ANTHROPOLOGY 3101 - AMERICAN CULTURE

SYLLABUS

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INSTRUCTOR AND INSTRUCTIONAL ASSISTANTS

Instructor:
Dr. Jamie K. Johnson
Jamie.Johnson@unt.edu
Summer office hours: on campus or skype by appointment only
Office location: Chilton Hall, Room 330-J
Anthropology Department, 3rd fl. (located at Ave C and Chestnut)
Office phone: 940-369-5403

Instructional Assistants: To be assigned alphabetically by the end of Week 1

Last name: Ana Belen Conrado
Email: anaconrado@my.unt.edu
Virtual Office Hours: Tuesday 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM or by appointment
Skype ID: abelenc43210

CONTACTING US:

- You must use your UNT Eagle Mail email account to email us. You must use your UNT Eagle Mail email account to email us. You must use your UNT Eagle Mail email account to email us.
- Do not use the Blackboard email function. If you do not use your Eagle Mail account, you risk your email arriving as “Spam” and not being read. We are not responsible for any missed correspondence originating from a non-UNT email account.
- Check your Eagle Mail account frequently to stay current with course announcements.
- When you email Dr. Johnson or your IA, you must include “ANTH 3101” in the subject line. Failure to include what class you are enrolled in will result in a delay in response.
• EMAILS ARE NOT TEXT MESSAGES, even if they are sent from your mobile device. Be professional. Include a greeting (Dear Dr. Johnson...) and signature line (Thanks, Your Student).

Who to email about

- assignment grade or a missed assignment: Instructional Assistant.
- questions about the material: Instructional Assistant and “cc” Dr. Johnson.
- ODA accommodation or a personal or sensitive matter: Dr. Johnson
- a technological difficulty: CLEAR. Read “TECHNICAL DIFFICULTIES” (p.7).

OUR ROLES:

The IAs are primarily responsible for grading your journal assignments and Final Reflection and Discussion. They are also available to answer questions you may have about the course material or individual assignment grades. Dr. Johnson will supervise their work and will make decisions about appeals. She will also answer any overall grade questions.

If you have a problem, you or your representative must email one of us within 24 hours. Monday through Friday, you can expect a reply within 24 hours. As well, we expect your response to our communications within 24 hours. Over weekends and on holidays, we require 48 hours to respond. If you have an urgent matter, you may call Dr. Johnson at 940-369-5403 and leave a voicemail. In an emergency, you may call Melissa Tanner at 940-565-2200 and she can reach me directly.

REQUIRED MATERIALS:

All readings are embedded in the course material. You are not required to purchase any books. Repeat: no books are required (hip hip hooraaay!!).

PLEASE NOTE:

Films and video clips in the lessons are required. This visual material is included in the lesson. The visual documentation throughout the course can be accessed through the links specified in the lesson.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course presents what people in the USA and from the outside perceive and encapsulate in the term “American culture." Students are briefly exposed to basic concepts and theoretical models used in the anthropological discipline to approach the understanding of cultural values considered to be at the core of American culture. The purpose is to show students the cultural historical processes from which these cultural values have emerged and how these values have been transformed and are expressed in contemporary times through different themes such as: family, ethnic and cultural diversity, consumerism, entertainment and technology, among others. Learners in this course explore the complexities embedded in the concept of “culture” as it is exercised in the USA context. A very important companion for learners in the adventure of looking at American culture through anthropological glasses is the use of popular culture in its multiple manifestations.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:
• Learn basic anthropological concepts and theoretical models
• Be able to apply basic anthropological concepts to the analysis and understanding of cultural processes in the past and present of the USA.
• Be able to identify cultural characteristics and values of the USA culture
• Be able to use popular culture to analyze USA cultural characteristics and values. Cultural phenomena for study includes: popular and ethnic music, sports, television, advertising and film.

