

**Front Range Community College**  
**Syllabus: ETHNOGRAPHY OF THE DEAF COMMUNITY**  
**(ANT 106 001/002)**  
**Fall 2003**

<b>Instructor:</b>	Janice Morrison	<b>Class Meetings/Classrooms</b>
<b>Office:</b>	C0121	Section 001: T/R 11:25 -12:40, C0402
<b>Mailbox:</b>	West Service Center (B)	Section 002: T/R 1:00 – 2:15, C0203
<b>Email:</b>	<u><a href="mailto:jfmorrison@comcast.net">jfmorrison@comcast.net</a></u>	<b>Office Hours:</b> T/R 2:30-3:30

**Required Reading:** *Asking and Listening: Ethnography as Personal Adaptation*  
(Bohannan & van der Elst)  
*Deaf Heritage: A Narrative History of Deaf America* (Gannon)  
Packet of Articles for ANT 106 (available soon in bookstore)  
Class Handouts and Discussion Questions

**Course Description/Objectives:**

This course is intended to 1) introduce students to the major concepts of anthropology as they apply to our understanding of ‘culture’, to 2) acquaint them with the history of the Deaf community, and to 3) provide them with a means of studying Deaf culture as a distinct culture within American society. More specifically, it is intended to provide students with the tools needed to conduct an ethnographic study so that they can observe, analyze and understand the culture of the Deaf community from an anthropological (and holistic) point of view. The concept of ‘culture’ will be highlighted to focus on both the nature and structure of any culture, and how that culture relates to the values, behaviors and accomplishments of its members. By the end of the course, students should be able to view both themselves and members of the Deaf community with a new and better understanding, and to respond to members of the Deaf community with a deeper appreciation for their history and their unique culture.

**Course Requirements:**

**Attendance** at class meetings on a regular basis is expected, as is active participation in all classroom activities and discussions. Both ‘weigh in’ when the final grade is given.

**Assignments** are to be done before the classes for which they have been assigned. Your ability to discuss them depends on this!

**Written Assignments** must be completed and handed in on or before their due dates.

**Exams** must be taken on the day they are scheduled for. A long-essay make-up exam for the mid-term or final exam will be given only if a student has an emergency and contacts the instructor before the exam is given. There are no opportunities for “extra credit.”

**Cheating** on an exam or plagiarizing on a paper in any form is unacceptable and will result in a failing grade. Students are expected to abide by the college's standards of academic honesty in all work for this course.

**Respect** for others and their ideas is required and essential for a productive learning experience. In addition, cell phones and other electronic equipment should be turned off before coming to class. Eating, drinking and social activities while in class are not allowed.

**Grades:**

Grades are determined based on the following:

1. A **Mid-Term** and a **Final Exam**, which will consist of short-answer questions and one-paragraph, essay questions.
2. **24 Group Discussions** based on reading assignments and questions distributed for them beforehand, or films shown in class.
3. **4 observation reports** of events you have attended in the local Deaf community.
4. A written 5-page **book report, and oral presentation** about the book.

Points for the final grade will be assigned as follows:

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>POINTS</u>	<u>% of GRADE</u>
<b>2 Exams (100 points each)</b>	<b>200 points</b>	27%
<b>24 Group Discussions (10 points ea.)</b>	<b>240 points</b>	33%
<b>4 Observation &amp; Reports (40 points ea.)</b>	<b>160 points</b>	20%
<b>Written Book Report &amp; Presentation</b>	<b><u>150 points</u></b>	<u>20%</u>
	<b>Total = 750 points</b>	100%

Letter grades will be assigned to specific point ranges at the end of the course. The total points will be converted to a letter grade in the following manner:

<u>Letter Grade</u>	<u>Equivalent %</u>	<u>Point-Spread</u>
A	90-100	675-750
B	80-89	600-675
C	70-79	525-600
D	60-69	450-525
F	0-59	0-449

The final day to withdraw from this course is November 20. If a student drops out of class but does not officially withdraw, a grade of F will be given.

## **Class Schedule/Reading Assignments:**

Please note: All assignments in this schedule are listed on the date they are to be completed by.

### Week 1

Tue., 8/26

Introduction/Syllabus  
Lecture Topic: What is Anthropology?

