

SYLLABUS
CULTURE AND SOCIETY
ANTH 2300.100
FALL 2023

PROFESSOR: DR. JARA CARRINGTON (SHE/THEY)

EMAIL: JARA.CARRINGTON@UNT.EDU

OFFICE HOURS: TUESDAYS 11-12:30PM AND WEDNESDAYS 12:30-2PM; OR BY APPOINTMENT

OFFICE: SYCAMORE HALL 122

INSTRUCTIONAL ASSISTANT: GARRETT COPELAND

EMAIL: GARRETTCOPELAND@MY.UNT.EDU

OFFICE HOURS: MONDAYS 1-2 AND 3:30-4:30; OR BY APPOINTMENT

INSTRUCTIONAL ASSISTANT: NIRVIK THAPA

EMAIL: NIRVIKTHAPA@MY.UNT.EDU

OFFICE HOURS: TUESDAYS TUESDAYS 3-5; OR BY APPOINTMENT

CLASS MEETINGS: MON/WED 2:00-3:20PM

MEETING LOCATION: GAB 104

EMAIL POLICIES:

1. PLEASE ALLOW 48 HOURS FOR A RESPONSE TO YOUR EMAIL. EMAILS SENT DURING THE WEEKEND WILL BE TREATED AS IF SENT ON MONDAY MORNING.
2. WHEN EMAILING YOUR PROFESSOR OR YOUR INSTRUCTIONAL ASSISTANT, PLEASE USE YOUR UNT EMAIL ACCOUNT VS. CANVAS EMAIL. BE SURE TO INCLUDE THE COURSE NUMBER AND SECTION (ANTH 2300.100) IN THE SUBJECT LINE ALONG WITH THE TOPIC OF THE EMAIL.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

HUMANS ARE SOCIAL AND CULTURAL BEINGS; OUR VERY SURVIVAL DEPENDS UPON IT. THIS COURSE INTRODUCES STUDENTS TO THE FIELD OF CULTURAL ANTHROPOLOGY, WHICH IS THE STUDY OF HUMAN CULTURES IN THEIR DIVERSITY AND VARIATIONS. RATHER THAN PROVIDING A COLLECTION OF FACTS ABOUT OTHER CULTURES, HOWEVER, THIS CLASS ATTEMPTS TO HELP STUDENTS UNDERSTAND, AND UTILIZE, THE GENERAL APPROACH ANTHROPOLOGISTS TAKE WHEN THEY STUDY A CULTURE; IN OTHER WORDS, IT WILL HELP YOU TO *THINK LIKE AN ANTHROPOLOGIST*. THIS CLASS

THUS FOCUSES ON ASKING CRITICAL QUESTIONS, RATHER THAN SIMPLY OFFERING AN INVENTORY OF ANSWERS.

THINKING LIKE AN ANTHROPOLOGIST IS A CRITICAL LIFE AND CAREER SKILL IN OUR GLOBALIZED WORLD. WE INTERACT WITH PEOPLE FROM DIFFERENT CULTURAL BACKGROUNDS THAN OUR OWN AT A MORE RAPID PACE THAN EVER BEFORE AND ACROSS ALL DOMAINS OF LIFE. FURTHERMORE, EVERY DAY WE SEE AMPLE EVIDENCE OF HOW SOCIAL INSTITUTIONS AND CULTURAL NORMS INFLUENCE EVERYTHING FROM THE DISTRIBUTION OF WEALTH TO THE FATE OF THE ENVIRONMENT. UNDERSTANDING HUMANITY'S SOCIAL AND CULTURAL DIVERSITY, AND BEING ABLE TO APPROACH CULTURAL DIVERSITY INTELLIGENTLY WHEN YOU FACE IT IN YOUR DAILY LIFE, IS ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT SKILLS YOU CAN DEVELOP AS A STUDENT. FROM POLITICS TO LANGUAGE TO OUR UNDERSTANDINGS OF SOCIAL DIFFERENCES, THIS COURSE WILL INTRODUCE YOU TO THE DIVERSITY AND THE COMMONALITIES IN HUMAN SOCIETIES AND SHED LIGHT ON WHAT IT MEANS TO BE HUMAN.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

- LEARN KEY ANTHROPOLOGICAL CONCEPTS AND THEORETICAL APPROACHES
- LEARN AND PRACTICE METHODOLOGIES USED BY CULTURAL ANTHROPOLOGISTS
- BECOME MORE AWARE OF THE COMPLEXITY AND DIVERSITY OF CULTURES AND SOCIETIES WITHIN THE UNITED STATES AND AROUND THE WORLD
- GAIN AN UNDERSTANDING OF YOUR OWN EXPERIENCES AS A CULTURAL AND SOCIAL BEING
- DEVELOP AND UTILIZE CRITICAL THINKING SKILLS
- DEVELOP AND UTILIZE WRITTEN AND ORAL COMMUNICATION SKILLS

REQUIRED TEXTS AND OTHER READINGS

ONE TEXTBOOK IS REQUIRED FOR THIS COURSE, ENTITLED "*ESSENTIALS OF CULTURAL ANTHROPOLOGY: A TOOLKIT FOR A GLOBAL AGE*, ED. 4E. BY KENNETH J. GUEST. (MAKE SURE YOU GET THE 4TH EDITION!) THE TEXT IS AVAILABLE AT THE UNT UNIVERSITY BOOKSTORE.

ADDITIONAL ARTICLES AND OTHER REQUIRED COURSE MATERIALS WILL BE POSTED ON OUR COURSE WEBPAGE FOR YOUR DOWNLOADING PLEASURE. ALL READINGS LISTED ON THE SYLLABUS ARE REQUIRED UNLESS OTHERWISE MARKED.

