ANTH F295: Culture, Communication and the Family
(No prerequisites, 3 credits, 7.5 + 0)
Offered: Summer 2014 (special class, not annual offering)
Summer Session II (July 7-August 15, 2014)

Meeting place and time TBA
Instructor: Dr. Robin Shoaps
Office Hours: TBA in Bunnell 301B
Contact: rashoaps@alaska.edu (preferred) or 474-6884

Overview:

What does it mean to be a member of a family? How have concepts of the family and kinship changed over time and across cultures? What role does interaction with caretakers and playmates play in our moral development and understanding of ourselves? How do we learn to communicate as gendered family members? This course uses examination of communicative practices to address these questions. This course will expose students to analytic frameworks stemming from human development, anthropology, communication and linguistics and provide opportunities to apply class concepts to recordings of real family interactions.

Course Goals:

• To understand the concept of “family” in a cross-cultural and historic perspective
• To examine the nature of communication in intimate relationships and among adults and children
• To address how the family provides a site for the reproduction of communicative practices and social categories
• To investigate the role of early interaction in human development
• To transcribe and analyze a real recording of family interaction

Learning Outcomes:

By the end of the course students will be able to:

Define and give examples of key concepts related to the study of “family”
Provide examples of how American families have changed over time
Provide examples of how other cultures define “family”
Define and give examples of key concepts in language socialization
Provide examples of how non-American cultures socialize their children
Describe case studies that examine how intimacy, gender and social relationships are constructed in communication
Analyze the process of “being family” in transcribed recordings of family interactions

**Instructional Methods:**

The course will be 50% lecture and 50% guided or small group discussion of daily readings and screened films. Students will do a “hands on” transcription assignment and do a group paper and presentation on real data.

**Specific Course Requirements:**

**Readings and participation:**
Timely completion of the readings is essential for success in this class, because lectures will complement and not necessarily summarize the readings. You will be held accountable for some material that is covered in the readings but is not repeated in class. You should be prepared to discuss readings in class and have them with you. More than one absence will seriously affect your grade.

**Periodic Exams:** There will be two midterms and a take-home final exam. The first midterm is not weighted as heavily and is designed as much to give you a sense of what my tests are like and as to allow me to assess how well you are assimilating material early in the semester.

**Small Group Project:** Students will form groups of 3-4 and will collect, transcribe and analyze family interaction data. Details and recording devices will be provided in class. Data will be provided for practice transcription in class.

**Evaluation:**

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<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Weight</th>
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<tr>
<td>Attendance and participation in discussion</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Midterm 1</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<td>Midterm 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Small Group Project (recording, transcription,</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<td>analysis)</td>
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<td>Take-Home Final Exam</td>
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Assignments will not be graded on a curve.

Grading is based on the following scale:

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<tr>
<th>Percentage Range</th>
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<tr>
<td>95-100%</td>
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<td>90-94%</td>
<td>A-</td>
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<td>86-89%</td>
<td>B+</td>
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<td>83-85%</td>
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<td>80-82%</td>
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<td>76-79%</td>
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<td>60-62</td>
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<td>59% and below</td>
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**Course Policies:**

**Plagiarism:**
You are expected to be honest and ethical in your fulfillment of assignments and test-taking situations. Plagiarism and cheating are serious violations of proper academic conduct and will result in a failing grade for the assignment. Plagiarism on more than one assignment will result in failing the course.

**Assignments:**
No late assignments will be accepted. Please schedule your time accordingly. If you cannot attend class the day that an assignment is due, you still need to hand in the assignment. All papers must be handed in physically, in hard copy form and uploaded onto Blackboard. I will not accept email attachments of assignments.

**Exams:**
I do not allow students to retake midterms. I will only allow you to reschedule a midterm if you notify me of a scheduling conflict during the first week of class.

**Absences and tardiness:**
Arriving to class more than 15 minutes late counts as an absence. If you miss more than one class during the course you will not be able to receive higher than a D for participation.