GUIDING ANTHROPOLOGICAL PRINCIPLES:

• Culture is not static, it is in constant transformation. The core societal values are continuously negotiated to reflect life styles and social movements within any given population.
• To understand the present, we need to examine the past. The historical context is key to understanding of the origin of core cultural characteristics and values.
• Just as important, the present political and ideological contexts influence our views of the past.
• Popular culture is expressed in objects, activities and communicative media. It offers significant insights for cultural understanding, history and humanity in general.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING

WEEKLY JOURNAL ENTRIES (10pts each)

Comments and General Instructions

• The weekly journal assignments are short essays written on topics specified in each lesson. Assignments will only be accepted by submitting them in Blackboard. Emailed assignments will NOT be accepted.
• After completing the assigned week’s Lesson, click on the “Journal” tab in the action menu and complete the corresponding Journal assignment.
• Please read and follow instructions carefully. If you have questions regarding the assignment instructions, email your Instructional Assistant.
• Students have 5 full days to complete an assignment. No make-up assignments will be allowed unless the student or their representative emails and/or calls their instructor with a University-Approved excuse by 5:00pm CST BEFORE the assignment is due. No exceptions.

Grading Rubric

• Respond to prompts in approximately 200 words. Stay on topic and incorporate material covered in class.
• Journal entries are NOT political platforms. They are to demonstrate that you understand anthropological concepts and facts and can effectively communicate what you have learned. You can certainly incorporate personal anecdotes provided they are relevant to the Lesson.
• To earn full credit (10pts), students will be evaluated by the following criteria:
  o Following instructions
  o Mechanics
  o Content
  o Critical thinking
• Students may refer to the rubric, below, for clarification in these four areas.
### Levels of Achievement

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Criteria</th>
<th>MAJOR IMPROVEMENT NEEDED</th>
<th>SOME IMPROVEMENT NEEDED</th>
<th>MEETS PROFICIENCY</th>
<th>EXCEEDS PROFICIENCY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FOLLOWING INSTRUCTIONS 2pts</td>
<td>Neither prompt addressed.</td>
<td>One prompt not addressed.</td>
<td>Both prompts addressed.</td>
<td>Both prompts addressed fully.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MECHANICS 2pts</td>
<td>More than two grammar, spelling or mechanics errors.</td>
<td>Two grammar, spelling or mechanics errors.</td>
<td>One grammar, spelling or mechanics error.</td>
<td>No grammar, spelling or mechanics errors.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CONTENT 3pts</td>
<td>Does not demonstrate understanding about Lesson concepts and facts.</td>
<td>Demonstrates some confusion about Lesson concepts and facts.</td>
<td>Demonstrates basic understanding of Lesson concepts and facts.</td>
<td>Demonstrates advanced understanding of Lesson concepts and facts.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRITICAL THINKING 3pts</td>
<td>Summarizes Lesson material only.</td>
<td>Demonstrates one of the following: creative and innovative thinking, inquiry and analysis, and synthesis of information.</td>
<td>Demonstrates two of the following: creative and innovative thinking, inquiry and analysis, and synthesis of information.</td>
<td>Demonstrates all of the following: creative and innovative thinking, inquiry and analysis, and synthesis of information.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

You can expect to receive your essay's grade and feedback within one week after its due date.

**QUIZZES:** (5pts each)

You are required to take 11 short quizzes over the semester. Each quiz contains five questions. You will have 30 minutes to take the quiz. Quizzes will be due by 11:59pm every Sunday night.

**EXAMS:** (90pts each)

- You will take two exams. The first – your Midterm Exam, is scheduled in Week 7 between **10/10 – 10/16**. The second – your Final Exam, is scheduled in Week 15 between **12/5 – 12/11**. You will have access to the Exam Reviews at least one week before the exam is due.
- Note: the final exam is not “cumulative” per se, but will contain questions over basic anthropological principles which you learned throughout the semester.
• Once you begin a test, you have 90 minutes to complete it. However, if you choose to wait until
the last minute, the test will automatically end at 11:59 PM and you will earn the grade you
received for the answers you have completed up to that point.
• Do not begin an exam unless you are certain you can finish it. Make sure you have a reliable
Internet connection. Avoid carelessness when selecting your answers. DO NOT wait until the last
minute, as Blackboard often undergoes scheduled and unscheduled maintenance.
  o For example: If you wait until Sunday at 10:29pm to take the test, and you experience a
computer-related technical difficulty, you will NOT be allowed to retake the test.
  Blackboard allow us to see what time you logged into the class and what functions you
completed while you were logged in. There is no getting around this.
• Tests will consist of multiple choice and true false questions which are derived from readings,
assignments and information found within the Learning Modules.
• Reviews will be provided one week in advance of the exam. Aside from the terms presented in
the Lessons, a “Glossary” link can also be found within the Blackboard action menu. These are
great study tools!
• Questions about the exams – including grade appeals – must be presented to the Instructor
within 1 WEEK following the exam.
• Make-up exams will not be given unless the student or their representative emails and/or
calls their instructor with a University-Approved excuse by 5:00pm CST BEFORE the scheduled
test is due. No exceptions.