IMPORTANT THINGS TO KNOW TO SUCCEED IN THIS CLASS

LATE WORK: AS A GENERAL RULE, I DO NOT ACCEPT LATE ASSIGNMENTS OR EXAMS UNLESS YOU HAVE MADE SPECIFIC ARRANGEMENTS WITH ME IN ADVANCE, HAVE A DOCTOR'S NOTE, AND/OR OTHERWISE HAVE RECEIVED MY APPROVAL. HOWEVER, IF YOU THINK YOU WILL MISS A GRADE FOR A REASON OTHER THAN A MEDICAL EXCUSE, PLEASE GET IN TOUCH WITH ME PRIOR TO THE

DEADLINE AND WE MAY BE ABLE TO WORK SOMETHING OUT. EVEN IF IT ONLY GETS YOU PARTIAL CREDIT, THAT IS BETTER THAN NO CREDIT AT ALL!

ELECTRONICS IN THE CLASSROOM: PLEASE TURN OFF YOUR CELL PHONE/SILENCE THE RINGER PRIOR TO COMING TO CLASS. STUDENTS ARE ASKED TO REFRAIN FROM USING THEIR PHONES DURING THE CLASS PERIOD. STUDENTS MAY USE LAPTOP COMPUTERS TO TAKE NOTES AND FOR CLASS PURPOSES ONLY; STUDENTS CHECKING EMAIL, USING FACEBOOK, ETC. WILL BE ASKED TO TURN OFF THEIR COMPUTERS AND WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO USE THEIR COMPUTERS IN SUBSEQUENT CLASSES. WEARING EAR BUDS OR HEADPHONES DURING CLASS IS NOT ALLOWED, UNLESS SPECIAL PERMISSION IS GIVEN BY THE PROFESSOR.

EXTRA CREDIT: EXTRA CREDIT CAN BE EARNED AT ANY POINT DURING THE SEMESTER. I WILL SUGGEST SEVERAL OPPORTUNITIES TO THE CLASS AS THEY ARISE, AND I AM OPEN TO CREATIVE IDEAS FROM YOU. OPTIONS TO EARN EXTRA CREDIT INCLUDE: COMPLETING A RELEVANT MOVIE/DOCUMENTARY ANALYSIS, ATTENDING A TALK/LECTURE ON CAMPUS AND WRITING A SUMMARY, GOING TO A RELEVANT CULTURAL EVENT, FESTIVAL, OR LOCATION AND WRITING A BRIEF SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS, OR CREATING AN ARTISTIC PIECE SUCH AS POETRY, PAINTING, SCULPTURE OR MUSIC. YOU MUST GET APPROVAL FROM ME AHEAD OF TIME FOR YOUR CHOICE, SO CHECK WITH ME BEFORE YOU DO THE WORK.

ACADEMIC HONESTY: THE DEPARTMENT OF ANTHROPOLOGY EXPECTS ITS STUDENTS TO ABIDE BY THE HIGH ETHICAL STANDARDS OF PRACTICING PROFESSIONALS WITHIN THE FIELD OF ANTHROPOLOGY. THE DEPARTMENT DOES NOT TOLERATE CHEATING, FABRICATION, FACILITATING ACADEMIC DISHONESTY, FORGERY, PLAGIARISM, OR SABOTAGE. THIS INCLUDES THE USE OF UNAUTHORIZED PROFESSIONAL WRITING/EDITING SERVICES AND GENERATIVE AI FOR ASSIGNMENTS. STUDENTS ARE EXPECTED TO FOLLOW THE [AMERICAN ANTHROPOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION'S CODE OF ETHICS](#): "IN THEIR CAPACITY AS RESEARCHERS, ANTHROPOLOGISTS ARE SUBJECT TO THE ETHICAL PRINCIPLES GUIDING ALL SCIENTIFIC AND SCHOLARLY CONDUCT. THEY MUST NOT PLAGIARIZE, NOR FABRICATE OR FALSIFY EVIDENCE, OR KNOWINGLY MISREPRESENT INFORMATION OR ITS SOURCE"

([HTTP://ETHICS.AMERICANANTHRO.ORG/CATEGORY/STATEMENT/](http://ethics.americananthro.org/category/statement/)).

- THE UNT POLICY ON ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT DEFINES CHEATING AS THE PHYSICAL OR ELECTRONIC **DISTRIBUTION OR USE** OF ANSWERS FOR GRADED COMPONENTS, SUCH AS DISCUSSION POSTS, WRITING ASSIGNMENTS, AND EXAMS.
- PLAGIARISM IS DEFINED AS MISREPRESENTING THE WORK OF OTHERS (WHETHER PUBLISHED OR NOT) AS YOUR OWN.
- PLAGIARISM MAY BE INADVERTENT OR INTENTIONAL. **THAT IS, PLAGIARISM IS STILL PLAGIARISM EVEN IF YOU "DIDN'T MEAN TO DO IT."** ANY FACTS, STATISTICS, QUOTATIONS,

OR PARAPHRASING OF ANY INFORMATION THAT IS NOT COMMON KNOWLEDGE SHOULD BE CITED.

- **STUDENTS WHO ARE SUSPECTED OF CHEATING OR PLAGIARISM WILL RECEIVE AN AUTOMATIC ZERO ON THE ASSESSMENT.** I ALSO RESERVE THE RIGHT TO PURSUE FURTHER DISCIPLINARY ACTION WITHIN THE UNT SYSTEM. IN THIS INSTANCE, STUDENTS WILL BE PROVIDED THE OPPORTUNITY FOR A HEARING; IF FOUND GUILTY THEY CAN RECEIVE AN AUTOMATIC “F” IN THE COURSE. MULTIPLE VIOLATIONS MAY RESULT IN DISMISSAL FROM THE UNIVERSITY.
- FOR ADDITIONAL RESOURCES TO HELP WITH PAPER WRITING, INCLUDING HOW TO AVOID PLAGIARISM AND HOW TO USE CITATIONS, SEE THE [DEPARTMENT OF ANTHROPOLOGY WRITING GUIDE](#). IN ADDITION, STUDENTS ARE ENCOURAGED TO MAKE USE OF THE [UNT WRITING CENTER](#).
- FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE UNIVERSITY’S POLICIES AND PROCEDURES REGARDING ACADEMIC INTEGRITY AND DISHONESTY, SEE THE UNT [STUDENT ACADEMIC INTEGRITY POLICY](#).

