



Syllabus  
Anthropology 2300  
online

28 Aug. 2017 – 15 Dec. 2017  
Culture and Society  
Fall 2017

**Instructor:** Elisha Oliver

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This course syllabus is a contract issued to the student by the instructor. The instructor has the right to change or modify this course syllabus and any materials associated with it. All changes to this syllabus and/or associated materials will be issued to the student by means of dated, written addenda. The student is responsible for being aware of the information contained in this syllabus, associated course materials, and changes to each. The student is also responsible for being aware of information contained in the *UNT Catalog*, the *Student Handbook*, and the semester Class Schedule.

**SYLLABUS MODIFICATION STATEMENT**

Faculty has the right to change or modify the course syllabus materials during the academic year. Any changes will be shared with students. All changes in the instructor's policies after the semester has begun must be made in writing as part of a written addendum to the course syllabus; this addendum should be clearly labeled and dated as such.

- I. **COURSE DESCRIPTION:** "Thinking like an anthropologist" Humans are social and cultural beings: our very survival depends upon it. This course introduces students to the field of sociocultural anthropology: the study of human cultures in their diversity and variations. Rather than providing a collection of factors about other cultures, however, this class attempts to help students understand, and can utilize, the general approach anthropologists take when they study a culture: to think like an anthropologist. In other words, it focuses on asking intelligent questions, rather than simply an inventory of answers. Thinking like an anthropologist is a critical life and career skill in 2017. In a 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 climate. 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 kinship to religion, this course will introduce you to the diversity, and yet commonalities, in human societies, and shed light on what it means to be human.
- II. **SUCCESS PREREQUISITES:** ENGL1310
- III. **NEXT COURSE IN SEQUENCE:** None
- IV. **COURSE OUTCOMES:** Upon completing the course, the student, as evaluated by the instructor, should be able to:
  - A. Recognize, recall, and relate the major socio-geographical-political events and figures; major artistic movements, works, and artists; major literary movements, works, and authors; and major philosophical/religious movements and figures in the Latin American cultures studied.
  - B. Recognize and identify the interrelationship among the various socio-geographical, political, creative, and philosophical developments in those Latin American cultures studied.

- C. Examine, recognize and relate basic human concerns and the common humanity that links people of all times.
- D. Position course themes and topics within a larger framework of anthropological theory.
- E. Critically examine and, using cultural relativism, can discuss a range of historical and contemporary issues as they relate to Latin America.

V. **Text:** 1. Ember, Carol and Melvin Ember. 2015. *Cultural Anthropology (14th edition)*, Prentice Hall: Boston. 2. Articles posted on Blackboard. 3. Lessons posted on Blackboard.

\*Some students find online courses daunting or confusing, but this course is designed to be straightforward and user-friendly. Everything that you turn in is through Blackboard. The structure of the course is as follows:

- the class is divided into 15 weeks, which run from Monday to Sunday (except where otherwise noted).
- For each week, you will have the following:
  - Readings **1.** Assigned readings from the textbook. **2.** A lesson on Blackboard (found under “Units and Lessons”) which expands on the textbook reading. **3.** Two articles to read on Blackboard – the links to these will be in the lessons on Blackboard. **Assignments 4.** A short quiz found on Blackboard (under “Quizzes and Exams”) covering the assigned articles for the week. **5.** Four posts: a “reflection post” and a “response post” (see below) for each of the article readings. These are submitted through Blackboard.
  - **These assignments and readings will always be due on Sunday by Midnight (CST) (except during Week 13).**
  - There is no quiz on Week 1, but there are introductory exercises (see below).
- In addition, Weeks 5, 10, and 15 will have exams, also available through Blackboard; please check the course schedule below for dates.

## VI. Assignments & More

**First Week Introductory Exercise:** The first week, instead of the usual quiz we have some introductory exercises to introduce the class to each other. Follow the instructions given in the “Lesson One – Orientation” for the details on these assignments due the first week of class.

