

Culture and Society

Anthropology 2300

Time: Tuesday/Thursday 12:30-1:45pm

Place: Gateway 132

Instructor: Dr. Andrew Nelson

Office: 330N Chilton Hall

Office Hours: Mondays 1-3pm; or by appointment

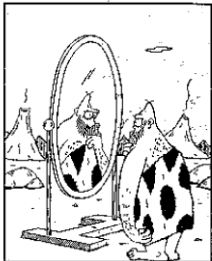
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Office Hours: 10:00am-noon Tuesdays & Thursdays; or by appointment

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/Assignments

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 12:30pm the day before class until the start of class. You will be expected to complete the quiz BEFORE class begins at 12:30pm.

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	30%	5%
8 Reading Quizzes	20%	2.5%
2 Exams	40%	20%

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/assignments 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 two opportunities for extra credit at the end of the semester. (1) Completing the SETE evaluation (available April 20 – May 8); (2) Completing Core course evaluation survey given on last class day (May 7).

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: **March 5th and May 14th.**

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!

Course Schedule and Reading Assignments

Unit One: Culture

Date	Topic	Readings/Viewings	Graded Work Due
January 20	Course Introduction: What is anthropology?	Guest: ch. 1	
January 22	Anthropological culture	Hindman: ch. 5 Guest: 33-49	
January 27	Learning culture	Guest: 57-62 (skip William Urry) Mahler: ch. 2	
January 29	Power and Culture	Guest: 50-57; 62-66	Quiz #1
February 3	Language	Metcalf: 93-102 Eller: 61-69	
February 5	Sociolinguistics/Case Study	Guest: 120-149 View: <i>American Tongues</i>	W/A #1: American Tongues and Phrase Ethnography

February 10	Fieldwork	Guest: ch. 3	Quiz #2
February 12	Case Study	View: <i>A Man Called Bee</i>	W/A #2: The Man Called Bee & Mapping a Block Ethnography
February 17	Culture and Meaning	Metcalf: 'Culture and Nature'	
February 19	Gender	Guest: ch. 8	
February 24	Sexuality/Case Study	Guest: ch. 9 View: <i>Paradise Bent</i>	Quiz #3 W/A #3: Paradise Bent & Third Gender Ethnography
February 26	Kinship: Descent, Marriage & Residence	Eller: 151-164 Eller: 160-164	
March 3	Kinship: Other Families Exam Review	Metcalf: 60-72 Guest: 366-389	Quiz #4
March 5	Exam #1: in Sage Hall Testing Center		Exam #1

Unit Two: Society

March 10	Political Economy	Smith: 'There is no such thing as a Natural Disaster' Wilentz: 'Haiti's Undue Judgment'	
March 12	Production	Eller: 129-140 Guest: ch. 11	
March 24/26	Class Cancelled		
March 31	Exchange	Eller: 140-144	Quiz #5
April 2	Political Systems	Eller: 179-189	

April 7	The State	Guest: 542-572 Robbins: 88-121 View: <i>We All Fall Down</i>	W/A #4: We All Fall Down & The American Dream Ethnography
April 9	Exchange Game		
April 14	Colonialism	Eller: 239-250 Eller: 251-258	Quiz #6
April 16	Colonialism Case Study	View: <i>Berlin 1885</i>	W/A #5: Berlin 1885 & Contemporary Geo-Politics Ethnography
April 21	Biological Critique of Race	Guest: 195-203 AAA: Race and Human Variation AAA: Only Skin Deep AAA: The Human Spectrum	
April 23	Cultural Construction of Race & Structural Racism	Guest: 203-222 AAA: Who is White? AAA: Global Census Guest: 222-235 AAA: The Game of Life	
April 28	Ethnicity & Nationalism	Guest: ch. 7	Quiz #7
April 30	Migration & Transnationalism	Guest: ch. 13	
May 5	Global Economy	Guest: 452-485	
May 7	Cultural Globalization & Exam #2 Review	View: <i>Black Gold</i> Guest: 66-71	W/A #6: Black Gold & Mapping a Commodity Ethnography Quiz #8
May 14 10:30-12:30	Exam #2: in Sage Hall Testing Center		Exam #2