TWO MORE POINTS ABOUT THIS:

A) JUST DON’T DO IT. ASSIGNMENTS SUBMITTED IN THIS COURSE WILL BE RUN THROUGH TURNITIN, A WEB-BASED RESOURCE THAT COMPARES THE TEXT OF STUDENT SUBMISSIONS TO AN EXTENSIVE ELECTRONIC DATABASE AND ASSESSES FOR USE OF GENERATIVE AI. EVEN WITHOUT THAT, I WILL LIKELY BE ABLE TO TELL IF THE WRITING IS NOT YOURS. IT IS BETTER TO TALK WITH ME ABOUT WHY THE ASSIGNMENT IS NOT COMPLETE, OR TO ASK FOR HELP ON IN-TEXT CITATIONS, RATHER THAN PASSING OFF SOMEONE ELSE’S WORK AS YOUR OWN.

B) CHEATING/PLAGIARISM/USE OF GENERATIVE AI ARE ALSO ISSUES RELATED TO THE POLITICS OF CITATION AND REPRESENTATION. WHEN YOU REPRESENT SOMEONE ELSE’S THOUGHTS/WRITING AS YOUR OWN, YOU ARE DENYING THEM CREDIT FOR THEIR INTELLECTUAL WORK. ESPECIALLY WHEN AUTHORS ARE WOMEN, PERSONS OF COLOR, QUEER, AND/OR ARE BORN OUTSIDE THE UNITED STATES AND EUROPE, PLAGIARISM IS YET ANOTHER WAY IN WHICH CERTAIN VOICES ARE MARGINALIZED WITHIN THE WESTERN ACADEMY. ACTIONS HAVE MEANING. PLEASE CITE YOUR SOURCES.

ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATIONS: THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH TEXAS IS COMMITTED TO PROVIDING ACCOMMODATION FOR ALL STUDENTS. IF YOU HAVE OR ACQUIRE A DISABILITY THAT MAY AFFECT YOUR PARTICIPATION IN CLASS, I WILL STRIVE TO ACCOMMODATE YOUR NEEDS. TO ENSURE THAT THE NECESSARY ACCOMMODATIONS ARE MADE, BE SURE TO CONTACT THE OFFICE OF DISABILITY ACCOMMODATION (LOCATED IN SAGE HALL) AS SOON AS POSSIBLE TO ENSURE YOUR NEEDS ARE MET IN A TIMELY MANNER. THEY WILL WORK WITH BOTH OF US TO ENSURE PROPER ACCOMMODATIONS ARE MADE. IF YOU NEED ACCOMMODATIONS, PLEASE REMEMBER THAT

REASONABLE PRIOR NOTICE NEEDS TO BE GIVEN TO THE OFFICE OF DISABILITY ACCOMMODATION. NOTE THAT STUDENTS NEED TO OBTAIN A NEW LETTER OF ACCOMMODATION FOR EVERY SEMESTER AND MEET WITH EACH FACULTY MEMBER PRIOR TO IMPLEMENTATION IN EACH CLASS. FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION SEE THE OFFICE OF DISABILITY ACCOMMODATION WEBSITE AT [HTTP://WWW.UNT.EDU/ODA](http://www.unt.edu/oda). YOU MAY ALSO CONTACT THEM BY PHONE AT 940.565.4323.

RESOURCES

NAMES AND PRONOUNS: I WILL GLADLY HONOR YOUR REQUEST TO CALL YOU BY A NAME THAT DIFFERS FROM SCHOOL RECORDS AS WELL AS THE PRONOUNS THAT YOU USE. I ALSO UNDERSTAND THAT WE GROW AND CHANGE IN HOW WE UNDERSTAND OURSELVES, THEREFORE APPROPRIATE NAME AND PRONOUNS CAN CHANGE DURING THE SEMESTER. SO, PLEASE ADVISE ME OF HOW TO ADDRESS YOU WHENEVER YOU FEEL COMFORTABLE, SAFE, AND READY TO DO SO. YOU CAN ADD PRONOUNS TO YOUR CANVAS ACCOUNT HERE

[HTTPS://COMMUNITY.CANVASLMS.COM/T5/STUDENT-GUIDE/HOW-DO-I-SELECT-PERSONAL-PRONOUNS-IN-MY-USER-ACCOUNT-AS-A/TA-P/456](https://community.canvaslms.com/t5/Student-Guide/How-do-I-select-personal-pronouns-in-my-user-account-as-a/ta-p/456). THE PRIDE ALLIANCE OFFICE AT UNT ALSO OFFERS SUPPORT AND INFORMATION REGARDING COMMUNICATION ABOUT YOUR NAME OR PRONOUNS.

UNT FOOD PANTRY: ANY CURRENT UNT STUDENT IN NEED CAN VISIT THE FOOD PANTRY 8AM-6PM MONDAY-THURSDAY AND 8AM-5PM ON FRIDAYS. STUDENTS WILL CHECK-IN AT THE DEAN OF STUDENTS OFFICE FRONT DESK IN THE UNION, SUITE 409. STUDENTS MAY GO DIRECTLY TO ROOM 366 FROM 5PM-6PM, MONDAY-THURSDAY. STUDENTS WHO VISIT THE FOOD PANTRY CAN ALSO REQUEST TO MEET WITH A STAFF MEMBER TO DISCUSS ANY DIFFICULTIES THEY MAY BE FACING DURING THE HOURS OF 8AM-5PM. WHEN APPROPRIATE, REFERRAL TO ADDITIONAL CAMPUS AND/OR COMMUNITY RESOURCES WILL BE MADE. THE DEAN OF STUDENTS OFFICE HAS ESTABLISHED PROTOCOLS THAT ALLOW FOR STUDENT CONFIDENTIALITY AND DIGNITY TO BE MAINTAINED. IN ADDITION, THERE IS A PANTRY LOCATED AT THE DISCOVERY PARK LOCATION IN THE ENGINEERING LIBRARY (M130) NEXT TO THE CAREER CENTER, AS WELL AS A FOOD PANTRY LOCATED AT UNT'S FRISCO CAMPUS, WHICH CAN BE ACCESSED BY VISITING THE INFORMATION DESK.