- First, do the “Class Map” assignment (Units and Lessons -> Lesson 1 Orientation -> Class Map link)
- Then, open the “Class Roster assignment” to post a photo of yourself.
- Finally, create a discussion post for the “Introductions – Lesson One” discussion forum.
- You will earn 1 point for each of the first two assignments and 2 points for completing the discussion post assignment, for a total of 4 points possible. **Due Date: Friday, 09/01 by Midnight (CST)**

## VII. Discussion Posts (Reflection and Response Posts)

- Each week, you will be assigned two readings available as articles on Blackboard. You will have to submit a one paragraph (at least three sentences) reflection on each reading and a one paragraph response to one other student’s post (per reading). The idea is to create a dialog between you and your fellow students regarding issues and topics raised in the readings.
  - You must submit your original post for each reading **by Sunday at 11:59 PM** (except where otherwise noted). You will get 1 point per post, so 2 points are possible for your two original postings each week with the two articles assigned.
  - You must respond to another student’s post for each reading **by Sunday at 11:59 PM** (except where otherwise noted). You will get 1 point per response, so 2 points are possible for responding each week with the 2 articles assigned.
  - This means you will have a total of 4 points possible for each week’s Discussion Board postings.
- To succeed at this assignment: try to “think like an anthropologist.” Think about what stood out to you in the article. What aspects of the featured culture did you find interesting? Why? How did they relate to the readings or to the weekly course themes? Be specific. Don't just state facts from the articles – I want you to really reflect on them. You can even quote from the readings to support what you are saying (although that does not count as part of your three sentences).
- For those who may not have participated in online discussions before, it's okay to have different opinions from others; in fact, that's part of what can make online discussions so rich and vibrant! Just remember to address those differences in a professional manner. If you have a different opinion or idea

about something, support what you are saying with evidence from the article or your own experiences.

- In your posts and responses, **DO NOT** use unprofessional language or be insulting of a classmate. You need to be respectful and courteous in your posts. Anyone who does not post in a professional manner will have their posts removed and will receive 0 points for that week's discussion board.

VII. **Quizzes:**

- Quizzes are **due Sunday by 11:59 PM** (except where otherwise noted).
- You will have 13 quizzes this semester.
- Each quiz is comprised of eight true/false questions. You get one point per correct answer, for a possible of 8 total points.
- The questions cover the two articles assigned for that week; four questions will come from each reading.
- Quizzes are **due on Sunday**, except where otherwise noted on the schedule. Be sure to read carefully the schedule at the end of this syllabus and watch for announcements to tell you of a change in due date.
- **You will have 30 minutes to take the quiz once you have started it.**
- **You won't be able to submit any answers after the 30 minutes are up.**

**Exams:**

- You will have three exams. Check the Schedule in this syllabus and note when each will be due.
- Each exam will consist of multiple-choice questions.
- **No exam will be cumulative.**
- **Once you start a test, you have 90 minutes to finish it. However, if you choose to wait until the last minute, the exam will automatically end at time announced for that exam.**
- **My advice:** don't start a test unless you're sure you can finish it. And don't wait until the last minute, as Blackboard can undergo scheduled and unscheduled maintenance.
  - For the exams, a list of vocabulary terms for the online content will be provided; this will be our equivalent of a study guide. Vocabulary words for the textbook can be found at the back of each chapter.
  - Make-up or alternatively scheduled exams will not be given unless students approach their instructor with a University-excused absence **BEFORE** the scheduled test **OR** the student provides official university documentation of an emergency preventing completion of the exam; allowing modifications in this case is entirely at the discretion of the professor. There are no exceptions to this policy.

- Students may not reschedule exams because of out-of-town trips and/or plane reservations, as the course is online and exams can be taken even while out-of-town.
- Students may not make up quizzes or discussion board posts after the fact, unless there is a university documented emergency.
- **If you wait until the last hour to take the test, AND your computer happens to crash at that same time, the test cannot be reset for you.**

VIII. **Academic Integrity:** Academic integrity is a non-negotiable. Academic dishonesty or misconduct is not condoned nor tolerated at institutions within the University of North Texas system. Academic dishonesty is behavior in which a deliberately fraudulent misrepresentation is employed in an attempt to gain undeserved intellectual credit, either for oneself or for another. Academic misconduct is behavior that results in intellectual advantage obtained by violating specific standard, but without deliberate intent or use of fraudulent means.

Academic dishonesty includes submission of essays that have been previously submitted for a grade in another class. This includes high school classes or previously undertaken college courses. Students should write new essays for this course or risk a plagiarism charge.