FINAL COURSE REFLECTION AND DISCUSSION PROJECT: (50pts)

On the 14th Week of class, you will engage in a final project with your class mates. This assignment will
take place within the course Discussion Board, and will ask you for a personal reflection on the course
and a thoughtful response to one of your classmates’ reflections. Instructions and rubric will be posted
at least one week prior to the assignment.

GRADING:

400 possible points may be earned in this course by completing the assignments and exams. The point
distribution is listed below.

Weekly Journal Entries:
  11 entries    10 points each=    110 possible points    27.5% of final grade

Weekly Quizzes:
  11 quizzes    5 points each=     55 possible points     13.75% of final grade

Midterm Exam:
  45 questions   2 points each=     90 possible points     22.5% of final grade

Final exam:
  45 questions   2 points each=     90 possible points     22.5% of final grade
(cont...)
Final project - Class Reflection and Discussion:

1 reflection and 1 response= 50 possible points 12.5% of final grade

SPOT:
1 Course evaluation = 5 points 1.25% of final grade

TOTAL POINTS: 110 + 55 + 90 + 50 + 5 = 400 possible points 100%

How to Calculate Your Grade:

There will be a total of 400 points available in this class. To calculate your grade, you divide the number of points you have earned by the number of points possible at any given point in time.

Grading Scale:

A: 400 - 360 total points
B: 359 - 320 total points
C: 319 - 280 total points
D: 279 - 240 total points
F: 238- below total points

Do not email your IA or your instructor for your overall grade. We will refer you to this section of the syllabus.

HOW TO BE SUCCESSFUL IN THIS COURSE

- Read the lesson and any other assigned materials (book chapters, website links, etc.)
- If a video clip is part of the lesson, WATCH IT.
- All the content you need for this class is on the home page, in the folder labeled "LESSONS."
- Due dates for all assignments and exams are in this syllabus, below.
- Don't forget the GLOSSARY! This is a great tool for learning the language of anthropology, which is absolutely essential for getting the most out of this class.
- Participate fully in the course. Your ideas, comments and feedback expressed in your assignments and shared by faculty and classmates are important and valued.
- We recommend logging into the course at least every other day during the week to check for updates, read announcements, work on assignments and submit them.
- Manage your time wisely in order to complete your assignments well before the last minute.
- WEEKLY ASSIGNMENTS ARE DUE ON WEDNESDAYS and SATURDAYS BY 11:59 PM BECAUSE THEY ARE DEPLOYED FOR AN ENTIRE WEEK, LATE ASSIGNMENTS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.
- REPEAT: LATE ASSIGNMENTS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.
- Seek assistance immediately if you are experiencing any difficulties. If it is technical, start with the Blackboard Help Desk (see instructions below). If it is conceptual or practical, contact your IA or Dr. Johnson to assist your problem solving.
- Share what you have learned with others! Talking about what you are learning in class is a great way to retain what you have learned and to think critically about others’ perspectives!
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 Center for Student Rights and Responsibilities 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 classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. The Code of Student Conduct can be found at www.unt.edu/csrr

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:

You will be part of an academic community so you are expected to exercise honesty and integrity. The Department of Anthropology does not tolerate plagiarism, cheating, or helping others to cheat.

All work that you submit should be your own. When your ideas and comments are inspired by or based on another's work, make sure to cite references appropriately (see http://www.library.unt.edu/citations-style-guides for help in citing appropriately). Plagiarism is not tolerated. Plagiarism is using another's words or paraphrasing another's work without giving proper credit through the use of citations. You MAY NOT SUBMIT all or any portion of an assignment which you have submitted in the past, for this or for any other class. Once again, do not copy from any source. Copying from any source will result in a failing grade for the assignment.