NEED TECHNICAL HELP/TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE?

CONTACT THE UNT IT HELPDESK!

PHONE: 940-565-2324

E-MAIL: HELPDESK@UNT.EDU

LOCATION: SAGE HALL, ROOM 130

TECHNOLOGY RESOURCES

[HTTP://IT.UNT.EDU/HELPDESK](http://it.unt.edu/helpdesk)

NEED ACADEMIC HELP/ASSISTANCE? UNT IS HERE FOR YOU!

UNT LEARNING CENTER

THE UNT LEARNING CENTER PROVIDES A VARIETY OF TUTORING SERVICES THAT ARE OPEN TO YOU—INCLUDING ONLINE TUTORING FOR DISTANCE STUDENTS. CHECK OUT THEIR WEBSITE FOR MORE INFORMATION HERE: [HTTPS://LEARNINGCENTER.UNT.EDU/TUTORING](https://learningcenter.unt.edu/tutoring)

UNT WRITING CENTER

ALSO, THE UNT WRITING CENTER PROVIDES ASSISTANCE WITH ANY ACADEMIC WRITING NEEDS. THIS IS A GREAT RESOURCE FOR THIS CLASS GIVEN HOW MUCH WRITING YOU WILL DO! FIND MORE ABOUT THEIR SERVICES HERE: [HTTPS://WRITINGCENTER.UNT.EDU](https://writingcenter.unt.edu)

CANVAS PRIVACY POLICY: [HTTPS://WWW.INSTRUCTURE.COM/POLICIES/PRIVACY](https://www.instructure.com/policies/privacy)

CANVAS ACCESSIBILITY POLICY: [HTTPS://COMMUNITY.CANVASLMS.COM/DOCS/DOC-2061-ACCESSIBILITY-WITHIN-CANVAS](https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-2061-ACCESSIBILITY-WITHIN-CANVAS)

EMERGENCY NOTIFICATION AND PROCEDURES: UNT USES A SYSTEM CALLED EAGLE ALERT TO QUICKLY NOTIFY STUDENTS WITH CRITICAL INFORMATION IN THE EVENT OF AN EMERGENCY (I.E., SEVERE WEATHER, CAMPUS CLOSING, AND HEALTH AND PUBLIC SAFETY EMERGENCIES LIKE CHEMICAL SPILLS, FIRES, OR VIOLENCE). IN THE EVENT OF A UNIVERSITY CLOSURE, PLEASE REFER TO CANVAS FOR CONTINGENCY PLANS FOR COVERING COURSE MATERIALS.

EVALUATION AND EXPECTATIONS

COURSE EXPECTATIONS

THIS COURSE REQUIRES YOUR ENGAGEMENT WITH NEW AND SOMETIMES ACADEMICALLY RIGOROUS MATERIALS. FURTHER, WE MAY COVER CONTENT IN THIS COURSE THAT CHALLENGES YOUR PERSONAL BELIEFS AND OPINIONS. I DO NOT EXPECT YOU TO AGREE WITH COURSE MATERIALS IN ORDER TO DO WELL IN THIS CLASS, BUT I DO EXPECT YOU TO A) APPROACH THESE TOPICS IN AN OPEN AND INTELLECTUAL FASHION AND B) **USE COURSE CONTENT AND THE PROVIDED RESOURCES TO COMPLETE ASSIGNMENTS.** COMMENTS THAT ARE DISRESPECTFUL TO YOUR CLASSMATES AND/OR MYSELF WILL NOT BE TOLERATED.

GRADES

THIS COURSE HELPS YOU TO DEVELOP AND USE SKILLS IMPORTANT TO ANTHROPOLOGISTS, ESPECIALLY CRITICAL READING STRATEGIES, RESEARCH METHODS, AS WELL AS ORAL AND WRITTEN

COMMUNICATION SKILLS. YOU WILL HAVE THE FOLLOWING OPPORTUNITIES TO EARN POINTS FOR THE CLASS:

CLASS PARTICIPATION	100 PTS
IN-CLASS GROUP ASSIGNMENTS	200 PTS
ETHNOGRAPHIC OBSERVATION, FIELDNOTES, AND MAP	200 PTS
CURRENT EVENT ANALYSIS	100 PTS
CORE ASSESSMENT	36 PTS
ETHNOGRAPHIC INTERVIEW AND REPORT	200 PTS

I. CLASS PARTICIPATION (100 POINTS)

THIS CLASS RELIES ON THE INTELLECTUAL COMMITMENT AND *ACTIVE* PARTICIPATION OF ALL STUDENTS. ACTIVE PARTICIPATION MEANS GOING BEYOND MERELY SHOWING UP FOR CLASS, AND MEANS: RESPONDING TO DISCUSSION QUESTIONS THAT I POSE TO THE CLASS, ASKING YOUR OWN QUESTIONS FOR CLARIFICATION, BRINGING IN RELEVANT CONTRIBUTING INFORMATION, AND RESPECTFULLY RESPONDING TO CLASSMATES' DISCUSSION POINTS. TWO PARTICIPATION GRADES WILL BE GIVEN—ONE AT THE MIDTERM AND ONE AT THE END OF THE SEMESTER (50 POINTS EACH).

IN ORDER FOR YOU TO PARTICIPATE, YOU NEED TO HAVE COMPLETED THE READING ASSIGNMENT FOR THAT DAY. YOU MAY WANT TO BRING THE ASSIGNED READING TO CLASS EACH DAY SO THAT YOU CAN REFER TO THEM AND UTILIZE THEM DURING CLASS. YOU SHOULD TAKE NOTES ON LECTURES AND CLASSROOM DISCUSSIONS AS WELL AS READINGS, BECAUSE THESE NOTES WILL COME IN VERY HANDY FOR THE WRITING ASSIGNMENTS. AS PART OF THIS GRADE, YOU WILL BE EVALUATED ON THE FREQUENCY AND QUALITY OF YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS TO CLASS DISCUSSION AND YOUR PARTICIPATION IN GROUP WORK.