**Anthropology Department Undergraduate Plagiarism Policy**

*Plagiarism is defined as misrepresenting the work of others (whether published or not) as your own. It may be inadvertent or intentional. You should always provide references for any facts, statistics, quotations, or paraphrasing of information that are not common knowledge. The Department of Anthropology does not tolerate plagiarism or any other form of academic dishonesty. Students suspected of academic dishonesty will be given a hearing in which they are informed of the charges. Clear evidence in support of the charge will merit failure in the course. For more information on the university's policies regarding academic integrity and dishonesty, see the Center for Student Rights and Responsibilities at: <http://www.unt.edu/csrr/>.*

IX. **Grading:** Students can earn up to 400 points for the semester.

All grades will be assigned based on the following grading scale:

360-400 Points, 90-100% = A

320-359 Points, 80-89% = B

280-319 Points, 70-79% = C

240-279 Points, 60-69% = D

0-239 Points, 59-under = F down is as follows:

### Grade Breakdown

Introductory Exercises	1+1+2 = 4 Points
Quizzes	13 quizzes x 8 points = 104 Points
Exams	3 exams x 80 points = 240 Points
<u>Discussion Posts/Responses</u>	<u>13 weeks of articles x 4 points = 52 Points</u>
<b>Total points</b>	400 points

### Calculating Your Grade

A total of 400 points are available in this class. To calculate your grade at any given moment, you divide the number of points you have received by the number of points possible at any given point in time.

For example, if you are at Week Six, then we have had: the introductory exercise (4 points), 1 exam (80 points total), 3 quizzes (24 points total) and 6 article discussion posts/responses (12 points total), making for 120 points possible so far. If you received 4 points on the introductory exercise, 75 points on the exam; 8 points on quiz 1, 5 points on quiz 2, and 7 points on quiz 3; and 10 points for the discussion posts/responses, then you've accumulated 109 points. 109 divided by 120 is 91%. In this example, you have an A in the course so far.

- X. **Make-up Policy:** If there are extenuating circumstances, the student should contact the instructor in advance; however, each unit has a flexibility built in already, which should allow completion.
  
- XI. **A.D.A. Policy:** UNT complies with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act. Students with disabilities who seek accommodations must make their request by contacting the Office of Services to Students with Disabilities: <https://disability.unt.edu/> or by calling: 940-565-4323.
  
- XII. **General Education Goal Statement:** Upon completion of University of North Texas [Anthropology] degree, students will have accomplished the following five outcomes:

**#1: Critical Thinking:** Critical thinking skills include, but are not limited to, the ability to comprehend complex ideas, data, and concepts; to make inferences based on careful observation; to make judgments based on specific and appropriate criteria; to solve problems using specific processes and techniques; to recognize relationships among the

arts, culture, and society; to develop new ideas by synthesizing related and/or fragmented information; to apply knowledge and understanding to different contexts, situations, and/or specific endeavors; and to recognize the need to acquire new information.

\*All courses will contain assignments that demonstrate critical thinking, but not all courses will include all listed critical thinking elements.

**#2: Effective Communications:** Effective communication is the ability to develop organized, coherent, unified written or oral presentations for various audiences and situations.

**#3: Computer Proficiency:** Computer proficiency includes a basic knowledge of operating systems, word processing, and Internet research capabilities.

**#4: Civic Responsibility:** Preparation for civic responsibility in the democratic society of the United States includes acquiring knowledge of the social, political, economic, and historical structures of the nation to function effectively as citizens in a country that is increasingly diverse and multicultural in its population and more global in its view and functions.

**#5: Global Awareness:** Global awareness includes knowledge of the geography, history, cultures, values, ecologies, languages, and present-day issues of different peoples and countries, as well as an understanding of the global economic, political and technological forces which define the interconnectedness and shape the lives of the world's citizens.

XIII. **INSTITUTIONAL STATEMENT:** Each student is responsible for being aware of the information contained in the University of North Texas Catalog, Student Handbook, and semester information listed in the Class Schedule.

XIV. **GLOBAL EDUCATION MISSION:** Global education is an institutional commitment to providing learning environments that provide a cross-cultural global perspective through all facets of the educational process. This institutional commitment to global education shall manifest itself throughout the entire institution, providing support for diversity, international, and inter-cultural educational opportunities. These opportunities will be institutionalized through curricular and co-curricular activities. The institutional commitment to Global

Education will assist in preparing students for an increasingly technological and global society.

## **APPEALING GRADES**

To appeal grades, students must submit original graded essays and exams reflecting the instructor's original comments. It is the students' responsibility to retain graded as well as ungraded assignments both for grade appeal and for study/review.

## **GRADE OF "I" (INCOMPLETE)**

The *UNT Office of the Registrar* explains the grade of "I" as follows:

### **What is an Incomplete (I) Grade?**

An Incomplete Grade ("I") is a non-punitive grade given only during the last one-fourth of a term/semester and only if a student (1) is passing the course and (2) has a justifiable and documented reason, beyond the control of the student (such as serious illness or military service), for not completing the work on schedule. The student must arrange with the instructor to finish the course later by completing specific requirements. These requirements must be listed on a Request for Grade of Incomplete form signed by the instructor, student, and department chair; and entered on the grade roster by the instructor. Grades of "I" assigned to an undergraduate course at the end of the Fall 2007 semester and later, will default to "F" unless the instructor has designated a different automatic grade. See also Removal of "I" policy.

