

Culture and Society

Anthropology 2300

Time: Monday/Wednesday/Friday 9:00-9:50

Place: EESAT 110

Instructor: Dr. Andrew Nelson

Office: 330N Chilton Hall

Office Hours: Tuesdays 10-12; or by appointment

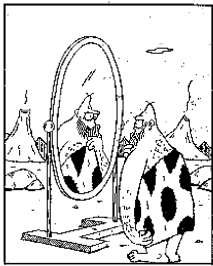
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Office Hours: 10:30-11:30AM Tuesdays & Thursdays; or by appointment

Office: 308D Chilton Hall



How early man studied anthropology!

Course Description: “think like an anthropologist”

This course introduces students to the field of Socio-Cultural Anthropology—the study of human cultures in their diversity and variation. Rather than providing a collection of facts about people and places, however, this class provides a basic appreciation for the approaches anthropologists take to study those people and places. In the first half of the class, we will investigate the concept of “culture” to question how practices and beliefs internal to societies condition and shape how we view the existence. Then, in the second half of the class, we shift our focus to the concept of “society” to understand how political and economic relations between groups condition the global structure of social relations. Ultimately, through a number of case study discussions and applied assignments, students will be asked to “think like an anthropologist.”

Learning Objectives

1. Students will gain a basic understanding of the concept of culture, and how it is formulated through anthropological linguistics, methodology, and theories.
2. Students will be able to analyze the social construction of categories central to social life, such as gender, marriage, family, ethnicity, and race.
3. Students will be able to connect the conditions and structures underlying societies to questions of politics and economics in the globalized era.
4. Students will engage in group discussions regarding case studies that illuminate foundational concepts and theories.
5. Students will convert discussions of anthropological concepts and theories into cases they observe and identify in their own lives.

Required Texts:

1. Guest, Kenneth J. *Cultural Anthropology: A Toolkit for a Global Age*. W.W. Norton & Company, Inc. 2014.
2. All other readings can be downloaded from the course's Learn webpage under the tab "Course Content".

Course Requirements:

I. Attendance & Participation

Attendance and participation are obligatory components of this course. If you arrive five minutes after the class begins, you will be counted as absent.

II. Worksheets

Periodically (6 times), instead of readings, you will have videos to watch outside of class. While viewing the video, you will be asked to fill-out a worksheet and conduct mini-ethnographies. You will hand in the worksheet in the next class for credit. Late worksheets will only be accepted accompanied by a medical professional's note that excuses your absence.

III. Quizzes

There will be eight reading quizzes given throughout the term. The quizzes will be given on-line via BB and will be available for 24 hours from 10am the day before class until the start of class. You will be expected to complete the quiz BEFORE class begins at 9:00am.

IV. Exams

There will be two exams. Exam questions will consist of multiple choice, T/F and short responses. Each exam will cover only the material of the given unit of the course. They will not be cumulative.

Grade Makeup

Category	Percentage of Final Grade	Percentage of Final Grade per submitted work
Attendance & Participation	10%	10%
6 Worksheet Assignments	20%	3.33%
8 Reading Quizzes	20%	2.5%
2 Exams	50%	25%

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

90-100%	A
80-89%	B
70-79%	C
60-69%	D
59-under	F

COURSE POLICIES

1. 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.”

2. 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 classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. The Code of Student Conduct can be found at www.deanofstudents.unt.edu.

In this classroom, “**acceptable student behavior**” specifically means:

A. No cell phone usage. I will ask you to leave the classroom if I see you using your phone.

B. Maintain one classroom conversation. Sometimes topics in this class can get socially controversial and emotionally exciting, but please contribute only to the central conversation.

C. Engage in the classroom material, not your computer. Students who use computers in class must sit in the front four rows of the classroom.

D. Always be respectful of other students’ thoughts, opinions, and perspectives.

E. Do not come to class late. If you have arrive later than 5 minutes after class begins (9:05), you will be considered absent.

3. Coursework Submissions:

A. All worksheets must be submitted as paper copies **in class** – the day they are due.

B. I will NOT accept work via email, so please do not send it. Late work will only be accepted for credit if accompanied by a note from a medical professional attesting to your inability to complete it. No other exceptions will be considered.

4. Extra Credit: There will be one opportunity for extra credit at the end of the semester. If you complete the SETE evaluation (available in late November), one percentage point will be added to your final grade.

