i>Contemporary World</i>	
<i>Human vs. Nonhuman</i>	<i>Languages</i> 315	<i>The Azande Poison Oracle</i> 335
<i>Communication</i> 296	<i>Language Extinction</i> 316	
Nonverbal Communication .. 296	Language Politics 316	<i>The Iroquois False Face</i>
		<i>Society</i> .. 338

The Social Organization of	<i>Chapter 14: Culture,</i>	<i>Emotional Distress and</i>
Religion 339	<i>Personality, and</i>	<i>Ritual.....372</i>
<i>Ritual Specialists..... 339</i>	<i>Psychological</i>	<i>Social Stress and Deviant</i>
<hr/>	<i>Process 357</i>	<i>Personality373</i>
<i>Becoming a Shaman among</i>	Culture and Personality 358	Mental Disorders
<i>the Avam Samoyed 340</i>	<i>Configuralism 358</i>	and Culture 375
<hr/>	<i>National Character 360</i>	<i>Insanity.....375</i>
<i>Shamanic Religions..... 342</i>	<i>Criticisms of the</i>	<i>Dissociative Disorders</i>
<i>Communal Religions.... 344</i>	<i>Culture and</i>	<i>and Culture.....375</i>
<hr/>	<i>Personality School... 361</i>	<i>Culture-Specific</i>
<i>The Rain-Bringing Ritual of</i>	Psychological	<i>Forms of Dissociative</i>
<i>the Jigalong People 345</i>	Anthropology..... 361	<i>Disorders376</i>
<hr/>	<i>Cross-Cultural</i>	<i>Other Culture-Specific</i>
<i>Ecclesiastical Religions 346</i>	<i>Fieldwork 362</i>	<i>Disorders378</i>
<hr/>	<i>Cross-Cultural</i>	Causes of Mental
<i>Mormon Priesthood and</i>	<i>Surveys 362</i>	Disorders.....379
<i>Pantheon347</i>	Personality 363	<i>Individual</i>
<hr/>	<i>Personality and Social</i>	<i>Susceptibility.....379</i>
Religious Change..... 348	<i>Roles..... 363</i>	<hr/>
<i>Syncretism 348</i>	<hr/>	<i>Anorexia Nervosa: A</i>
<hr/>	<i>Sorority Rush: An Example</i>	<i>Western Culture-Specific</i>
<i>Zuñi Art and</i>	<i>of Establishing Face..... 364</i>	<i>Disorder.....380</i>
<i>Roman Catholicism in</i>	<hr/>	<hr/>
<i>New Mexico349</i>	<i>Individuality and</i>	<i>The Social Context381</i>
<hr/>	<i>Deviance 365</i>	<i>Chapter Summary..... 382</i>
Revitalization	Inadequate Role Playing.... 365	<i>Annotated Readings..... 383</i>
<i>Movements 349</i>	<i>Stress 367</i>	<hr/>
Why Are People	<i>The Trance State..... 367</i>	<hr/>
Religious?..... 352	<hr/>	<i>Chapter 15: Aesthetics and</i>
<i>The Maintenance of</i>	<i>Anger and Violence among</i>	<i>Culture 385</i>
<i>Social Order 352</i>	<i>the Semai of Malaysia... 368</i>	The Relativity of
<hr/>	Cultural Shaping of Altered	Aesthetics..... 386
<i>The Reduction of</i>	States of	<i>Cultural Differences in</i>
<i>Anxiety..... 353</i>	Consciousness..... 370	<i>Aesthetics386</i>
<i>The Cognitive Role of</i>	<i>Socialization and Trance</i>	
<i>Religion..... 353</i>	<i>States..... 371</i>	
<hr/>		
<i>Chapter Summary..... 354</i>		
<i>Annotated Readings..... 355</i>		
<hr/>		

<i>The Folk Art of Swept Yards in Georgia, Alabama, and South Carolina.....</i> 388	Art Forms..... 393	<i>Status Indicators.....</i> 401
	<i>The Visual Arts.....</i> 393	<i>Economic Functions.....</i> 401
	<i>Cave Paintings...394</i>	<i>Religious Functions.....</i> 401
The Aesthetic Experience	<i>Music.....</i> 395	<i>Didactic Functions.....</i> 401
and Expressive	<i>Dance.....</i> 396	<i>Political Functions.....</i> 402
Culture 389	<i>The Verbal Arts.....</i> 396	Chapter Summary.....403
Play 389	<i>The Olfactory and</i>	Annotated Readings.....403
Games..... 390	<i>Gustatory Arts.....</i> 399	
Festivals 391	<i>Tea Ceremony in Japan....</i> 400	Glossary405
Sports 391	The Functions of Art 400	Bibliography419
Art..... 391	<i>Art and Social</i>	Index434
	<i>Organization.....</i> 401	Student Study Guide.....SG-1
<i>Shoshone Art.....</i> 392		