II. IN-CLASS GROUP ASSIGNMENTS (200 POINTS)

IN ORDER TO ENCOURAGE STUDENTS TO COME TO CLASS, AND TO COME TO CLASS HAVING READ THE REQUIRED READINGS, 10 GRADES WILL BE GIVEN THROUGHOUT THE SEMESTER FOR GROUP ASSIGNMENTS RELATED TO THE COURSE READINGS AND CONTENT THAT WILL BE COMPLETED AT THE BEGINNING OR DURING THE CLASS PERIOD. GROUP ASSIGNMENTS WILL VARY, BUT WILL INVOLVE DEMONSTRATING THAT YOU HAVE READ/UNDERSTAND AND CAN APPLY THE CONCEPTS AND IDEAS FROM THE READINGS FOR THAT DAY'S CLASS. STUDENTS WHO ARE ABSENT WILL NOT BE GIVEN THE OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE UP THESE POINTS UNLESS THEY HAVE A DOCUMENTED EXCUSE AND/OR HAVE RECEIVED PERMISSION FROM THE INSTRUCTOR AHEAD OF TIME.

III. CURRENT EVENT ANALYSIS (100 POINTS)

IN ORDER TO PROVIDE AN OPPORTUNITY FOR YOU TO PUT THE CONCEPTS AND IDEAS WE ARE LEARNING IN CLASS IN CONVERSATION WITH EVENTS AND ISSUES IN OUR SOCIETY TODAY, EACH STUDENT WILL COMPLETE A CURRENT EVENT ANALYSIS.

IN THIS ASSIGNMENT, YOU WILL PICK A **SPECIFIC** “CURRENT EVENT” RELATED TO “CULTURE” AND ANALYZE IT USING CONCEPTS FROM OUR LESSON CONTENT AND/OR THE REQUIRED READINGS. BY CURRENT I MEAN IT SHOULD HAVE OCCURRED WITHIN THE PAST 5 YEARS OR SO.

CURRENT EVENT TOPICS CAN INCLUDE ANYTHING RELATED TO CULTURE (WHICH, YOU WILL FIND OUT, IS MOSTLY EVERYTHING!) INCLUDING ART, SOCIAL MOVEMENTS, POPULAR MEDIA SUCH AS FILM OR TV, SOCIAL MEDIA TRENDS, NEWS STORIES, DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL EVENTS, LAW/POLICY, AND MORE. BE CREATIVE!

YOUR ANALYSIS SHOULD BE AT LEAST 500-600 WORDS. IN YOUR SUBMISSION, YOU WILL WANT TO:

1. IDENTIFY AND PROVIDE A BRIEF DESCRIPTION/SUMMARY OF YOUR CURRENT EVENT TOPIC.
2. EXPLAIN THIS CURRENT EVENT’S SIGNIFICANCE TO COURSE CONTENT USING AT LEAST ONE ANTHROPOLOGICAL CONCEPT OR THEORY FROM LESSON CONTENT OR YOUR REQUIRED READINGS. THAT IS, I WANT TO SEE YOU MAKE A CONNECTION BETWEEN YOUR CURRENT EVENT TOPIC AND SOMETHING YOU HAVE LEARNED IN THIS CLASS. TO DO THIS WELL, YOU SHOULD IDENTIFY AND DEFINE THE CONCEPT(S) OR THEORY(IES) THAT YOU ARE USING IN THE ASSIGNMENT.
3. OFFER YOUR VERY INSIGHTFUL AND CRITICAL ANALYSIS OF THE TOPIC/MATERIALS FROM AN ANTHROPOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVE. THAT IS, WHAT MEANING MIGHT WE LEARN FROM THINKING ABOUT THIS TOPIC FROM AN ANTHROPOLOGICAL STANDPOINT?? (FYI: “I THOUGHT IT WAS INTERESTING” IS NEITHER INSIGHTFUL NOR CRITICAL)
4. INCLUDE A WEBLINK OR COPY OF OBJECT IF RELEVANT

TRY TO SELECT A TOPIC THAT RAISES YOUR CURIOSITY OR INTEREST—IT WILL MAKE THIS ASSIGNMENT MUCH MORE INTERESTING FOR YOU.

IV. ETHNOGRAPHIC OBSERVATION, FIELDNOTES, AND MAP ASSIGNMENT (200 POINTS)

TO COMPLETE THIS PROJECT, YOU WILL GO TO A SITE/LOCATION OF YOUR CHOICE FOR AT LEAST ONE HOUR OF TIME-- THE PLACE YOU CHOOSE IS UP TO YOU, SO LONG AS IT IS WITHIN THE PARAMETERS OUTLINED BELOW. YOU WILL OBSERVE AND PARTICIPATE IN THE ACTIVITIES TAKING PLACE AT THIS LOCATION, ESPECIALLY PAYING ATTENTION TO THE SETTING ITSELF, THE

ENVIRONMENT, THE PEOPLE AND/OR ANIMALS THERE, AND ANYTHING ELSE YOU MIGHT OBSERVE OR SENSE. TRY TO USE ALL OF YOUR AVAILABLE SENSES, AND DOCUMENT ALL THE DIFFERENT THINGS THAT YOU EXPERIENCE AND FEEL.

YOU WILL RECORD THESE OBSERVATIONS AS “FIELDNOTES,” WHICH YOU WILL TURN IN AS ONE PART OF THE FINAL ASSIGNMENT. YOU WILL ALSO DRAW A MAP OF THE SPACE/PLACE. YOU WILL THEN USE THE FIELDNOTES AND MAP TO WRITE A NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION ABOUT THIS SPACE/PLACE, USING IN-DEPTH DESCRIPTION TO CONVEY YOUR EXPERIENCE TO THE READER. YOUR NARRATIVE WRITE-UP SHOULD BE **650-800 WORDS**.