**University Policies and Services:**
Academic Integrity:
Plagiarism is a form of cheating in which you use anyone else's ideas and/or words (both published or personally communicated) without proper citation of the source. Whether from a printed source, the Internet, a lecture or a friend or family member, you must cite the source properly, if you got the idea from someone else—and this is true even if you are not using the source's exact wording. Be aware of the University's policies on academic dishonesty.

When academic dishonesty is documented on any assignment or exam, you will receive a zero and the matter may be turned over to the Dean of Students for inquiry, with the recommendation of a failing grade in the course.

You should familiarize yourself with the Student Code of Conduct (http://www.uaf.edu/catalog/current/academics/regs3.html#Student_Conduct) and the University statement on Plagiarism (http://library.uaf.edu/ls101-plagiarism).

For information on how to properly cite sources see: http://library.uaf.edu/ls101-citing

Support Services:
Student Support Services are available at UAF: http://www.uaf.edu/sssp/

These services include: free tutorial services; academic advising, mentoring, and personal support; direct financial assistance to qualified low-income participants; use of laptop computers, labs, and other technology resources; and cultural and social engagement. The office is located at 512 Gruening building.

See also http://www.uaf.edu/catalog/catalog_10-11/services/serv01.html

Writing Center:
Students can get help with their writing at The Writing Center (801 Gruening):

http://www.alaska.edu/english/studentresources/writing/

You can make an appointment (474-5314) to go over a paper with someone at any stage in the writing process, from rough outline to final draft. You can also print up to 25 pages at a time for free. This is an excellent service to take advantage of at any stage of your student career.

Disability Services:

The University of Alaska is committed to providing equal access for students with disabilities. If you experience a disability and will need special accommodations, please contact me during my office hours. I will work with the Office of Disabilities Services (208 WHIT, 474-5655) to provide reasonable accommodation to students with disabilities.
**Reading Materials:**

Course materials consist mainly of pdfs which will be available on Blackboard. There is one required text, available at the UAF bookstore:


**Tentative Lecture Topics and Reading Schedule:**

**Week 1:**

**Defining Family & the Family in Historical and Cultural Perspective**

- Overview and Introduction
  - Family in historic and cultural perspective
  - Kinship Theory: New and Old
  - Charlin
  - Coontz
  - 4 chapters from Stone

**Week 2:**

**Case Study: Family and economic change among the Yucatec Maya**

**Intimacy: Emotion, Cultural patterns of relationship-building**

- Cultural concepts of emotion
  - Schepner-Hughes
  - Wolf
- Love letters in Nepal
  - Ahearn
- Breaking up with text messages
  - Gershon
- Family arguments
  - Vuchinich

**Week 3:**

**Introduction to Transcription conventions and software**

**MIDTERM 1**

**Communication with Infants**

- Margaret Mead film screening and discussion
Cultural perspectives on interaction
Culture, interaction with infants and concepts of self
Communicating with infants, Motherese

Gaskins
Ochs & Schieffelin
Fernald & Morikawa
Pye

Week 4:
Communication and human development
Acquisition of communicative style
Interaction and cognitive development
Moral development in three cultures
Interaction and cognitive development: “Wild Children” Genie Movie discussion
Play and culture

Clancy
Schegloff
Ochs & Izquierdo
Gaskins, Haight & Laney

MIDTERM 2

Week 5:
Family Roles and Interaction
“Doing being”
Role-playing and frames
Doing-being family roles
Learning sibling roles
Sibling rivalry and feelings
Family roles in routine interactions

Sacks
Gordon
Randall
Mendelson ch 1,3
Mendelson 6, 7,
Sirota

Week 6:
Family Narratives
Theory of narrative
Enacting “father” in dinner-table narrative
Narrative and learning
Narrative and agoraphobia in a family

Labov
Ochs & Taylor
Ochs
Ochs & Caplan

Working Families
Daycare
Families talk about work

Baquedano-Lopez
Paugh

GROUP PRESENTATIONS

Provisional List of Readings (in order assigned):

Provisional List of Readings (in order assigned):