### **How to Get an Incomplete (I) Grade**

An "I" grade is a non-punitive grade given only during the last one-fourth of a semester and only if a student (1) is passing the course; (2) has justifiable reason why the work cannot be completed on schedule; and (3) arranges with the instructor to finish the course later by completing specific requirements that the instructor must list on the electronic grade roster. All work in the course must be completed within the specified time (not to exceed one year after taking the course.)

### **How to Remove an Incomplete (I) Grade**

A student may remove a grade of "I" within one year by completing the stipulated work. After completion of the stipulated work the instructor of record records the final grade on a UNT Grade Change Form and obtains the department chair's signature. The instructor's academic dean completes processing with the Registrar's Office, where the grade point average is adjusted accordingly. For undergraduate courses taken Fall 2007 or later, if a student does not complete the stipulated work within the time specified, the grade will default to F unless the instructor has

designated a different automatic grade. The GPA is adjusted accordingly, and the student will be subject to academic penalty should any exist

## TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS & RESOURCES FOR TECHNICAL HELP/TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

<http://it.unt.edu/helpdesk>

### NEED HELP?

#### Contact the UNT IT Helpdesk

**Phone:** 940-565-2324  
**E-Mail:** [helpdesk@unt.edu](mailto:helpdesk@unt.edu)  
**Location:** Sage Hall, Room 130

### WEEKLY CALENDAR (Tentative)

Note: The instructor reserves the right to add, delete, or revise segments of the syllabus; check Blackboard announcements and email regularly.

<u>Week</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Readings</u>	<u>Quiz/Exam Due Date</u>	<u>Discussion Forums Due Date</u>	<u>Helpful Hints</u>
<b>Week 1</b> 08/28/2017	<b>Lesson 1:</b> Orientation	None	Class Roster/Class Map assignment due Sunday, 09/03/17	Introductions Post Sunday, 09/03/17	None
<b>Week 2</b> 09/04/17	<b>Lesson 2:</b> Introduction to Anthropology	<b>E&amp;E Ch. 1</b> <b>Articles:</b> <b>1.</b> Lee "Eating Christmas in the Kalahari"	<b>Quiz 1</b> Sunday, 09/10/17	Reflection Posts Sunday, 09/10/17	Break your reading up into manageable chunks

		2. Bohannan "Shakespeare in the Bush"		Response Posts Sunday, 09/10/17	
<u>Week 3</u> 09/11/2017	<u>Lesson 3:</u> The Concept of Culture	<u>E&amp;E Ch. 2</u> <u>Articles:</u> 1. Watters "The Americanization of Mental Illness" 2. Dettwyler "Breastfeeding and Culture"	<u>Quiz 2</u> Sunday, 09/17/17	Reflection Posts Sunday, 09/17/17 Response Posts Sunday, 09/17/17	Give yourself adequate time to complete assignments.
<u>Week 4</u> 09/18/17	<u>Lesson 4:</u> Ethnographic Fieldwork	<u>E&amp;E Ch. 4 pp. 85-99</u> <u>Articles:</u> 1. Scheper-Hughes "Death Without Weeping" 2. Sterk "Tricking and Tripping: Fieldwork on Prostitution in the Era of Aids"	<u>Quiz 3</u> Sunday, 09/24/17	Reflection Posts Sunday, 09/24/17 Response Posts Sunday, 09/24/17	Keep "attempting" to "think like an anthropologist."
<u>Week 5</u> 09/25/17	<u>Lesson 5:</u> Anthropological Theory	<u>E&amp;E Ch. 4, pp. 78-84 &amp; 97-98</u>	<u>No Quiz</u> <u>EXAM 1</u> Sunday 10/01/17	No Discussion Posts	None
<u>Week 6</u> 10/02/17	<u>Lesson 6:</u> Getting Food	<u>E&amp;E Ch. 6</u> <u>Articles:</u> 1. Sameshima and Stannard "We Belong to the Land" 2. Gadsby "The Inuit Paradox"	<u>Quiz 4</u> Sunday, 10/08/17	Reflection Posts Sunday, 10/08/17 Response Posts Sunday, 10/08/17	None
<u>Week 7</u> 10/09/17	<u>Lesson 7:</u> Economic Systems	<u>E&amp;E Ch. 7</u> <u>Articles:</u> 1. Smith "Cell Phones, Sharing, and Social Status in	<u>Quiz 5</u> Sunday, 10/015/17	Reflection Posts Sunday, 10/15/17	Take a walk as a study break...