Students suspected of plagiarism will be provided the opportunity for a hearing; a guilty finding may merit an automatic “F” in the course. The instructor has the right to pursue further disciplinary action within the UNT legal system, which may result in dismissal from the university. 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/.

TECHNICAL DIFFICULTIES:

The Blackboard Learn website automatically goes down at 11:59pm Central Time every Saturday night. It is down for 2 hours. Never wait until the last minute to submit assignments or tests.

If you have any technical difficulties during an assignment or exam, follow these procedures:
1. Take a print screen capture of the issue
2. Contact the Student Blackboard HelpDesk at 940-565-2324 or visit http://www.unt.edu/helpdesk/bblearn/
3. Give them the following info:
   o Student EUID; Name & Section of the Course: Anth 3101 Culture & Society 810, 820
4. Once you have a ticket number from the HelpDesk, email your IA (not your Instructor).

If you contact Dr. Johnson without first contacting your IA, she will refer you to this section of the syllabus and the matter will remain unresolved.
HOW TO ACCESS LESSONS, READINGS, AND ASSIGNMENTS:

- The “Course Content” link within the action menu located on the left hand side of the Blackboard screen will take you to the weekly Lessons.
- Weekly reading requirements for each lesson are located in a within the respective lesson folder. Click each page to view the content. Read all pages and related materials (articles, videos, etc.) embedded in the Lesson.
- The Journal Entry link and Quiz link can be found in the action menu on the left side of the page. Quizzes, Exams, and Journal Entry assignments will remain posted for one week only.
- All written assignments can be turned in ANY TIME BEFORE THE DUE DATE. You are encouraged to work ahead, as, once again, NO LATE SUBMISSIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED.

COURSE SCHEDULE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WEEK</th>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>LESSON</th>
<th>ASSIGNMENT READINGS</th>
<th>JOURNAL ASSIGNMENT AND WEEKLY QUIZ DUE DATE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>WEEK 1</td>
<td>8/29 – 9/4</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Introduction 9/2 Last day to add a class</td>
<td>No Assignments Due</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WEEK 2</td>
<td>9/5 – 9/11</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>The Anthropological Perspective</td>
<td>Sunday 11:59pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WEEK 3</td>
<td>9/12 – 9/18</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>American Indians 9/12 Last day to drop w/refund</td>
<td>Sunday 11:59pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WEEK 4</td>
<td>9/19 – 9/25</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>The Western Frontier and Expansion</td>
<td>Sunday 11:59pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WEEK 5</td>
<td>9/26 – 10/2</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>The Civil War and South</td>
<td>Sunday 11:59pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WEEK 6</td>
<td>10/3 – 10/9</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>Ingredients of “The Melting Pot” 10/7 last day to drop with “W”</td>
<td>Sunday 11:59pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WEEK 7</td>
<td>10/10 – 10/16</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>Midterm Exam</td>
<td>Sunday 11:59pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WEEK 8</td>
<td>10/17 – 10/23</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>American Social Movements in the 20th Century</td>
<td>Sunday 11:59pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WEEK 9</td>
<td>10/24 – 10/30</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>Race, Ethnicity and Social Class</td>
<td>Sunday 11:59pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WEEK 10</td>
<td>10/31 – 11/6</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>American Language, Culture and Thought</td>
<td>Sunday 11:59pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WEEK 11</td>
<td>11/7 – 11/13</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>Life Cycle, Family, and Gender Dynamics in American Culture</td>
<td>Sunday 11:59pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WEEK</td>
<td>Dates</td>
<td>Course</td>
<td>Important Dates</td>
<td>Deadline</td>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>11/14 – 11/20</td>
<td>Religion in America</td>
<td>11/14 qualified students may request an incomplete “I”</td>
<td>Sunday 11:59pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>11/28 – 12/4</td>
<td>Final Project</td>
<td>Final Discussion Board Project.</td>
<td>Sunday, 12/4 11:59pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>12/5 – 12/11</td>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>Sunday 12/11 11:59pm</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**This syllabus is subject to change or revisions**