

My love of anthropology began in the 7th grade when I began reading about the treasures found by the early archaeologists in Egypt. My head filled with a romantic view of anthropology, I enrolled in a community college in Oregon. It soon became apparent that archaeology was hard (and dirty) work. More important, it wasn't for me. I shifted to biological anthropology and never regretted my decision.

I completed two undergraduate degrees in Oregon (B. A. in anthropology and B. S. in evolutionary biology) and a Master's (M. S. in biological anthropology). I moved to Minnesota where I began my Ph.D. work. I also volunteered in the laboratory doing malaria research. My Ph.D. chair decided to move to Hawaii, so I did, too. [I know a hard decision -- move from sub-zero weather to the sand beach -- any sacrifice in the name of education.]

I worked towards my dissertation on the medical practices and beliefs of the Moli people. They are represented by a population of about 2,000 people living on the southern coast of Guadalcanal, Solomon Islands. I collected data on diet, health status, and traditional medicines, along with taking a census and documenting the local language (also called the Moli).

Unfortunately, I had to decide between finishing and my job obligations. I have not regretted choosing to teach so I am what they call a PhD (ABD). ABD stands for All but the Dissertation. I am a full-time instructor at Everett Community College and I love teaching. I have taught anthropology at several community colleges and universities, both as a teaching assistant and as an instructor. I have taught anthropology courses in all the sub-fields (archaeology, biological anthropology, cultural anthropology, and linguistics). I also teach specialty courses, such as human diversity (the history of scientific racism and its social consequences), Pacific Islands Cultures, and medical anthropology. In 2008, I helped introduce the Global Studies program to EvCC.

I was the founding faculty when Global Studies was introduced on the EvCC campus. I am proud to say that five faculty now teach courses for this program. This program has grown and now has a new Program Head: Elke Dinter.

I am particularly dedicated to the use of service learning in my F2F classes, as I believe that learning by doing is paramount. I also am strongly committed to encouraging students to be citizen activists, being involved in making social changes.

The one thing I want everyone to know about me is that my love is teaching; it is not uncommon that I work a 15-hour day. As a part of this love, I try hard to make myself available to my students. Please, read this as a welcoming invitation to seek out my help at any time. I also believe in the intelligence of my students and that the time you invest in their education is time 'stolen' from the other obligations and commitments in your lives. Because of this, I try to make my classes rigorous, but pertinent; there is nothing more frustrating than to invest in a class and learn little from it.

I look forward to this quarter and teaching on-line. One of the reasons I chose to teach in this format is my understanding that many OL students would not otherwise be able to take these college courses; I am so glad that this new technology opens up these opportunities to learn about anthropology and global studies.

Cynthia