		an African Society" 2. Hitchcock "Rising Number if Dowry Deaths in India"		Response Posts Sunday, 10/15/17	
<b>Week 8</b> 10/16/17	<b>Lesson 8:</b> Political Organization	<b>E&amp;E Ch. 13</b> <b>Articles:</b> 1. Rogers "The Evolution of Inequality" 2. Lappe and Collins "Why Can't People Feed Themselves?"	<b>Quiz 6</b> Sunday, 10/22/17	Reflection Posts Sunday, 10/22/17 Response Posts Sunday, 10/22/17	None
<b>Week 9</b> 10/23/17	<b>Lesson 9:</b> Religion and Magic	<b>E&amp;E Ch. 14</b> <b>Articles:</b> 1. Jost "Understanding Islam" 2. Del Guercio "The Secrets of Haiti's Living Dead"	<b>Quiz 7</b> Sunday, 10/29/17	Reflection Posts Sunday, 10/29/17 Response Posts Sunday, 10/29/17	Get adequate rest....
<b>Week 10</b> 10/30/17	<b>Lesson 10:</b> Marriage and the Family	<b>E&amp;E Ch. 10</b> <b>Articles:</b> 1. Coontz "The Invention of Marriage" 2. Kristof "Who Needs Love!"	<b>Quiz 8</b> Sunday, 11/05/17 <b>EXAM 2</b> <b>Sunday</b> <b>11/05/17</b>	Reflection Posts Sunday, 11/05/17 Response Posts Sunday, 11/05/17	None
<b>Week 11</b> 11/06/17	<b>Lesson 11:</b> Marital Residence and Kinship	<b>E&amp;E Ch. 11</b> <b>Articles:</b> 1. Goldstein "When Brothers Share a Wife" 2. Nanda "Arranging a Marriage in India"	<b>Quiz 9</b> Sunday, 11/12/17	Reflection Posts Sunday, 11/12/17 Response Posts Sunday, 11/12/17	None

<b>Week 12</b> 11/13/17	<b>Lesson 12:</b> Sex and Gender	<b>E&amp;E Ch. 9</b> <b>Articles:</b> 1. Williams "The Berdache Tradition" 2. Nanda "The Hijras: An Alternative Gender in India"	<b>Quiz 10</b> Sunday, 11/19/17	Reflection Posts Sunday, 11/19/17 Response Posts Sunday, 11/19/17	None
<b>Week 13</b> 11/20/17	<b>Lesson 13:</b> Culture and Art	<b>E&amp;E Ch. 15</b> <b>Articles:</b> 1. Simmons "Where Fat is a Mark of Beauty" 2. Miner "Body Ritual of the Nacirema"	<b>Quiz 11</b> Sunday, 11/26/17	Reflection Posts Sunday, 11/26/17 Response Posts Sunday, 11/26/17	None
<b>Week 14</b> 11/27/17	<b>Lesson 14:</b> Language and Communication	<b>E&amp;E Ch. 5</b> <b>Articles:</b> 1. Boroditsky "How Language Shapes Thought" 2. Pagel "War of Words"	<b>Quiz 12</b> Friday, 12/01/17	Reflection Posts Friday, 12/01/17 Response Posts Friday, 12/01/17	
<b>Week 15</b> 12/02/17	<b>Lesson 15:</b> Applied Anthropology	<b>E&amp;E Ch. 16</b> <b>Articles:</b> 1. Keating "Spirits of the Forest" 2. Kunzig "Population Seven Billion"	<b>Quiz 13</b> <b>Thursday,</b> <b>12/07/17</b>	Reflection Posts <b>Thursday,</b> <b>12/07/17</b> Response Posts <b>Thursday,</b> <b>12/07/17</b>	
<b>Week 15</b> 12/10/17	<b>Final Exam:</b> <b>Exam 3</b>	<b>Final Exam:</b> <b>Exam 3</b>	<b>Final Exam:</b> <b>Exam 3</b>	<b>Final Exam</b> <b>Due:</b> <b>Thursday,</b> <b>12/14/17 by:</b> <b>11:59pm</b>	

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Course

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Name of Instructor

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I, \_\_\_\_\_ have received a copy of the course syllabus. I fully understand the requirements and expectations for this course.

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Printed Name

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Date

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Signature