

ANTHROPOLOGY 1100 - WORLD CULTURES
SPRING 2015, TR 9:30-10:50, SAGE 116

Instructor: Beverly Ann Davenport, PhD, MSPH
Phone: 940-565-2292
Email: bad@unt.edu
Office: Anthropology Department, 330H Chilton Hall
Office hrs: Tuesday 1:00-3:00 PM and Wednesday 10:00 AM-12:00 PM
or by appointment (call or email to schedule)

TA: Daniel Erwin
Email: Daniel.Erwin@unt.edu
Office: Anthropology Department, 330 Chilton Hall, ask at Front Desk
Office hrs: Thursday 11:00-2:00

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course uses the concepts of cultural anthropology to introduce you to the ways that humans have solved the pressing questions of existence – acquiring food and shelter, creating rules for living in groups, finding answers for “what it all means.” We will examine three different cultural worlds: tribal, imperial, and commercial, looking carefully at how humans have interacted with varying environments and created and adapted their cultures accordingly. We pay attention to the crucial role that **social power** has in affecting cultural change from the very beginning of human existence up to the present. The end of the course addresses questions of sustainability in our increasing interdependent world.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

1. You will learn the basic vocabulary, research methods, and ethical principles of sociocultural anthropology.
2. You will be able to describe the processes of cultural “evolution” through the study of specific present-day and historical cultures at the tribal, imperial, and commercial scales.
3. You will be able to provide examples of solutions that humans have developed in order to live in their different, and changing cultural worlds.
4. You will demonstrate awareness of the impact that commercial scale culture has had on cultures around the globe.
5. You will learn to collaborate with other students at colleges across the United States in an ethics exercise organized by Center for a Public Anthropology and found at the Community Action Website (<https://www.publicanthropology.net/>).
6. You will develop practical skills for college survival including:
 - a. How to use the UNT Library catalog to research news articles
 - b. How to compose short papers with scholarly citation format.
 - c. How to learn from constructive feedback on both papers and exams.

REQUIRED TEXT

ANTH 1100 COURSE PACK - available ONLY at UNT Student Store

LAB FEE

\$10.00 payable on line, required for participation in Community Action Website ethics project.

WHAT IS “NEXTGEN” ABOUT THIS CLASS? THE CENTRAL ROLE OF BLACKBOARD LEARN

Oftentimes, college lectures are devoted to delivery of “information,” without adequate time for critical inquiry about its application. I seek to provide much more time IN CLASS for questions and class discussions, as it is through these activities that you begin to APPLY what you are learning and thereby understand it better. In order to create that in-class time, we have developed an online system for taking quizzes pertinent to what you are studying. Each quiz will be available for approximately 2 weeks, and you may take each one more than once until you receive a passing grade. These quizzes will drill you in the “information” aspect of the course. Taking these quizzes on your own should encourage you to keep up with the work. That way you will come to class ready to think more broadly about what you have studied. The quizzes, and the instructions for taking them, will be found on our course **Blackboard Learn (BB Learn) page** (<https://learn.unt.edu/>)

In addition, you are expected to use BB Learn to find important information related to the class. These items are available to you:

- Course syllabus
- Occasional “mini-lectures” (5” or less) on topics where you need extra help
- Detailed instructions for both papers, including samples of excellent papers
- Detailed instructions for the Community Action Website
- Self-paced Quizzes!! (see above)
- PowerPoint slides AFTER the day’s lectures (these are not a substitute for YOUR OWN notes)
- Announcements as necessary throughout the term
- Grades when they become available

Thus, it is **EXTREMELY IMPORTANT** that you set the features on Blackboard so that you can be alerted when an announcement is posted or when I send an email related to the class. *The more alert you are to all the communication channels available to you (Lecture, Blackboard, Buddy System, and Office Hours), the likelier you are to do well in this class.*

INFORMATION FOR STUDENTS SEEKING ADA ACCOMMODATION

Please give me your official “Request for Accommodation” letter during the first week of class. Please plan to come to see me during my office hours (or make an appointment) as early in the semester as possible so that we can make sure that all reasonable steps are being taken to maximize your learning opportunities in the class.

