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**ECONOMIC ANTHROPOLOGY**

# AN 3520.01, FALL 2010

**Dr. Katherine C. Donahue**

**T 3:30-6:00pm Rounds 223**

# Office: Rounds 317

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Office Hours: MWF 10-11am; Tuesday, 2-3 pm;

or by appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Explores the production and exchange of material goods in food-foraging, tribal, chiefdom, and state societies. This course examines both formal economic and anthropological economic theories in order to understand non-Western exchange systems as well as Western industrialization, modernization, and development, and their impact on both traditional and developing societies. Case studies will illustrate the wide variety of economies and their accompanying systems of social and symbolic relations. PREREQUISITE: ANSO 221 OR ANSO 222 or permission of the instructor.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

1. To develop an understanding of a variety of economies, "traditional" exchange and redistribution systems as well as economies such as capitalism, socialism, and communism.

2. To be able to understand the way in which economies are also

accompanied by various systems of social and symbolic relations.

3. To be able to see the ways in which Western economies have effected change in traditional economies, and to be able to understand economic and accompanying social issues facing us in the future.

REQUIRED TEXTS:

Robbins, Richard H. 2008. *Global Problems and the Culture of Capitalism.*  Boston: Pearson/Allyn and Bacon.

Nordstrom, Carolyn. 2007. *Global Outlaws: Crime, Money, and Power in the Contemporary World.* Berkeley: University of California Press.

And selected articles, available on Blackboard/Moodle, or elsewhere.

Acheson, James. 1997. “The Politics of Managing the Maine Lobster Industry: 1860 to the Present.” *Human Ecology.* 25:3-27.

Donahue, Katherine. 2005. “Nomad Souls in Time and Space: West African Musicians as Ethnographers.” *Journal of the Society for the Anthropology of Europe* Vol. 5(2):2-12.

Scheper-Hughes, Nancy and Lawrence Cohen. 1999. Extreme Research. <http://berkeley.edu/news/magazine/summer_99/feature_darkness_scheper.html>

Tsing, Anna Lowenhaupt. 2004. Introduction to *Friction.*  Princeton: Princeton University Press. <http://press.princeton.edu/chapters/i7885.pdf>

Suggested Reading, if you haven’t already:

Lee, Richard. 1969. “Eating Christmas in the Kalahari.” *Natural History Magazine*. Vol. 78(10). <http://www.windward.hawaii.edu/facstaff/dagrossa-p/articles/EatingChristmas.pdf>

EVALUATION:

You will be evaluated on the basis of your ability to meet the objectives outlined above. You will be asked to prepare and lead a class discussion on a chapter from the Robbins text or one of the assigned readings. We will meet outside of class to discuss that reading, and plan for your class discussion. You will also write a paper discussing a commodity, a good, a service, or an object, tracing the ways in which it is produced, marketed, advertised, sold, in our own economy or another one. Alternatively, you can work on a project designed by us which would be connected to Plymouth State’s outreach programs to businesses or NGOs in the region, and report on that project. Or, after discussion with me, you may choose another topic.

From time to time you will be assigned to work with a group of students in the class on a project, and report on it once you have researched the background and can come up with some proposals as to ways to address the needs of area businesses or other endeavors.

Attendance is mandatory. You are part of the class. Discussion and participation depend on you. Up to ten points will be taken off your grade with more than two unexcused absences.

The paper is due Tuesday, December 7. Points will be taken off for every day the paper does not appear after that, including on the weekend.

EXAMS, PAPERS:

Class discussion, presentation of chapter, paper discussion: 25%

Exam I 25%

Exam II 25%

Paper 25%

# COURSE OUTLINE

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| **WEEK** | **TOPIC** | **READING** |
| 9/7 | Introduction to course; the fields of study; |  |
|  | Anthropology, Economics, Fieldwork, Culture |  |
|  | What is money? |  |
|  | Video: Money as Debt |  |
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| 9/14 | Who are consumers? | Robbins, Ch. 1 |
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| 9/21 | Who is in the working class? | Robbins, Ch. 2 |
| 9/28 | Who does the marketing and trading?  Global and capital traders | Nordstrom, Preface--page 67; Robbins, Ch. 3 |
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| 10/5 | How do anthropologists study globalizing forces? | Read, for discussion on 10/5:  Anna Lowenhaupt Tsing, introduction to *Friction*;  Nordstrom, pp. 71-101 |
|  | **EXAM I 10/5** |  |
| 10/12 | What is the role of the nation-state in capitalism? | Robbins, Ch. 4 |
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| 10/19 | What is globalization’s impact on identity? | Donahue on West African musicians in France |
| 10/26 | Population growth and flows of wealth | Robbins, Ch. 5; Nordstrom, pp. 101-155 |
| 11/2 | Hunger, poverty, economic development, and food | Robbins, Ch. 6 and 7 |
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| 11/9  11/16 | Thinking locally? Acting globally?  Indigenous people fight back | Article on Scheper-Hughes and Cohen on organ trade;  Robbins, Ch. 9-10  Robbins, Ch. 11 |
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| 11/23 | Protests against the system;  Globalization and its discontents | Robbins, Ch. 12; Nordstrom, finish |
| 11/30 | Management of Common-Property Resources | Acheson on Garrett Hardin and the Commons |
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| 12/7 | Discussion of papers, review  **Paper Due 12/7** |  |
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| FINAL EXAM: Tuesday, December 14, 2:30-5pm | |  |
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