

ANTH/SOC 310 Culture and the Individual

As humans, we are members of “cultures” and “societies.” Membership in these groups depends on the circumstances of birth, neurologic development, how one learns the rules of society as a child, and the constraints of one’s position in society as an adult.

- What does it mean to be a member of the human species?
- What is the difference between a brain and a mind?
- What does culture have to do with the brain?
- What is the difference between memory and history?
- How is history used by humans to affect the social order?



Miners extract gold at Serra Pelada, Brazil in the 1980s. Photo by Sebastião Salgado.

This course will examine:

- approaches to studying the individual from anthropology, sociology, psychology, philosophy, and neuroscience,
- the difference between individual and collective meaning,
- how an individual’s mind is socialized or enculturated,
- the meaning of collective memory (“history”),
- the political uses of history.

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Note: Syllabus subject to change.