

Aesthetic Realism and Anthropology
Summer Semester, 2004
Conducted by: Arnold Perey

Class is given from 6:00 - 7:30 PM on Alternate Wednesdays

COLDNESS AND WARMTH IN ANTHROPOLOGY

“There were people who lived in the Middle Ages and, who, so, suffered and enjoyed,” wrote Eli Siegel¹: “These people are our fellowmen over the years.” This is true for the people anthropologists write about. So this semester we look at technical treatises and lively popular works and ask: How are the people in them *our fellowmen over the years*? How can knowing them make us warmer to humanity – including the persons close to us?

1. Contempt and Respect in the Frigid Arctic May 19
Looking at: *The Central Eskimo* by Franz Boas

2. The Desire to Fight and the Desire to Share June 2
The Harmless People by Elizabeth Marshall Thomas [Kalahari Desert, Africa]

3. We Can Imagine in a Beautiful or Ugly Way June 16
Bwiti by James Fernandez

4. The Family Is Related to Everything; Take Polynesia June 30
We, the Tikopia by Raymond Firth

5. *No class WEDNESDAY night, July 14: class will be SATURDAY* July 17
“Mystery and Precision. Or, African Feeling in European Art: Early 20th Century”

We meet with *The Visual Arts and the Opposites* class taught by Marcia Rackow at the Metropolitan Museum of Art. Tentative time: 11:00 AM.

6. Past and Present Meet Fiercely July 28
Islam and Central Asia by Roald Sagdev and Susan Eisenhower, editors

7. The Opposites As You Find Them in Anthropology August 11

¹ “The Middle Ages, Say” in *The Modern Quarterly Beginnings of Aesthetic Realism*, Definition Press, New York: 1997.