YOU WILL SUBMIT **THREE DOCUMENTS** FOR POINTS:

- YOUR DETAILED FIELDNOTES THAT YOU TOOK DURING YOUR OBSERVATION, AT LEAST ONE FULL PAGE (50 POINTS)
- DRAWN MAP OF THE SPACE/PLACE (50 POINTS)
- A MORE FORMAL WRITTEN NARRATIVE DESCRIBING IN DETAIL YOUR EXPERIENCE, 650-800 WORDS (100 POINTS)

THE WRITTEN NARRATIVE SHOULD INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING ELEMENTS:

1. IN-DEPTH DESCRIPTION OF THE PLACE/SPACE, INCLUDING STRUCTURES, LANDSCAPE ELEMENTS, NATURAL OR MAN-MADE OBJECTS, THE “FEELING” OF THE PLACE, ETC.
2. OBSERVE AND NOTE DESCRIPTIONS OF THE PEOPLE, INCLUDING DEMOGRAPHICS, COMPORTMENT AND DRESS, INTERACTIONS AMONGST PEOPLE, EXPRESSIONS OF EMOTIONS OR MOODS, ETC.
3. DUE TO COVID AND OTHER HEALTH CONCERNS, STUDENTS ARE ABLE TO CHOOSE SITES WITHOUT OTHER PEOPLE PRESENT. IN THESE INSTANCES, YOU SHOULD CLOSELY OBSERVE THE ENVIRONMENT, PAYING ATTENTION TO ASPECTS INCLUDING HOW PLANTS, INSECTS, AND/OR ANIMALS INTERACT WITHIN THE SPACE; THE TOPOGRAPHY AND DESIGN OF THE SPACE; THE SIGHTS, SOUNDS, AND SMELLS YOU NOTICE; AND HOW “CULTURE” AND “NATURE” INTERACT OR ARE SEPARATED.
4. USE THE ANTHROPOLOGICAL CONCEPT OF “CULTURE” AS DESCRIBED IN THE LESSON CONTENT AND THE TEXT, WITH PARTICULAR ATTENTION TO THE “CHARACTERISTICS” OF CULTURE, TO DISCUSS THE CULTURAL FUNCTION, SIGNIFICANCE, OR MEANING(S) OF THIS SPACE/PLACE. TO DO THIS WELL, YOU MUST FIRST DEFINE/DESCRIBE THE RELEVANT CHARACTERISTIC(S).
5. REFLECTIONS ON YOUR EXPERIENCE OF THIS ACTIVITY—DID YOU INTERACT WITH YOUR ENVIRONMENT OR DID YOU MOSTLY ONLY OBSERVE? WHAT DID YOU LEARN ABOUT THIS SPACE/PLACE SEEING IT FROM AN ANTHROPOLOGICAL POINT OF VIEW? DID IT SEEM STRANGE TO BE AN OBSERVER? WHY OR WHY NOT?

KEEP IN MIND, THE MORE DESCRIPTIVE DETAIL, THE BETTER! HELP YOUR READER DRAW A PICTURE OF YOUR EXPERIENCE IN THEIR MIND. YOUR SUBMISSION WILL BE EVALUATED FOR THOROUGHNESS AND ATTENTION TO DETAIL.

PARAMETERS FOR COMPLETING THIS ASSIGNMENT:

- ***PLEASE DO NOT SELECT A LOCATION OR EVENT ON CAMPUS, AND I WOULD PREFER THAT THIS STUDY TAKE PLACE OUTSIDE OF ANY COFFEE SHOPS, BARS, OR OTHER “HANGOUT” SPOTS THAT YOU ALREADY FREQUENT.*** CHOOSE SOME PLACE OR EVENT THAT IS DIFFERENT FOR YOU, IT WILL MAKE THIS PROJECT CONSIDERABLY MORE INTERESTING!
- KEEP IN MIND YOU NEED TO BE IN THE SPACE FOR AT LEAST AN HOUR, SO DO NOT SELECT A LOCATION WHERE THIS WOULD BE DIFFICULT OR INAPPROPRIATE TO DO.
- WHEREVER YOU CHOOSE, PLEASE BE RESPECTFUL OF THE PEOPLE WHO ARE THERE.
- MAKE SURE THAT THE SITE IS SAFE AND PLEASE BE AWARE OF YOUR SURROUNDINGS.

V. CORE ASSESSMENT (36 POINTS)

THIS COURSE IS PART OF THE UNIVERSITY CORE CURRICULUM. IN ORDER TO ENSURE THE COURSE IS FULFILLING ITS ROLE IN THE CORE, A COURSE ASSESSMENT WILL BE GIVEN TO ALL STUDENTS. THE ASSESSMENT WILL BE COMPLETED ON CANVAS.

VI. ETHNOGRAPHIC INTERVIEW AND REPORT (200 POINTS)

TO COMPLETE THIS PROJECT, YOU WILL CONDUCT AN ETHNOGRAPHIC INTERVIEW WITH SOMEONE WHO IS FROM A *DIFFERENT* CULTURAL OR SUB-CULTURAL BACKGROUND THAN YOU. IT IS UP TO YOU TO DESCRIBE HOW THE INTERVIEWEE’S CULTURAL BACKGROUND IS DIFFERENT FROM YOUR OWN (IN SOME CASES, IT MAY BE OBVIOUS, IN OTHERS, LESS SO). YOU CAN CHOOSE TO DO THIS INTERVIEW USING VIDEO CONFERENCING TECHNOLOGY DUE TO COVID RESTRICTIONS/HEALTH CONCERNS.

FOR THIS ASSIGNMENT, YOU WILL DEVELOP AN INTERVIEW QUESTIONNAIRE THAT WILL HELP YOU TO GAIN INFORMATION ABOUT THEIR LIFE. YOU MAY WANT TO ASK ABOUT YOUR INTERVIEWEE’S CULTURAL BACKGROUND, THEIR CHILDHOOD AND LIFE GROWING UP, THEIR EDUCATION AND WORK EXPERIENCES, THEIR FAMILY RELATIONSHIPS, FOOD PRACTICES, RELIGION/SPIRITUALITY, OR OTHER AREAS IN WHICH YOU ARE INTERESTED. YOUR GOAL IS TO APPROACH THIS ASSIGNMENT LIKE AN ANTHROPOLOGIST, AND CONSIDER HOW YOUR INTERVIEWEE’S SPECIFIC LIFE EXPERIENCES ARE RELATED TO BROADER CULTURAL AND HISTORICAL CONTEXTS.

