

# ANTH 2300

## Culture and Society

### Spring 2016

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### Course Description

In a globalized world we interact with people from different cultural backgrounds at a more rapid rate than ever before and across every domain of life. Furthermore, we can see that social structures and institutions influence everything from the distribution of wealth to the fate of the climate. Understanding humanity's social and cultural diversity is, therefore, one of the most important skills that students in any career path can develop. In this course, we explore the social and cultural dimensions of human life through the lens of cultural anthropology. This course will address these large-scale issues through examining societies across the globe: in short, by seeing the global in the local.

Throughout the semester, we will study some of the most pervasive social systems that human beings find themselves enmeshed in: kinship, economic systems, social control structures, and religions, and we will discuss how these relate to, and vary, by, culture. We will also focus on such critical facets of culture as race, gender, and communication. Throughout the semester we will explore the rapid change that has occurred in cultures and societies over the past two hundred years and highlight the relevance of an anthropological perspective to students' contemporary lives.

### Learning Objectives

- Students will comprehend the concept of culture and its relationship to anthropological theory and practice.
- Students will understand the diversity of economic activity, kinship, political organization, religious practice, language, and understandings of race and gender across cultures and how these relate to each other.
- Students will be able to apply concepts of culture change to the contemporary world.

### Training (Skills) Objectives

Recognizing the importance of marketable skills to an undergraduate education, this course will additionally provide opportunity and training for students to improve their proficiency in the following skills:

- Essential perspectives and approaches of cultural anthropology
- Basic ethnographic research
- Written communication
- Holistic analysis of social phenomena

## Assigned Texts

- Gary P. Ferraro and Susan Andreatta, *Cultural Anthropology, an Applied Perspective*, 9<sup>th</sup> Edition
- Other readings posted on Blackboard

**Grading Scale:** 90-100 A / 80-89 B / 70-79 C / 60-69 D / 59 and Below F

## Grade Breakdown

2 Weekly Questions.....	250 Points
Midterm.....	250 Points
“Culture and You” Paper.....	250 Points
Final Exam.....	250 Points
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Total.....	1000 Points

## Assignments

- **2 Weekly Questions:** Every students will make a list of 2 questions or comments which respond to, and show critical thinking about, each week’s reading, and submit these through Blackboard by the start of class on Tuesday.
- **Midterm Exam:** On **03/03/2016**, students will take an in-class midterm examination. This exam will include multiple-choice, true/false, matching, and short answer questions.
- **“Culture and You” Term Paper and Seminar:** On **05/05/2016**, students will come to class and turn in a single-spaced, 12 point font, typed 5-7 page reflective essay about (1) how their cultural background has affected them in their lives and (2) how the material learned in this course will impact their career or graduate studies. A rubric with formatting and other guidelines will be provided. In addition, on this day we will hold a seminar where we discuss our papers; **attendance is mandatory** and counts towards your paper grade.
- **Final Exam:** The final exam will take place in class on **Tuesday, 05/12/2016**, from 10:30AM-12:30PM. This exam will include multiple-choice, true/false, matching, and short answer questions.

## ASSIGNMENT DUE DATES

**03/03/2016: Midterm Exam**

**05/05/2016: Term Paper and Seminar**

**05/12/2016: Final Exam (10:30 AM-12:30 PM)**

**2-Questions: Weekly on Tuesday**

## **Course Policies**

**Late Work:** Unexcused submissions of late work (i.e. 2 weekly questions) will incur a 20% loss of points per calendar day. The term paper may not be turned in late.

**Discussion Participation:** Students are expected to complete required readings and to be prepared to discuss these in class. Discussion will play a critical role in this class and will be a benefit both to you and your colleagues.

**Withdrawal:** If you are unable to complete this course, you must officially withdraw by the University-designated date (for a “W” with instructor approval). Withdrawing from a course is a formal procedure that YOU must initiate. I cannot do it for you. If you simply stop attending and do not withdraw, you will receive a performance grade, usually an “F.”

**Attendance:** There is no attendance requirement; however, without attendance you will likely learn much less and do poorly on assignments and exams. Miss class at your own risk.

**Extra Credit:** There is no extra credit planned at this time; however, I will notify you if this changes.

**Acceptable Student Behavior:** Student behavior that interferes with an instructor’s ability to conduct a class or other students’ opportunity to learn is unacceptable and disruptive and will not be tolerated in any instructional forum at UNT. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior will be directed to leave the classroom and the instructor may refer the student to the Dean of Students to consider whether the student’s conduct violated the Code of Student Conduct. The university’s expectations for student conduct apply to all instructional forums, including university and electronic classrooms, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. The Code of Student Conduct can be found at [www.deanofstudents.unt.edu](http://www.deanofstudents.unt.edu).