HOW TO SUCCEED IN THIS CLASS:

1. **Show up!** – Come to class!
2. **Find support!** – Ask us!
3. **Take control!** – Start tasks early, WRITE all due dates in your calendar (buy a calendar and use it!), and participate in a workshop or two at the Learning Center in Sage Hall.
<https://learningcenter.unt.edu/learning101>

Please know that I understand that students come from a variety of backgrounds and ALL have strengths AND weaknesses. If you have any questions or feel unsure about any class material, come see me or a TA after class or during office hours. Don't wait, don't be shy! We will work together to find a solution. It is better to come in sooner than later – don't wait until the end of the semester. This is another scholarly skill I am trying to encourage in you and me – **start early, do some coursework most days, ask questions when you don't understand** – these deceptively simple steps will help you to avoid the deadly effects of procrastination.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

- Except at the very beginning of the semester, I will not take attendance, **but I do pay attention to the presence and/or absence of familiar faces.**
- **Not attending class will make getting a good grade difficult.** The course is organized around the required text, but lectures will not simply follow the text.
- There will be a variety of learning activities during class time. These activities are designed to help you become a more active learner.
- I will show several movies. Content of those movies will be covered in exam questions. **Therefore, students should attend class regularly.**

CLASSROOM COMMUNITY

- I encourage you to ask questions during class, or email me questions (if that makes you more comfortable) which I will address at the next scheduled class time.
- There is no such thing as a stupid question. *The only thing that is stupid is NOT TO ASK a question when you have one.*
- As a courtesy to your classmates and me, *please put away your laptops, tablets, and cell phones during class* unless you are using your laptop or tablet to take notes. I will spot-check.

STUDENT EVALUATION

	Percentage	Points
• Online quizzes (10 pts. each)	10%	100
• Midterm Exam (<i>Thurs., March 12</i>)	20%	200
• Final Examination (<i>May 14, 8:00 AM</i>)	20%	200
• Community Action Website Project <i>See syllabus for crucial deadlines February 6-25</i>	15%	150
• Paper #1 (<i>Tues. March 31</i>)	15%	150
• Paper #2 (<i>Tues. April 28</i>)	20%	200
TOTAL POSSIBLE PTS:	100%	1000 points

Grades will be standard: 90% or higher = A, 80-89% = B, etc.

COURSE SCHEDULE, READING ASSIGNMENTS and CRUCIAL DUE DATES

Tuesday, January 20

Topics: Orientation to World Cultures, a “NextGen” class; What is culture?
No assigned reading

Thursday, January 22

Topics: Key concepts and research methods in socio-cultural anthropology
Assigned Reading: Reader, pp. 1-18

Tuesday, January 27

Topics: Understanding Socio-cultural systems: Cultural Processes and Social Power
Assigned Reading: Reader, pp. 19-31

Thursday, January 29

Topics: Cultural Scale and the concept of the Good Life; Introduction to Australian Aborigines
Assigned Reading: *Begin* Reader, pp. 32-44 (end of the section)

Tuesday, February 3

Topics: Australian Aborigines: Material Environment and Spiritual Life
Assigned Reading: *Continue* Reader, pp. 32-44 (end of the section)

Thursday, February 5

Topics: Making a Living with Foraging Technology; Bands, Clans, and Tribes
Assigned Reading: Reader, pp. 44 (new section)-55 (end of the section)

**Note – you must be registered on www.publicanthropology.net by
MIDNIGHT, FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 6:
Monday, February 9 – Community Action Website Project Action Period Begins**

Tuesday, February 10

Topics: Intro to Anthropological Research Ethics; Understanding Kinship
Assigned Reading: *Review* op-ed assignment on www.publicanthropology.net; *Begin* Reader, pp. 55 (begin new section)-64

