



ANTH 3101: AMERICAN CULTURE & SOCIETY
FALL 2018
ONLINE COURSE
BLACKBOARD (BB)

INSTRUCTOR: April Bass
OFFICE: Anthropology Department, 330E Chilton Hall
PHONE: 940-565-7913
EMAIL: april.bass@unt.edu
OFFICE HRS: M/W 10-11a & 2-3p; T/R 11a-12p & 2-4p
OR BY APPOINTMENT (call or email to schedule)

IA: Obas Atibaka
EMAIL: SundayAtibaka@my.unt.edu
OFFICE HRS: (Virtual) Tues/Wed 2-4pm
Skype ID: O.Atibaka

IA: Amanda Hass
EMAIL: amandahass@my.unt.edu
OFFICE HRS: (Virtual) Mon & Wed - 8am-12pm
Skype ID: adnama44

IA: Erica Hawvermale
EMAIL: TBA
OFFICE HRS: TBA
TA OFFICE: Anthropology Department, 308 Chilton Hall (behind Front Desk to the right)

IA: Kyleigh Hoelscher
EMAIL: TBA
OFFICE HRS: TBA
TA OFFICE: Anthropology Department, 308 Chilton Hall (behind Front Desk to the right)

IA: Kenneth Saintonge
EMAIL: kennethsaintonge@my.unt.edu
OFFICE HRS: TBA
TA OFFICE: Anthropology Department, 308 Chilton Hall (behind Front Desk to the right)

IA: Andie Semlow
EMAIL: andrea.semlow@unt.edu
OFFICE HRS: MW 9:15 am - 11:15 (or by appointment)
TA OFFICE: Anthropology Department, 308 Chilton Hall (behind Front Desk to the right)

COURSE INFORMATION

Course designer: Dr. Alicia Re Cruz

Course description: This course uses anthropological models and concepts to explore the various aspects of United States culture over time from both an emic and etic perspective. By better understanding the multifaceted concept of “culture” in anthropology, and the forms culture takes in the United States, we will be able to explore the intersections of historical, political and ideological processes in the United States. In addition, we will consider some contemporary expressions of various cultural values that have emerged as a reaction to and/or result of the deeply embedded “American” cultural frameworks we survey.

Learning Objectives:

- Learn basic vocabulary relevant to cultural anthropology.
- Be able to describe introductory sociocultural approaches to American society.
- Analyze basic components of the complex process of cultural change as it relates to the United States.
- Develop and/or enrich understanding of how social and historical institutions affect social power, control, and agency.
- Develop practical skills for college/career including:
 - Clear written communication through online platforms.
 - Critical analysis of appropriate scholarly articles/sources.
 - Integration of external resources into your coursework for learning enrichment.
 - Engaging in open dialogue with course colleagues.

TEXTBOOK INFORMATION

All readings are embedded in Blackboard.

CLASS“ROOM” INFORMATION

How to succeed in this course:

- Stay active:
 - Check your UNT webmail often.
 - Check BB a couple times a week for new announcements.
- Dig in: we don’t get to have typical conversations in this class
 - Read everything
 - Watch everything
 - Do all assigned work – take time to make sure you understand it well and enjoy it
- Every class is a community: Get to know your community members, share resources (**ethically**), study together, collaborate. Most situations are more feasible and more enjoyable with a network of colleagues.
- Get in touch: Visit office hours (virtually or in person) before you actually think you *need* them. During your college career, use all of your IAs, TAs, and professors as valuable resources. Get to know them – engage and make the most of your college experience.
- Use campus resources: I’m getting to know these as well. Let’s share!

Expectations:

- **Engagement.** Asking questions is a great way to learn! If you have a question, you won't be the only person with that same question, so help the IAs and me support you by asking in office hours, through BB messaging, through email – whatever you're most comfortable with.
- **Civility.** Thought-provoking discussions are essential. So is mutual respect for our fellow humans in class and for the cultural groups we will be exploring.
- **Integrity.** I have every confidence that we will have a smooth semester! Academic integrity isn't some random idea that vanishes when you graduate; academic integrity is professional integrity. Build it. Use it. See UNT's official statement below.

ADA Accommodations: For anyone seeking ADA accommodations, please send me your official "request" letter during the first week of class. In addition, let's connect early during the semester and often to make sure that this course is offering all possible steps to maximize your learning and engagement with the material.

ASSIGNMENTS & GRADING

Weekly journal: Each week, after completing the corresponding reading, you will have a short writing assignment. These assignments are intended to support you in developing critical thinking, deep learning of the material, and bolster your writing skills.

Weekly quizzes: These short quizzes are intended to support you in reviewing and synthesizing the information you're interacting with so that you're better prepared for your two semester exams. If you find them too challenging, contact your IA *early* to discuss more efficient study techniques!