IN YOUR PAPER, YOU WILL ANALYZE THE CONTENT OF THE INTERVIEW USING ANTHROPOLOGICAL THEORIES AND CONCEPTS THAT WE HAVE DISCUSSED IN CLASS AND THAT YOU HAVE LEARNED

THROUGH YOUR READINGS. YOU WILL BE EXPECTED TO DISCUSS THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE PARTICULAR EXPERIENCES OF YOUR INTERVIEWEE AND THE BROADER CULTURAL CONTEXT(S) IN WHICH THEY EXIST. REMEMBER, YOU NEED TO APPROACH THIS PROJECT LIKE AN ANTHROPOLOGIST: OPEN MINDED AND WITHOUT VALUE JUDGMENTS PLACED ON THOSE WHO ARE DIFFERENT FROM YOU.

YOU WILL TURN IN A **900-1100 WORD PAPER** DESCRIBING YOUR INTERVIEWEE'S LIFE (175 POINTS), **ALONG WITH A COPY OF THE INTERVIEW QUESTIONS THAT YOU ASKED YOUR INTERVIEWEE** (25 POINTS). IN THE FINAL PAPER, YOU WILL GIVE A DETAILED DESCRIPTION AND ANALYSIS OF THE INTERVIEW, INCLUDING:

1. BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE SUBCULTURE YOUR INTERVIEWEE IS A PART OF, AND YOUR POSITION IN RELATION TO IT (I.E. HOW YOUR CULTURAL BACKGROUND IS DIFFERENT FROM AND/OR SIMILAR TO YOUR INTERVIEWEE)
2. DISCUSSION OF YOUR INTERVIEWEE'S LIFE EXPERIENCES WITHIN A PARTICULAR CULTURAL AND HISTORICAL CONTEXT
3. FOCUSED DISCUSSION OF SPECIFIC ASPECT OF INTERVIEWEE'S LIFE EXPERIENCES BASED UPON THE CONTENT OF THE INTERVIEW. THIS COULD INCLUDE BUT IS NOT LIMITED TO: YOUR INTERVIEWEE'S CULTURAL BACKGROUND, THEIR CHILDHOOD AND LIFE GROWING UP, THEIR EDUCATION AND WORK EXPERIENCES, THEIR FAMILY RELATIONSHIPS, FOOD PRACTICES, RELIGION/SPIRITUALITY, OR OTHER AREAS IN WHICH YOU ARE INTERESTED. THESE EXPERIENCES SHOULD BE SPECIFIC TO YOUR INTERVIEWEE!
4. **APPLICATION OF AT LEAST TWO CONCEPTS FROM THE LESSON CONTENT AND/OR TEXTBOOK TO ANALYZE, INTERPRET, AND/OR UNDERSTAND THE CONTENT OF THE INTERVIEW. TO DO THIS WELL, YOU MUST FIRST DESCRIBE/DEFINE THE CONCEPT ITSELF.**
5. A REFLECTION ON YOUR EXPERIENCE OF DOING THE INTERVIEW. HOW DID IT FEEL TO BE THE INTERVIEWER? WHAT DID YOU LEARN? WAS IT EASIER OR MORE CHALLENGING THAN YOU THOUGHT IT WOULD BE? DID YOU KNOW THE PERSON BEFORE THE INTERVIEW? IF SO, HOW DO YOU SEE THAT PERSON DIFFERENTLY AFTER THE INTERVIEW?

** PLEASE MAKE SURE YOU HAVE CONSENT FROM THE PERSON BEFORE YOU CONDUCT YOUR INTERVIEW, AND PLEASE BE RESPECTFUL TO YOUR INTERVIEWEE. FOR INSTANCE, IF YOU CAN SEE THAT A TOPIC MAKES THEM UNCOMFORTABLE, DISCONTINUE THAT LINE OF QUESTIONING.

NOTE: THE INSTRUCTOR RESERVES THE RIGHT TO ADD, DELETE, OR REVISE SEGMENTS OF THE SYLLABUS. ANY CHANGES IN THE COURSE SCHEDULE WILL BE ANNOUNCED IN CLASS AND ON THE COURSE WEBPAGE.

*** PAPER FORMATTING: ALL PAPERS ARE TO BE DOUBLE SPACED, WITH 12-POINT FONT AND 1-INCH MARGINS ON ALL SIDES, AND SHOULD CONTAIN A WORKS CITED/REFERENCES PAGE. IN-TEXT QUOTES AND REFERENCES SHOULD BE PROPERLY CITED. YOU MAY USE WHICHEVER FORMAT YOU ARE MOST FAMILIAR WITH (I.E. MLA, APA, CHICAGO), BUT YOU MUST BE CONSISTENT. IF YOU DO NOT KNOW WHAT I AM TALKING ABOUT HERE, PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE ASK THE INSTRUCTOR, YOUR INSTRUCTIONAL ASSISTANT, OR THE UNT WRITING LAB FOR HELP.**

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

10/2: ETHNOGRAPHIC OBSERVATION AND FIELDNOTES ASSIGNMENT DUE

11/6: CURRENT EVENT ANALYSIS DUE

11/15: CORE ASSESSMENT DUE

12/11: ETHNOGRAPHIC INTERVIEW AND REPORT ASSIGNMENT DUE

COURSE SCHEDULE AND REQUIRED READINGS

SECTION 1- ANTHROPOLOGY AND THE STUDY OF HUMANITY

8/21: FIRST DAY OF CLASS; NO READINGS ASSIGNED

8/23: 1. DOUGLAS RAYBECK "THE DAWN OF INTEREST"
2. ESSENTIALS OF CULTURAL ANTHROPOLOGY PGS. 5-20

SECTION 2- CULTURAL ANTHROPOLOGY AND THE CULTURE CONCEPT

8/28: ESSENTIALS OF CULTURAL ANTHROPOLOGY PGS. 33-48

8/30: ESSENTIALS OF CULTURAL ANTHROPOLOGY PGS. 21-31, 48-63

9/4: LABOR DAY, NO CLASS!

