

Culture and Personality Week 11

Real People . . . Real Places . . .

Meet the Mamami Family

Happy Easter, if you're celebrating Easter.

Monday we will peer into the psychological worlds of Alejandro Mamami and his family. Alejandro Mamami is an elder Aymara Indian whose village is located in the mountains of **Bolivia**. Alejandro experiences an unexplained mental illness diagnosed as spiritual possession by Alejandro himself, his family and the members of his village. We'll see the progression of illness as Alejandro deteriorates from a respected leader in his community, to one whom is totally dependent on his family for survival. In short, we'll see Alejandro go crazy in the Aymara way. We'll see him go from "normal" to non-normal. And we'll see Alejandro and his family try to cope with the unpredictability of the illness and the inevitability of death, as they try to judge the point at which Alejandro steps over the line of normalcy. We'll see in detail the effects the spirit possession on Alejandro, as well as the effects his death will have on his property and family. As the filmmakers suggest, the program offers insights into the methods different cultures use to cope with both illness—psychological and other—and death. (PBS)



Rate and Rank the Film / Video

-  **Response to the film "Alejandro Mamani"** (Due by the end of Week 11—Saturday, 2 April 2016; Your Name Will Be Logged)

If you haven't yet done so, **Sign up for Class Presentation Time.** Sign up for one time slot selected from the days listed in **Moodle**. (Week 9).

As I mentioned last week, and earlier in the semester, a major part of this course is your research project—not just for the points, but because researching a topic you are interested in and presenting your findings to others, and then writing the results up as a formal paper, is one of the best ways to learn things. So this week be sure to spend some time this week working on your Paper and Presentation. If I can be of help with your Project, please let me know.

Sign up for your Presentation time:

-  **Sign up for Class Presentations Session I:** Week 14 Day 25, Monday, 18 April 2016 URL
-  **Sign up for Class Presentations Session II:** Week 14 Day 26, Wednesday, 20 April 2016 URL
-  **Sign up for Class Presentations Session III:** Week 15 Day 27, Monday, 25 April 2016 URL






Share your ideas with others. It's always a good idea to share your ideas with others. You can discuss them on-line with the others in class. And you should do that.

s2016 **Student Collaboration Space**
for your own personal use

 [Wiki for Project Collaboration](#)

The above item will be found at the top of your **Moodle** folder under "Student Collaboration Space".

Remember to check the results of the class Video Responses from earlier weeks when they close. You can find the results in the **Moodle** Blocks where they first appeared. This week have a look at . . .

-  Results--*Personality All About Me* s2016
-  Results—"Psychological Anthropology" from the *Faces of Culture* Series s2016
-  Results--*Chimp Talk* s2016 File resource
-  Results--"Everything is Relatives: William Rivers" s2016 File resource
-  Results--"New Orleans Black Indians: A Case Study in the Arts" s2016
-  Results--"Grouping by Gender, Age, Common Interests and Class" s2016 File resource
-  Results--"Coming of Age: Margaret Mead" s2016 File resource
-  Results--*Margaret Mead and Samoa* s2016 File resource
-  Results--*Stranger in the Mirror: An Examination of Visual Agnosia* s2016 File resource
-  Results--*Synesthesia: Derek Tastes of Earwax* s2016 File resource
-  Results--*Making Sense of Sensory Information* s2016 File resource
-  Results--"ESP" segment from *Science Frontiers: Put to the Test* s2016 File resource
-  Results--*Birth Order and Its Effects* s2016 File resource
-  Results--*Magical Death and Children's Magical Death* s2016 File resource
-  Results--*N!ai: The Story of a !Kung Woman* s2016 File resource
-  Results--*Latah: A Culture-specific Elaboration of the Startle Reflex* s2016

REM:



No class on Wednesday, 30 March 2016

I will be at the [Applied Anthropology Meetings in Vancouver, B.C.](#)

Your **(1) Topics** and **(2) Readings** and **(3) Assignments and Activities listings** are available in the **Week 11 Block** of your **Moodle** folder.

In the meantime, if you have any general or specific questions, please let me know <mailto:troufs@d.umn.edu>.

Best Regards,

Tim Roufs