Exams: Two exams will assess what you have learned over the course of the semester. The final will be comprehensive. *Timeline:* each exam will be available for one week. *Format:* short answer and essay.

Final discussion board project: At the end of the semester, we want to take a step back to reflexively and critically consider what this *thing* called American Culture & Society is. What have we learned about it, and where can we go from here? This project parallels your weekly journaling experience, but it is expanded and more collaborative.

SPOT course evaluation: We care about your thoughts! As we transition this course to a new platform, we want to hear your thoughts on what works with the class and what could be improved.

Extra credit: I will offer several opportunities for extra credit during the semester, beginning with simply demonstrating engagement with the class and each other, and also including practically applicable ways to relate with the material we're covering. If any of you have ideas to propose for extra credit, I'd love to hear about them!

Evaluation:

Weekly journal	22%	220 pts (20 pts each)
Weekly quizzes	16.5%	165 pts (15 pts each)
Mid-term exam	20%	200 pts
Final discussion board project	7%	70 pts
SPOT course evaluation	2.5%	25 pts
<u>Final exam</u>	<u>32%</u>	<u>320 pts</u>
Totals	100%	1,000 pts

READING/TOPIC SCHEDULE

Wk#	Lesson#	Topic	Dates	DUE DATE: Weekly Journal & Quiz
1	1	Introduction	Mon (Aug. 27) - Sun (Sept. 2)	No weekly journal/quiz
2	2	Anthropological perspective	Mon (Sept. 3) - Sun (Sept. 9)	Sunday, Sept. 9, at 11:59 p.m.
3	3	American Indians	Mon (Sept. 10) - Sun (Sept. 16)	Sunday, Sept. 16, at 11:59 p.m.
4	4	Western frontier & expansion	Mon (Sept. 17) - Sun (Sept. 23)	Sunday, Sept. 23, at 11:59 p.m.
5	5	Civil War & the South	Mon (Sept. 24) - Sun (Sept. 30)	Sunday, Sept. 30, at 11:59 p.m.
6	6	Ingredients of the "Melting Pot"	Mon (Oct. 1) - Sun (Oct. 7)	Sunday, Oct. 7, at 11:59 p.m.
7		MIDTERM EXAM	Mon (Oct. 8) - Sun (Oct. 14)	Sunday, Oct. 14, at 11:59 p.m.
8	7	Social movements of the 20th century	Mon (Oct. 15) - Sun (Oct. 21)	Sunday, Oct. 21, at 11:59 p.m.
9	8	Race, ethnicity & social class	Mon (Oct. 22) - Sun (Oct. 28)	Sunday, Oct. 28, at 11:59 p.m.
10	9	Language, culture & thought	Mon (Oct. 29) - Sun (Nov. 4)	Sunday, Nov. 4, at 11:59 p.m.
11	10	Life cycle, gender & family dynamics	Mon (Nov. 5) - Sun (Nov. 11)	Sunday, Nov. 11, at 11:59 p.m.
12	11	Religion	Mon (Nov. 12) - Sun (Nov. 18)	Sunday, Nov. 18, at 11:59 p.m.
13	No class for National Food Day! (Catch up & do some Extra Credit!)			
14	12	Digital technology, mass media & consumerism	Mon (Nov. 26) - Sun (Dec. 2)	Sunday, Dec. 2, at 11:59 p.m.
15		Discussion board final project	Mon (Dec. 3) - Sun (Dec. 9)	Sunday, Dec. 9, at 11:59 p.m.

16	FINAL EXAM	Mon (Dec. 10) - Sun (Dec. 16)	Sunday, Dec. 16, at 11:59 p.m.
----	-------------------	----------------------------------	--------------------------------

PLEASE NOTE: THIS SYLLABUS MAY BE MODIFIED AS NEEDED DURING THE SEMESTER. IF AND WHEN MODIFICATIONS ARE MADE, YOU WILL BE NOTIFIED IN A TIMELY MANNER THROUGH BLACKBOARD.

Official statement: UNT makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Accommodation (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide a student with an accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding one's specific course needs. Students may request accommodations at any time, however, ODA notices of accommodation should be provided as early as possible in the semester to avoid any delay in implementation. Note that students must obtain a new letter of accommodation for every semester and must meet with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class. For additional information see the ODA website at disability.unt.edu.

Official statement: According to UNT Policy 06.003, Student Academic Integrity, academic dishonesty occurs when students engage in behaviors including, but not limited to cheating, fabrication, facilitating academic dishonesty, forgery, plagiarism, and sabotage. A finding of academic dishonesty may result in a range of academic penalties or sanctions ranging from admonition to expulsion from the University.