5. DO NOT MISS EXAMS. If you have a conflict with one of the course exams, it is your responsibility to make alternative arrangements NOW – NOT the week of the exam. I allow exam make-up under one circumstance: If a medical professional documents that you are incapable of taking the exam. Mark the test dates on your calendar: **October 10th, December 5th.**

6. 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. 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/>.

7. 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.

8. Instructor Communication

- a) The instructor will be happy to answer questions regarding lectures, grades, discussions, assignments, quizzes, projects or any anything covered in the course. But please do not ask questions that can be answered by the syllabus.
- b) Students can expect to hear back from the instructor within 24 hours of the initial email (48 hours on the weekend).
- c) Students are expected to state their name and course number in the subject line of emails. The instructor teaches four classes with over 400 students.
- d) Please use a respectful and polite tone in emails. Do NOT ask questions covered in this syllabus! And if using a mobile device, remember to proofread your message before sending!

9. Meeting with Professor: Due to a scheduling conflict, I will have to leave class exactly at 9:50 am and will be unable to discuss any course issues at that time. However, you are welcome to speak with me before class while setting up (8:50-9:00) or during my office hours or any other pre-scheduled time.

Course Schedule and Reading Assignments

Unit One: Culture

Date	Topic	Readings/Viewings	Graded Work Due
August 25	Course Introduction		
August 27	What is Anthropology?	Guest: ch. 1	
August 29	Anthropological Culture	Guest: 33-49	
September 3	Nature vs. Nurture	Guest: 57-62 (skip William Urry) Mahler: ch. 2	
September 5	Postmodern Culture	Guest: 50-57; 62-66	Quiz #1
September 8	Language	Metcalf: 93-102 Eller: 61-69	
September 10	Sociolinguistics	Guest: 120-149	

September 12	Case Study	View: <i>American Tongues</i>	Worksheet #1: American Tongues and Phrase Ethnography
September 15	Fieldwork	Guest: 73-96	
September 17	Writing and Ethics	Guest: 97-110	Quiz #2
September 19	Case Study	View: <i>A Man Called Bee</i>	Worksheet #2: The Man Called Bee & Mapping a Block Ethnography
September 22	Culture and Meaning	Metcalf: 'Culture and Nature'	
September 24	Gender	Guest: ch. 8	
September 26	Sexuality	Guest: ch. 9	Quiz #3
September 29	Case Study	View: <i>Paradise Bent</i>	Worksheet #3: Paradise Bent & Third Gender Ethnography
October 1	Kinship: Marriage & Residence	Eller: 151-160	
October 3	Kinship: Descent	Eller: 160-164	
October 6	Kinship: Other Families	Guest: 366-389	Quiz #4
October 8	Exam Review		
October 10	Exam #1: in Sage Hall Testing Center		Exam #1

Unit Two: Society

October 13	Political Economy	Smith: 'There is no such thing as a Natural Disaster'	
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		Wilentz: 'Haiti's Undue Judgment'	
October 15	Production	Eller: 129-140	
October 17	Class Cancelled		
October 20	Labor	Guest: ch. 11	
October 22	Exchange	Eller: 140-144	Quiz #5
October 24	Political Systems	Eller: 179-189	
October 27	The State	Guest: 542-572	
October 29	State Capitalism	Robbins: 88-121 View: <i>We All Fall Down</i>	Worksheet #4: We All Fall Down & The American Dream Ethnography
October 31	Exchange Game		
November 3	Colonialism	Eller: 239-250	
November 5	Legacy of Colonialism	Eller: 251-258	Quiz #6
November 7	Colonialism Case Study	View: <i>Berlin 1885</i>	Worksheet #5: Berlin 1885 & Contemporary Geo-Politics Ethnography
November 10	Biological Critique of Race	Guest: 195-203 AAA: Race and Human Variation AAA: Only Skin Deep AAA: The Human Spectrum	
November 12	Cultural Construction of Race	Guest: 203-222 AAA: Who is White? AAA: Global Census	
November 14	Structural Racism	Guest: 222-235 AAA: The Game of Life	
November 17	Ethnicity	Guest: 237-253	

November 19	Nationalism	Guest: 254-267	Quiz #7
November 21	Migration & Transnationalism	Guest: ch. 13	
November 24	Global Economy	Guest: 452-485	
November 26	Globalization Case Study (no class meeting: Happy Thanksgiving!)	View: <i>Black Gold</i>	Worksheet #6: Black Gold & Mapping a Commodity Ethnography (due Dec 1 in class)
December 1	Cultural Globalization	Guest: 66-71	Quiz #8
December 3	Exam Review		
December 5	Exam #2: in Sage Hall Testing Center		Exam #2