Thursday, February 12

Topic: Kinship and Social Organization in Australian Aboriginal Culture;
Assigned Reading: *Continue* Reader, pp. 55 (begin new section)-64

**Note – your writing assignment (see www.publicanthropology.net) must be submitted by
MIDNIGHT, FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 13**

Tuesday, February 17

Topics: Native Amazonians: Making Culture in the Rain Forest
Assigned Reading: Reader, pp. 65-78 (end of the section)

Thursday, February 19

Topics: Social Organization among Amazonian Peoples; Amazonian Cosmology
Assigned Reading: Reader, pp. 78 (new section) - 89 (end of section)

Note – your evaluations of others’ assignments (see www.publicanthropology.net) must be complete by MIDNIGHT, FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 20

Tuesday, February 24

Topic: Raiding and Feuding;
Assigned Reading: Reader, pp. 89 (new section) - 98

NOTE – IF YOU WANT TO VOTE FOR ANY ASSIGNMENTS FOR EXTRA CREDIT YOU MUST DO SO BY WEDNESDAY, February 25 (Community Action Website Project Action Period ends)

Thursday, February 26

Topic: Wrap-up Amazonia; Introduction to Pastoralism in East Africa
Assigned Reading: Review Reader, pp. 65-98, Begin Reader, pp. 99-110 (end of section)

Tuesday, March 3

Topic: Pastoralism in East Africa – The Cattle Complex
Assigned Reading: Continue Reader, pp. 99-110 (end of section)

Thursday, March 5

Topic: Marriage and Gender Relations among East African Pastoralists; Power and Wealth
Assigned Reading: Reader, pp. 110-118 (end of section)

Tuesday, March 10

Topics: Age Classes in East African Pastoral Cultures; Conflict Management;
Review for Midterm
Assigned Reading: Reader, pp. 118 (new section) -132

Thursday, March 12 - MIDTERM

SPRING BREAK – WEEK OF MARCH 16

Tuesday, March 24

Topic: Pacific Islanders: Necessary Skills for Living in Oceania
Assigned Reading: Reader, pp. 133-147 (end of section)

Thursday, March 26

Topics: Inequality and Ranking Systems; How Inequality Becomes Structural
Assigned Reading: Reader, pp.147 (new section) – 156 (end of section)

Tuesday, March 31 - PAPER #1 DUE (see Blackboard for details)

Topic: From Tikopia to Hawaii: Moving from Chiefs to Kings; What about the Commoners?
Assigned Reading: Reader, pp. 156 (new section) - 171

Thursday, April 2

Topics: Ancient Empires: The Emergence of “Civilization”

Assigned Reading: Reader, pp. 173-182 (end of section)

Tuesday, April 7

Topic: Mesopotamia

Assigned Reading: Reader, pp. 182-199 (end of section)

Thursday, April 9

Topic: The Inca Empire

Assigned Reading: Reader, pp. 199 (new section) - 215

Tuesday, April 14

Topics: South Asian Great Traditions

Assigned Reading: Reader, pp. 217-231

Thursday, April 16

Topic: Hindu Ideology, Society, and Culture

Assigned Reading: Reader, pp. 232- 244

Tuesday, April 21

Women in South Asia – MOVIE: Saheri’s Choice

Assigned Reading: Reader, pp. 244-252

Thursday, April 23

Topic: Why States Break Down

Assigned Reading: Reader, pp. 253-273

Tuesday, April 28– PAPER #2 DUE (see Blackboard for details)

Topics: Introduction to the Commercial World;

Assigned Reading: *Begin* Reader, pp. 275-299

Thursday, April 30

Topics: British Colonialism and the Industrial Revolution

Assigned Reading: *Continue* Reader, pp. 275-299

Tuesday, May 5

Topic: The Rise of Factory Farming in the United States

Assigned Reading: Reader, pp. 301-313

Thursday, May 7– Wrap-up and Review Session

Thursday, May 14 – FINAL EXAMINATION, 8:00-10:00 AM (note time), SAGE 116