Thu., 8/28

Assignment: Understanding Subcultures (handout)  
**Group Discussion**  
Lecture Topic: The Nature of Culture

### Week 2

Tue., 9/2

Assignment: Doing Ethnography (handout)  
**Group Discussion**  
Lecture Topic: What is an Ethnography?

Thu., 9/4

Assignment: A&L, Chapters 1-4 (pp. 1-18)  
Discussion Questions  
Lecture Topic: Alien Beings with Human Faces  
**Group Discussion**

### Week 3

Tue., 9/9

Assignment: Franz Boas (handout)  
A&L, Chapter 5 (pp. 21-23)  
DH, Chapter 1 (pp. 1-58)  
Discussion Questions  
Lecture Topics: Historical Particularism/The Early Years  
**Group Discussion**

Thu., 9/11

Assignment: Observation Activity (handout)  
A&L, Chapters 6-11 (pp. 24-44)  
Discussion Questions  
Lecture Topic: Observing 'The Other'  
**Group Discussion**  
Observation/Report #1 Handout – due 9/30

### Week 4

Tue., 9/16

Assignment: Sign Language Reading (handout)  
Discussion Questions  
Lecture Topic: Language and Culture  
**Group Discussion**

Thu., 9/18

Assignment: A&L, Chapters 12-17 (pp. 45-65)  
"The Evil Eye is Bad for Business" (handout)  
Discussion Questions  
Lecture Topic: Thinking about 'Doing Ethnography'  
**Group Discussion**

Week 5

Tue., 9/23

Assignment: DH, Chapters 2-3 (pp. 59-92)  
Discussion Questions  
Lecture Topic: Victorian Era  
**Group Discussion**

Thu., 9/25

Assignment: Article #1 – “White Privilege”  
Discussion Questions  
**Group Discussion**

Week 6

Tue., 9/30

Assignment: Article #2 – “Do Deaf People Have a Disability?”  
Discussion Questions  
**Group Discussion**  
**Observation/Report #1 due**

Thu., 10/2

Assignment: “To Give Up on Words” (handout)  
“A Cultural Approach to Male-Female...” (handout)  
Discussion Questions  
Lecture Topic: Language vs. Communication  
**Group Discussion**  
Observation/Report #2 Handout – due 10/21

Week 7

Tue., 10/7

**Mid-Term Exam**

Thu., 10/9

Assignment: DH, Chapters 5-6 (pp. 157-180)  
Discussion Questions  
Lecture Topic: Early Twentieth Century  
**Group Discussion**

Week 8

Tue., 10/14

Assignment: DH, Chapters 7-8 (pp. 181-218)  
“What’s So Funny?” (handout)  
Discussion Questions  
Lecture Topic: The 20s & 30s/Humor  
**Group Discussion**

Thu., 10/16

Assignment: DH, Chapter 10 (pp. 219-236)  
Discussion Questions  
Lecture Topic: The War Years/The 40s  
**Group Discussion**

Week 9

Tue., 10/21

Assignment: DH, Chapter 11 (pp. 237-254)

Discussion Questions

Lecture Topic: Publications of the Deaf

**Group Discussion**

**Observation/Report #2 due**

Thu., 10/23

Assignment: DH, Chapter 12 (pp. 255-270)

Discussion Questions

Lecture Topic: The Cold War/The 50s

**Group Discussion**

Observation/Report #3 Handout – due 11/11

Week 10

Tue., 10/28

Assignment: DH, Chapter 14 (pp. 317-356)

Discussion Questions

Lecture Topic: The Cold War/The 60s

**Group Discussion**

Thu., 10/30

Assignment: DH, Chapter 15 (pp. 357-376)

Discussion Questions

Lecture Topic: ASL – Our Natural Language

**Group Discussion**

Week 11

Tue., 11/4

Assignment: Chapter 16 (pp. 377-417)

Discussion Questions

Lecture Topic: The Cold War/The 70s

**Group Discussion**

Thu., 11/6

Assignment: Internet Assignment (handout)

Discussion Questions

Lecture Topic: The 1980s/1990s

**Group Discussion**

Week 12

Tue., 11/11

Assignment: A&L, Chapters 24-26 (pp. 91-102)

“Many Ways to be Deaf” (handout)

Discussion Questions

Lecture Topic: Reflections on Two Cultures

**Group Discussion**

**Observation/Report #3 due**