In this classroom, “**acceptable student behavior**” includes (but is not limited to):

- Being respectful of others’ thoughts, opinions, and perspectives.
- Arriving to class on time.
- No usage of cell phones, internet browsing, or social media unless directed by the instructor.
- Refraining from engaging in side-conversations.
- Giving every student a chance to participate by not dominating discussions.

**Contacting the Professor:** Please feel free to come by office hours for assistance. Otherwise, email is the best way to get in touch with me outside of class: [adam.dunstan@unt.edu](mailto:adam.dunstan@unt.edu). **In the email, you must indicate your course and full name to facilitate my response. You must also use your official UNT email, not a private email.** Understand that I have hundreds of students and may not respond immediately. However, if I have not responded within a week, feel free to email me to make sure I have received your email.

**Do Not Miss Essays or Exams:** If you have a conflict with any due date, seminar, or exam date, it is your responsibility to make alternative arrangements ahead of time – NOT the week of the due date. Students may not take exams late or do presentations late unless there is written permission from the instructor beforehand. **Allowing alternative arrangements is up to the discretion of the instructor.**

**Academic Misconduct:** The Department of Anthropology does not tolerate plagiarism, cheating, or helping others to cheat. Students suspected of any of these will be provided the opportunity for a hearing; a guilty finding will merit an automatic “F” in the course. In addition, I reserve the right to pursue further disciplinary action within the UNT legal system, which may result in dismissal from the university. Plagiarism is defined as misrepresenting the work of others (whether published or not) as your own. It may be inadvertent or intentional. Any facts, statistics, quotations, or paraphrasing of any information that is not common knowledge, should be cited. For more information on paper writing, including how to avoid plagiarism, and how to use citations, see <http://www.unt.edu/anthropology/writing.htm>. For information on the University’s policies regarding academic integrity and dishonesty, see the UNT Center for Student Rights and Responsibilities, <http://www.unt.edu/csrr/>.

**ADA:** The Anthropology Department does not discriminate based on an individual’s disability, as required by the Americans with Disabilities Act. Our program provides academic adjustments or help to individuals with disabilities, and attempts will be made to meet all certified requirements. Please see me if you have a documented disability so that appropriate arrangements can be made to help you get the most out of this class. In such cases, please make sure to obtain documentation through the Office of Disability Accommodation.

## Course Schedule

### **01/19, 01/21: Cultural and Social Life**

*Reading:* Ferraro and Andreatta (F&A), Chapter 2

### **01/26, 01/28: The Anthropological Approach**

*Reading:* F&A, Chapter 1

*Reading:* Miner, "Body Ritual among the Nacirema" (Blackboard)

### **02/02, 02/04: Subsistence: The Environment, Our Life Support System**

*Reading:* F&A, Chapter 7

### **02/09, 02/11: Economics**

*Reading:* F&A, Chapter 8

*Reading:* Clark, "The Raw and the Rotten: Punk Cuisine" (Blackboard)

### **02/16, 02/18: Kinship and Marriage**

*Reading:* F&A, Chapter 9

*Reading:* Goldstein, "When Brothers Share a Wife" (Blackboard)

### **02/23: Kinship and Marriage, Continued**

*Reading:* No reading

### **02/25, 03/01: Politics, Social Control, and Resistance**

*Reading:* F&A, Chapter 13

### **03/03: Midterm Exam**

### **03/08, 03/10: Religion, Part 1: Magic, Shamanism, and Other Religious Practices**

*Reading:* Evans-Pritchard, "The Notion of Witchcraft Explains Unfortunate Events" (Blackboard)

### **03/15, 03/17: Spring Break – No Class**

### **03/22, 03/24: Religion, Part 2: World Religions**

*Reading:* F&A, Chapter 14

### **03/29, 03/31: Language and Symbolism**

*Reading:* F&A, Chapter 6

### **04/05, 04/07: Race, Ethnicity, and Identity**

*Reading:* AAA Statement on Race (Blackboard)

*Reading:* Excerpt on Race by Guest (Blackboard)

### **04/12, 04/14: Applied Anthropology**

*Reading:* Read about the research of a UNT Anthropologist (Details in Class)

### **04/19, 04/21: Research Methods**

*Reading:* No reading

### **04/26, 04/28: Culture Change, Globalization, and Political Economy**

*Reading:* F&A, Chapter 16

*Reading:* Sanders: "Buses in Bongoland" (Blackboard)

### **05/03: Conclusions**

### **05/05: "Culture and You" Seminar**

**Term Paper Due In Class 05/05/2015**

**Exam Week- Final Exam, 05/12/2015**

PLEASE NOTE: The schedule is subject to change at instructor discretion. Please regularly check email and Blackboard, and attend class, to be apprised of any changes.