SECTION 3- PACKING YOUR ANTHROPOLOGICAL BACKPACK:

THEORIES, METHODS, AND PRACTICES

9/6: 1. ESSENTIALS OF CULTURAL ANTHROPOLOGY PGS. 65-80

2. TIPS FOR WRITING FIELDNOTES:

[HTTPS://WWW.REED.EDU/ANTHRO/201/FIELDNOTESANDTECH.HTML](https://www.reed.edu/anthro/201/fieldnotesandtech.html)

- 9/11: 1. ESSENTIALS OF CULTURAL ANTHROPOLOGY PGS. 80-95
2. FIELDNOTES EXAMPLES: (THEY START A LITTLE DOWN THE PAGE)

[HTTPS://WWW.REED.EDU/ANTHRO/201/FIELDCOMMENTARIES.HTML](https://www.reed.edu/anthro/201/fieldcommentaries.html)

9/13: HORACE MINER "THE BODY RITUALS OF THE NACIREMA"

9/18: EDWARD SAID- SELECTION FROM "ORIENTALISM"

SECTION 4- CULTURE, CURRENCY, AND POWER:

POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC SYSTEMS

9/20: ESSENTIALS OF CULTURAL ANTHROPOLOGY PGS. 281-298

- 9/25: 1. ESSENTIALS OF CULTURAL ANTHROPOLOGY PGS. 298-317
2. JAMES SUZMAN, HUNTER-GATHERER INEQUALITY: WHY ENVY MIGHT BE GOOD FOR US

9/27: ESSENTIALS OF CULTURAL ANTHROPOLOGY PGS. 357-378

- 10/2: 1. ESSENTIALS OF CULTURAL ANTHROPOLOGY PGS. 378--387
2. THE GUARDIAN- WHAT DOES THE PANOPTICON MEAN IN THE AGE OF DIGITAL SURVEILLANCE?

10/2: ETHNOGRAPHIC OBSERVATION, FIELDNOTES, AND MAP ASSIGNMENT DUE
SUBMIT ON CANVAS BY 2:00PM

SECTION 6- THINKING ANTHROPOLOGICALLY ABOUT...

RACE, ETHNICITY, GENDER, AND SEXUALITY

- 10/4: 1. ESSENTIALS OF CULTURAL ANTHROPOLOGY PGS. 127-137
2. AMERICAN ANTHROPOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION'S STATEMENT ON RACE

10/9: ESSENTIALS OF CULTURAL ANTHROPOLOGY PGS. 138-159

10/11: ESSENTIALS OF CULTURAL ANTHROPOLOGY PGS. 161-185

10/16: ESSENTIALS OF CULTURAL ANTHROPOLOGY PGS. 187-208

SUGGESTED: EMILY MARTIN “THE EGG AND THE SPERM: HOW SCIENCE HAS
CONSTRUCTED A ROMANCE BASED ON STEREOTYPICAL MALE-FEMALE ROLES”

10/18: ESSENTIALS OF CULTURAL ANTHROPOLOGY PGS. 219-241

LANGUAGE, COMMUNICATION, AND CULTURE

10/23: ESSENTIALS OF CULTURAL ANTHROPOLOGY PGS. 104-123

10/25: BORODITSKY “HOW LANGUAGE SHAPES THOUGHT: THE LANGUAGES WE SPEAK
AFFECT OUR PERCEPTIONS OF THE WORLD”

KINSHIP AND FAMILY

10/30: ESSENTIALS OF CULTURAL ANTHROPOLOGY PGS. 249-265, 270-277

RELIGION, RITUAL, AND SYMBOLS

11/1: 1. ESSENTIALS OF CULTURAL ANTHROPOLOGY PGS. 389-404

2. SAPIENS “HOW DID BELIEF EVOLVE?”

11/6: 1. ESSENTIALS OF CULTURAL ANTHROPOLOGY PGS. 405- 421

**11/6: CURRENT EVENT ANALYSIS DUE
COMPLETE ON CANVAS BY 2:00PM**

SECTION 7- CURRENT TOPICS IN ANTHROPOLOGY

FOOD AND CULTURE

11/8: ROLAND BARTHES “TOWARD A PSYCHOSOCIOLOGY OF CONTEMPORARY FOOD
CONSUMPTION”

11/13: PSYCHE WILLIAMS-FORSON “MORE THAN JUST THE ‘BIG PIECE OF CHICKEN’: THE POWER OF RACE, CLASS, AND FOOD IN AMERICAN CONSCIOUSNESS”

MUSEUMS AND MATERIAL CULTURE

- 11/15: 1. SELECTION FROM “MATERIAL CULTURE” IN *ASKING QUESTIONS ABOUT ANTHROPOLOGY*
2. CAIRNS “MUSEUMS ARE DANGEROUS PLACES: HOW TE PAPA IS CHALLENGING COLONIALIST HISTORY”

11/15: CORE ASSESSMENT DUE
COMPLETE ON CANVAS BY 11:59PM

11/20-11/24: THANKSGIVING BREAK, NO CLASS!

THE BODY

11/27: ESSENTIALS OF CULTURAL ANTHROPOLOGY PGS. 423-448

11/29: PAUL FARMER “AN ANTHROPOLOGY OF STRUCTURAL VIOLENCE”

TRAVEL AND TOURISM

12/4: CHRISTINE PREBLE- “CRUISE SHIP TOURISM IN COZUMEL, MEXICO: FRIOS COMO LA NATURALEZA DE LOS GRINGOS LO DICE”

12/6: WRAPPING UP; FINAL THOUGHTS AND CONSIDERATIONS (IF NECESSARY)

12/11: ETHNOGRAPHIC INTERVIEW AND REPORT DUE
SUBMIT ON CANVAS BY 11:59PM